



Information Literacy Group
http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/csg/csg_ilg

CSG Information Literacy Group

Annual Report 2007 - 08

ILG is a sub-group of CSG
(Community Service Group)

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1. Introduction

This year, more than any previous year, has seen the publication of various reports which highlight the effects of the digital age on lifelong learning. Reports such as the 'Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future'¹ commissioned by the British Library and JISC and the CURL/RIN report, 'Researchers' Use of Academic Libraries and their Services'², highlight the importance in today's digital society of IL and the requirement for librarians' specialist knowledge.

Information and communications technology (ICT) is no longer the province of work, it is now a major part of our social lives and a key communication tool. The UK government has 'committed itself to "e-enabling" every single possible government transaction'³ which has huge ramifications for society. This is further demonstrated in the 'Focus on the Digital Age'⁴ report from The National Statistics Office. Digital citizenship requires that people are information literate, without these skills people will be unable to make informed decisions and may become excluded from society. However, at the same time as IL being highlighted as a key skill we see vacated school librarian posts being left unfilled and similar situations such as the London Borough of Haringey's 'restructuring' which saw qualified librarians threatened with losing their jobs.

Advocacy, particularly for IL to support digital citizenship within the context of public libraries has this year been a key theme for the CSG IL group. In line with this the group responded to the MLA (Museums Libraries and Archives Council) "Blue Print for Excellence" consultation in 2007, Members of the group also met with John Dolan and other members of the MLA to raise awareness of the need for public librarians to receive appropriate IL training to allow them to support and develop the IL skills of the general public, see 6.5. Following on from the meeting with the Department for Education and Skills in 2006 the group is now working with the Schools Library Association and other interested parties to keep IL on the schools agenda.

As IL is essential to digital citizenship and lifelong learning we also need librarians who can teach or facilitate the teaching of IL. Consequently, training is a high priority for the group and an area in which we have invested heavily. This is seen not only in monitory terms 6.4 & 6.9 but also in the time given freely by members of the committee to present

¹ *Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future*. [Online] Available from http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/programmes/reppres/gg_final_keynote_11012008.pdf [Accessed 19th January, 2008].

² *Researchers' Use of Academic Libraries and their Services A report commissioned by the Research Information Network and the Consortium of Research Libraries*. [Online] Available from: <http://www.rin.ac.uk/files/libraries-report-2007.pdf>. [Accessed on 9th April 2008].

³ Cross, Michael. 'The tangled web of government'. *The Guardian*. [Online], Thursday November 2 2006. Available from: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2006/nov/02/epublic.guardianweeklytechnologysection> [Accessed 19th January, 2008].

⁴ National Statistics. *Focus on the Digital Age*. [Online] 2007. Available from: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/fda0307.pdf>. [Accessed on: 1 April 2008].

and run seminar sessions. Additionally the development of LolliPop, which was launched at LILAC 2007, has succeeded thanks to the commitment of the group. As a partner to LolliPop the group has jointly funded with the HEA (Higher Education Academy) the development of SirLearnaLot, a programme which will help develop the librarian's pedagogic skills. See 6.7.

The group's year begins and ends with the Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC). It is therefore fitting to conclude this introduction with LILAC 2008 which took place in Liverpool and attracted over 240 delegates from all over the world. The success of LILAC is due not only to the enthusiasm of the LILAC committee but also because of the dedication of our profession, who continue to be innovative with IL developments and who recognise the growing need to pass on their skills and move the IL agenda forward.

Debbi Boden

Chair: CSG IL Group

CILIP has defined IL in the following way:

"Information literacy is knowing when and why you need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner."

2. CSG Information Literacy Group (CSG IL)

The CSG Information Literacy Group is a sub-group of the CILIP Community Services Group (CSG). The sub-group was formed in January 2004 and has a committee with 19 members which includes representatives from many sectors including Schools, Public libraries and the NHS.

The aims and objectives of the group are:

Aim

To provide a forum, across all sectors of the profession, which encourages debate and allows the exchange of knowledge in all aspects of information literacy.

Objectives

- To provide a forum for discussion through:
 - An email list
 - Conferences
 - Meetings

- Web page
- To disseminate information about local, national and international initiatives and respond if appropriate
- To encourage the publication both nationally and internationally of articles which share new ideas, initiatives and experiences
- To encourage collaboration and support across all sectors of the profession
- To help promote the ideal of information literacy in all sectors

3. Membership

3.1 Group membership

The group has four types of membership:

(1) Members of CSG: If a person is member of CSG they are not automatically a member of CSG IL. To join the group they need to request membership.

(2) Members of CILIP who are not members of CSG: If a person is a member of CILIP but not CSG they are entitled to affiliate membership of CSG IL. Cost £3

(3) Non-members of CILIP: A person can still join CSG IL if they are not a member of CILIP as an affiliate member. To join the group they need to request membership. Cost £5

(4) Student/unwaged: Free

3.2 Membership numbers

Total membership

- CILIP CSG full membership - 41
- CILIP membership - 30
- Affiliated membership - 1

3.3 Infoliteracy Jisc email list

Total membership - 1205

4. Partnerships

CSG IL has commercial partners and partners from national organisations.

4.1 Partners from national organisations

- SCONUL Working Group on Information Literacy
- HE Academy
- EDUSERV
- MLA
- Schools Library Association

4.2 Commercial Partners

Ovid	Swets	Office Depot
2CQR	Ex-Libris	Ebsco
CSA	Intute	IBSS
TFPL	Interwrite Learning	RefWorks
Edina	Aneataprint	CABI
ALISS	Emerald Insight	Banxia Software
PebblePad	Elsevier	HEA
LearnHigher	Tetley Tea	

5. Publications

5.1 Journal of Information Literacy (JIL)

The Journal of Information Literacy is the IL group's open source, peer reviewed journal which was launched in 2007. Three editions have now been issued with a total of 16 articles, conference and book reviews. In 2007 the editorship of JIL was taken over by Ronan O'Beirne.

5.2 Conference proceedings

The group support the open archive policy and therefore the LILAC conference proceedings will be freely available on the LILAC Website.

www.lilconference.com/dw

6. Review of Activities

6.1 LILAC 2007

LILAC is a self-funding three day international conference which in 2007 was held at Manchester Metropolitan University with approximately 200 delegates from around the world including the USA, Australia, Norway, Greece and the Netherlands.

For the first time LILAC also had international keynote speakers with Christine Bruce, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean, Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Information Technology at QUT, Brisbane, Australia and Ross Todd, Associate professor in the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, USA. From the UK, LILAC was lucky to have two distinguished keynotes. The first Sir Muir Gray, Programmes Director of the UK National Screening Programme, and also Director of Clinical Knowledge, Process and Safety for the National Programme for IT, responsible for the National Library for Health and the National Knowledge Service. The second was John Dolan OBE, Head

of Library Policy at the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council which continued with the conferences tradition of provided cross sectoral speakers.

Over the three days there were thirteen long papers, twenty four short papers, six workshops and four demonstrations.

Themes of the conference were:

- Recognising the need
- Advocacy, marketing and promotion
- Practical approaches to Information Literacy
- Information Literacy and citizenship
- New areas for practice and research
- Ethical use of information

The conference was a great success and feed back was extremely positive.

6.2 Sponsors

Sponsorship of the LILAC conference is very important as it provides funding for the group's busy training programme. This year, to further develop an already strong relationship, the group invited our sponsors to spend a morning in London with members of the IL group to discuss further how we could work co-operatively together. The meeting generated new ideas for LILAC 2008 which included sponsors running pre-conference workshops with 'guest presenters'. These workshops were extremely well received with a high attendance.

6.3 Websites

6.3.1 The Information Literacy website (www.informationliteracy.org.uk)

The IL website site was established in 2006 through a partnership with Eduserv, Sconul, the MLA, CILIP, the HE Academy and Schools Library Group. The website is hosted independently and maintained by Eduserv. The aim of the site is to support practitioners by providing news, case studies, examples of best practice and freely available toolkits. Our aim is to provide a practical resource that information professionals regularly visit to discover the latest developments in information literacy. The site continues to grow with new resources being added on a regular basis.

The website was restructured in the summer of 2007. The resources section is no longer organised by sector. It is now structured by subject, e.g., searching the Internet and plagiarism. Additional sections have been added including one on Reusable learning objects. Images have also been added to the site.

Eduserv provide quarterly reports on the usage of the website, unfortunately as in the previous years there were a few hiccups in the system collating the statistics and there are no figures for the months of July, August, October and November.

From the statistics that are available, the average request for pages per day was 1,765 and the busiest months were March and May.

As in the previous year:

- the most popular sections of the web site were: RSS feeds, JIL, Information literacy main page, Resources by sector, Developing professional practice and Research.
- the main sites referring people to the IL website were Google, DOAJ, del.cio.us, CILIP, search. msn and then other small search engines.
- the most popular keywords used to search the site were literacy, information, journal, websites.

The majority of the visitors to the site are based in the UK, but there have been visitors from all around the world including, Africa, Australia, Brazil, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Germany and the US.

6.3.2 The LILAC website (www.lilacconference.com/dw)

This year saw the launch of the new LILAC website hosted on an independent server. Hosting the website in this way allowed the committee total control over content which ensured that changes could be made quickly and efficiently. The site also incorporated a new online booking and payment system. The new system simplified the booking process and allowed delegates to pay online with credit cards.

6.3.3 The CSG IL group website

The CSG IL websites provides information on the group, its committee and training events run by the group.

6.4 Training

Training is a key part of the group's strategy and during the year 2006 - 2007 check over £6,000 was used to provide free or subsidised training across all sectors. Sessions included for example:

- **Information Literacy in Schools and Further Education.** This session offered an overview of the main concepts of teaching IL in Schools & FE, covering IL education from both the trainer and student perspectives and providing ideas of how IL can be

supported in this environment. over 50 people attended the session and a waiting list demonstrated the need for this type of CPD,

- **Teaching IL effectively in HE** was held on February 26th at St Martin's College Carlisle, looking at a range of pedagogical issues involved in making IL training accessible and relevant to learners in HE.
- **Supporting Children's and Young People's Information Literacy in the Public Library**
- **Information Literacy in the Secondary School Library**

6.5 Digital citizenship

Digital citizenship requires that people are information literate, without these skills people will be unable to make an informed decision and may become excluded from society. In June representatives of the group met with members of the museums, libraries and archives council (MLA) to discuss how the group could help move the IL agenda forward in public libraries. Members of the MLA at the meeting included: John Dolan, Chris Fardon, Susi Woodhouse, Sarah Wilkie, David Dawson & David Potts. The group was represented by Debbi Boden (Chair, CSG IL Group – University of Worcester), Ronan O'Beirne (Editor of JIL – Bradford College) & Marcus Woolley (Treasurer CSG IL Group – University of Bedfordshire)

There was general agreement that there is a role for IL within public libraries. The question as to whether there is a digital divide was briefly discussed, some members of the MLA claimed there was no longer existed a digital divide while the group suggested that one of the key targets of IL generally was to bridge the digital divide. There was genuine interest from MLA in the LolliPop and some of the issues outlined by the group struck a cord with the experiences that the MLA team had had in their various remits across public libraries. John Dolan expressed his support for 'something' that took the IL agenda forward. He asked his team to consider the various tie-ins with their own areas of endeavour to see if they could reach a consensus on how to move forward.

Although the meeting closed on a positive note it was indistinctive and inconclusive but there was a sense that there was hope for future initiatives.

6.6 LolliPop

LolliPop was launched at LILAC 2007 by Sheila Corral. Piloted successfully with Bradford Metropolitan Council the programme went on to be further developed and piloted with Loughborough and Bedfordshire Universities. Both Bradford and Bedfordshire have continued to use the programme. The programme is freely available under the Creative Commons license and institutions which have taken the files are:

- Bradford public libraries (Brolli)
- Newcastle public libraries
- Bedfordshire, Loughborough, Roehampton & Newcastle Universities
- Bradford College
- West Cheshire College
- Natural History Museum
- Army Library and Information Service
- Interest from New Zealand

Developments of the programme are being shared and there were two presentations on LolliPop at LILAC 2008. The pilots have helped shape future developments of the programme and at present an evidence based LolliPop is being developed which will be jointly piloted with The Universities of Worcester, Bedfordshire, Loughborough, Bradford College and Worcester College.

6.7 SirLearnaLot

SirLearnaLot is a programme for those in the profession who are involved with teaching but may lack pedagogic knowledge. The programme is being funded by the HEA and the CSG IL group. The aim of the programme is to:

- promote and disseminate effective teaching, learning and assessment
- encourage development and exchange of good practice in the evaluation of teaching methods and
- raise the profile of pedagogic research in the area of information literacy.

Content will include:

- Learning styles
- Planning teaching
- Delivering teaching
- RBL
- Assessment
- Evaluation
- IL

As with LolliPop the programme is written in HTML and will therefore be transferable to any VLE. The programme should be ready to pilot by September 2008 and will be freely available under the Creative Commons licence.

6.8 CSG IL sponsorship

This year the group funded:

- two places at LILAC 2007 to a library professional and a library & information student studying in the UK.
- a place at LILAC 2008 for a library professional from Eastern Europe
- support for the attendance of international conferences

6.9 Presentations

Presentations given on behalf of the group by committee members:

- Debbi Boden, Imperial College and Ruth Stubbings, University of Loughborough. *Information literacy: what is it and why is it important?* University of Sheffield. 22 May 2007.
- Debbi Boden, Imperial College, Ronan O'Beirne, Bradford College and Marcus Woolley, University of Bedfordshire. *LolliPop*. Museum, Libraries and Archives Council. 6 June 2007.
- Debbi Boden, Imperial College and Ronan O'Beirne, Bradford College. *POP-i and LolliPops*. Bolton University. 13 June 2007.
- Debbi Boden, Imperial College and Ronan O'Beirne, Bradford College. *POP-i and LolliPops*. Umbrella. 28 June 2007.
- Debbi Boden, Imperial College and Helen Conroy, Netskills. *Teachers, Trainers, Educators, Enablers: What skills do we need and where do we get them?* Umbrella. 29 June 2007.
- Debbi Boden, University of Worcester and Ronan O'Beirne, Bradford College. *LolliPop*. University of Belgrade. 9 October 2007.
- Jane Secker, LSE and Marcus Woolley, University of Bedfordshire. *Information Literacy: a guide for newly qualified staff*. SOAS CILIP Career Development Group 7th November 2007.
- Jane Secker, LSE. *Information Literacy: best practice in Higher Education* British Library Science Reading Room Staff. 16 February 2008
- Jane Secker, LSE and Debbi Boden, University of Worcester. *Information Literacy: an introduction and overview*. Seminar day - Institute of Development Studies. 29 January 2008.

6.10 LILAC 2008

LILAC 2008 took place at John Moores University Liverpool on 17 – 19 March 2008.

Themes of the conference were:

- Supporting researchers

- Diversity and social justice
- Practical approaches to information literacy
- The net generation
- Ethical information
- Staff development and Information literacy
- Marketing Information literacy

Keynote speakers included:

- **Patricia Senn Breivik** - Vice-President - Nehemiah Communications
- **Christine Irving and John Crawford** - The Scottish Information Literacy Project - Glasgow Caledonian University
- **Frances Norton** - Head of the Wellcome Library
- **Tara Brabazon** - Professor of Media Studies at the University of Brighton
- **Anja Timm** - Research Associate at Lancaster University Management School

7. Financial report

The group has had another profitable year and completed 2007 with a reserve that will be used to support the financial success of the conference in 2009. The reserve grew at a reduced rate to previous years as more of the groups income was spent on sponsoring information literacy training and advocacy within the UK. At the end of 2007 the group had a reserve of £33,339.07 and of this £33,209 was held in a deposit account. Membership income has continued to decline to the point that it makes no practical financial contribution to the group and therefore in 2008 the membership qualifications and requirements of the group will be subject to a review. The LILAC conference continues to be the only major income generating activity of the group. The £16,900 conference profit in 2007 was double the predicted figure. The projected profit for the 2008 conference is £9,000, and although attendance was at an all-time high, costs have also substantially increased.

The financial viability of the group is still completely dependant on the conference and its sponsors as it receives no membership income from CILIP. The executive officers are aware of the risks associated with being dependant upon a single income stream and continue to participate in national and international professional initiatives in order to broaden the group's financial opportunities. The 2007 accounts have been independently reviewed and lodged with CILIP and are available for inspection. Anyone wishing to view the accounts should email marcus.woolley@beds.ac.uk so that suitable arrangements can be made.

8. Committee membership

Chair: Debbi Boden

Vice-Chair: Ruth Stubbings

Treasurer: Marcus Woolley

Secretary: Lyn Parker

Websites: Angela Newton, Ruth Stubbings & Debbi Boden

Membership secretary: Rebecca Mogg

Curriculum Officer: Mark Hepworth

Training Officers: Hannah Hough, Angela Abell & Helen Harrington

Conference Officer: Jane Secker

Sponsorship Officer: Jason Briddon

Journal of Information Literacy Editor: Ronan O'Beirne

Government representative: Adrienne Harris

FE representative: Jane Tomlinson

Public Library representative: Andrew Lewis

Schools representative/Marketing officer: Rebecca Jones

Sconul WGIL representative: Cathie Jackson

Angela Jones-Evans

Diane Lindsay

Jonathan Smart

9. The Service Plan

The following plan outlines the major area of activities for the CSG Information Literacy group for 2008/09. All the activities will be funded directly by the group or through collaboration with partners.

CSG IL Group Service Plan 2008/09

Objectives of the IL group for 2008/09

Objective	CILIP corporate plan 2006/09	Annual objective	Measure
1. To promote the ideal of Information Literacy in all library sectors	Advocacy, Best practice Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market group activities through flyer. 2. Maintenance of the CSG IL website. 3. Provision of training courses on IL to all sectors. 	<p>Number of flyers produced and disseminated.</p> <p>Number of updates to IL website and visitor stats.</p> <p>Number of courses delivered, participants and evaluation of feedback.</p>
2. To encourage collaboration and support across all sectors of the profession in relation to the development and promotion of information literacy	Advocacy Best practice Enabling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work closely with other organisations such as SCONUL and the School Library Association 2. Organise & promote LILAC. 	<p>Number of contacts made and official representation on the IL group from the other groups.</p> <p>Number of papers and delegates, analysis of feedback and provision of a conference blog.</p>

		<p>3. Through sponsorship provide a free place to LILAC for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a student • a representative of an IL group from over seas. 	Two places being provided by a sponsor and accepted by delegates.
3. To disseminate information about local, national and international initiatives in relation to information literacy and related topics.	<p>Advocacy Best practice Education</p>	<p>1. Maintenance of the CSG IL website/ 2. Provision of a discussion forum 3. Publication of the Journal of Information Literacy</p>	<p>Number of updates to IL website and visitor stats Number of subscribers and review of content of discussions. Publication of two issues per year.</p>
4. To highlight and promote good practice in relation to information literacy.	<p>Advocacy Best practice Education Personal development</p>	<p>1. Introduce a new award "Information Literacy Practitioner of the Year" 2. Through the UK IL website highlight good practice and resources others can use. 3. Evaluate and revise the online tutorial LolliPop aimed at Enquiry Service staff in libraries.</p>	<p>Number of nominations for award and number of media mentions. Number of new resources added to the website. Publish evaluations of the LolliPop tutorial and create a problem-based version.</p>

		<p>4. Create, pilot and evaluate the teaching tutorial, SirLearnaLot.</p> <p>5. Provision of subsidised courses on IL.</p>	<p>Provision of a final report that evaluates the tutorial.</p> <p>Number of courses provided, number of delegates that attend and evaluation of feedback.</p>
<p>5. To promote and advocate information literacy to all non-librarians.</p>	<p>Advocacy</p>	<p>1. Investigate how to create links with other organisations, e.g. Head Teachers</p> <p>2. Investigate creating links with similar organisations in other countries, e.g. Finland, Ireland, Australia & the USA.</p>	<p>Number of contacts made.</p> <p>Number of contacts made.</p>

