



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

CSG Information Literacy Group

**Annual Report
March 2006 – March 2007**

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

1. Introduction

The year once again began with the Librarians Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC) 2006 held at the University of Leeds and ending with the successful LILAC 2007 bringing together 180 delegates from different sectors from around the world. The high number of attendees at LILAC demonstrates the importance of IL in today's global information society and one which CILIP now recognise. This is apparent from their corporate strategic plan 2006 – 09 where they state that they will 'advocate the value of information literacy for all citizens and the role of the profession in supporting information literacy development'.¹ The group's activities during the year have concentrated on three main areas education, advocacy and community, which echo CILIP's corporate strategic plan.

The IL group, as part of the Community Services Group, sees raising awareness of IL and its significance to the community as a whole as a key part of its remit. The importance of IL is a message we need to ensure that government receives. A major step forward was made when three members of the committee gave a presentation to the Department for Education and skills (DfES) and others on why IL should be embedded into the national curriculum and its significance as a key part of life long learning. The presentation was greeted with enthusiasm and further details can be found in section 6.6. With the governments commitment to e delivery of information the role of public librarians is becoming vital in developing digital citizenship. However, this has led to issues surrounding the skills set of those working in the front line of public libraries and the group have supported an initiative to create an online tutorial (POP-i) which develops the IL skills of public library enquiry desk staff and enables them to transfer these skills into the workplace. The pilot with Bradford Metropolitan Council was completed in December 2006 and I am pleased to say it was a great success. Further details can be found in section 6.8.

A key area for the group is education / training and the success of the LILAC conferences enables the group to provide IL training at a low cost or free. Sessions have taken place on pedagogy, IL in schools and a joint session with the Scottish Academic Libraries Co-operative Training Group on IL in academic libraries took place in Glasgow. Presentations were also given by members of the group at various seminar and training sessions. Continuing on the education theme the group was proud to launch the open access Journal of Information Literacy (JIL) in January 2007 with a selection of peer and non peer reviewed articles.

¹ *CILIP Corporate Strategic Plan 2006 – 2009*. Available from: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/aboutcilip/annualreport/corporateplan2006.htm> [Accessed: 5 May 06]

The group carries on building partnerships and this is a priority if we are carry on building on our successes. IL is a world wide issue and the UNESCO IL high level colloquium on IL and Lifelong Learning held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina on 6-9 November 2005 which led to the Alexandria proclamation is a recognition of this:

*'Information Literacy lies at the core of lifelong learning ... Life long learning enables individuals, communities and nations to attain their goals and to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the evolving global environment for shared benefit. It assists them and their institutions to meet technological, economic and social challenges, to redress disadvantage and to advance the well being of all.'*²

IL overlaps with many different literacies, for example media & digital and we need to be working and collaborating with others such as OFCAM and the BBC. However, working with other communities and organisations is not all we should be doing. There needs to be more cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborations such as the POP-i project. We can not keep working in our silos, to do this makes us weak and often ineffectual, and working together makes us strong and able to make a difference for as Jonathan Douglas has said:

*'Information Literacy is more than a library or education issue. It is crucial to issues of economic development, health, citizenship and quality of life.'*³

The successes of the group are due to the commitment and hard work of the committee who willingly and enthusiastically give up free time to work towards empowering people so that they can make informed decisions and functional fully in today's 'e society'.

Debbi Boden

Chair CSG IL Group

CILIP has defined IL as:

"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 Alexandria Proclamation on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning. Available from: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=20891&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
[Accessed: 5 April 07]

³ Douglas, Jonathan. [French Military Victories?](#) Keynote presentation, LILAC Conference 2006.

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 22 members which includes representatives from many sectors including Schools, Public libraries and the NHS.

The aims and objectives of the groups 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 54

- CILIP CSG full membership 32

- CILIP membership 21
- Affiliated membership 1

3.3 Infoliteracy Jisc email list

Total membership 1149

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

5. Publication

5.1 Journal of Information Literacy (JIL)

The first edition of JIL was published on 31st January 2007. It contained 2 refereed articles, 5 unrefereed articles and 3 book reviews. It is currently hosted on the Information Literacy website, but the editorial board plan to move it to an open access journal system before the end of 2007. A second issue is planned for June 2007. The Journal editor for the first edition was Sheila Webber of the University of Sheffield but from June 2007 will be Ronan O'Beirne of Bradford College. The Deputy Editor is Jane Secker, of the LSE.

5.2 CSG Journal

The group provides / facilitates articles for the CSG Journal.

5.3 Conference proceedings

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

6. Review of Activities

6.1 LILAC 2006

LILAC is a self funding 3 day international conference and in 2006 was held at Leeds University with approximately 180 delegates from different sectors around the world. The conference had six keynote speakers, twelve long papers, twenty-eight short, four demonstrations and twelve poster displays. Feedback about the conference was extremely positive with comments such as, 'This is my first conference – I have loved the whole experience'.

Two sponsored places were funded by the CSG IL group to a library professional and a library & information student studying in the UK.

The conference had six themes:

Embedding and enriching
Information Literacy and citizenship
New areas of practice and research
Practical approaches to Information Literacy
Staff development and Information Literacy
Strategic approaches to Information Literacy

Keynote speakers were:

Lynne Brindley

Chief Executive of The British Library

Peter Brophy

Director of the Centre for Research in Library & Information Management, Manchester Metropolitan University

Professor Philip Candy

Director of Education, Training and Development, NHS Connecting for Health

Jonathan Douglas

Head of Learning and Access at the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)

Professor Dorothy Williams

Dept. of Information Management, the Robert Gordon University

After Dinner Speaker:

Sheila Corral

Professor and Chair in Librarianship, University of Sheffield

6.2 Training

The aim of the groups training events is to provide accessible, affordable, training for people involved in information use across all sectors, including health, schools and government. This year the group has run:

- A joint session with the Scottish Academic Libraries Co-operative Training Group on IL in academic libraries. This was a full day session which was held in a joint session with the Scottish Academic Libraries Co-operative Training Group on IL in academic libraries. Speakers included Debbi Boden, Hannah Hough, Chris Powis and Ruth Stubbings. This was a full day session which was held at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow with approximately 25 delegates at a cost of £45 per person including lunch.
- Information Literacy in Schools and Further Education was a free whole day event held at the TFPL offices in London. We are very grateful to TFPL for providing their premises free of charge. Originally the event was intended for 30 people but was so oversubscribed we increased the number to 50 and still had a waiting list. Speakers were Professor Dorothy Williams, Andrew Madden & Lynn Barrett. Feed back was extremely positive for this session and several emails were received congratulating the organisers on the event.
- Teaching IL effectively in HE looked at a range of pedagogical issues involved in making IL training accessible and relevant to learners in HE. Another full day session which was at St Martin's College, Carlisle with 25 delegates at a cost £50 for CSG IL members and £60 for non members. Speakers included Ginny Franklin, Lyn Parker, Chris Powis & Gwyneth Price.

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

The site was launched on Tuesday 28th March 2006 by Jonathan Douglas, who was then Head of Learning and Access at the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), at LILAC 2006. The site has been established 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.

We have received positive feedback to the website:

“On behalf of the Education Librarians Group, I would like to give you our congratulations on the new site. It's good to see the site up and running.”

“Congratulations on these pages - this is a great resource and will continue to grow as a central place we can all benefit from.”

Eduserv provide quarterly reports on the usage of the website, which includes: number of requests for pages, daily and hourly summaries, domain and organisation reports, referring sites, browser report, search word report and file requests. Between September and December there was a technical hiccup and statistics are not available.

The average request for pages per day is as follows:

March 2006	35
April – June 2006	1, 424 (with April being the busiest month)
July – August 2006	675 (with September being the busiest month)
January 2007	1,740
February 2007	3,208
March 2007	2,601

The most popular sections of the web site are: JIL, Information literacy main page, RSS feeds, Resources by sector, Developing professional practice and Research.

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

6.4 CSG IL website

The CSG IL websites provides information on the group, its committee and events run by the group such as LILAC. Presentations from LILAC and from training sessions can be accessed from the site.

6.5 IL case studies

In 2005 the group worked with other members of CILIP to provide a definition of IL for CILIP. With the aid of funding from CILIP the group have been able to develop this work further by commissioning case studies that illustrate best practice in the delivery and /

or promotion of information literacy in differing library sectors: Four case studies have been written:

- Further education libraries
- Higher education libraries
- Public libraries
- School libraries

CSG-ILG hope that these case studies will provide a valuable resource to help librarians and teachers choose successful strategies for designing and delivering information literacy programmes for customers in their fields, by collecting experience of others who have implemented them in a practical situation. The case studies can be accessed via the CSG IL website.

6.6 IL in the national curriculum

On the 2nd November a meeting was held, to discuss information literacy and the school curriculum, at the DfES, Sanctuary Buildings in London. The meeting was co-ordinated by Julie Bramman (Deputy Director - Curriculum, DfES) and was attended by Julie Bramman and Alan Clarke (also Deputy Director - Curriculum, DfES), Mark Orrow-Whiting (Science Curriculum Team, QCA), Angela Ruggles (Team Leader - Creativity and Arts Team, DfES), Colin Seale, (Head of GCSE and A levels and post 14 maths, DfES), Fred Sharrock (National Strategy Policy Team, DfES), Ruth Harrison (The Reading Agency). Jo Webb (CILIP) also attended the meeting.

Representing CILIP and the Information Literacy group were Dr. Mark Hepworth (Information Literacy Committee Member; Senior Lecturer, Loughborough University), Debbi Boden (Chair, Information Literacy Committee; Faculty Team Leader, Imperial College London) and Marcus Woolley (Treasurer, Information Literacy Committee; Deputy Director, Bedfordshire University).

The objective of the meeting was to persuade the audience that the current school curriculum did not foster information literacy (what the DfES call independent study skills) and that people in Library and Information Science could help educators enable pupils to become information literate. To achieve this we first asked them to think about their own information literacy. This proved successful partly because people seldom have the opportunity to think about how they use information and raised awareness of the complexity of the domain as well as the unconscious nature of information literacy. The presentation went on to give definitions of information literacy, outlined current practice in schools and used data from a number of studies involving pupils in schools that showed how current approaches were not working. For example, how pupils involved in projects did not engage with the process or understand what they were

doing, or why, and felt very insecure about the process. Finally possible changes in the way information literacy (independent study skills) was taught were suggested.

This stimulated much discussion and the outcome was that the audience were convinced that we did have something to offer. This was partly because our suggestions tied in with future planned changes to the curriculum for 2008/9, including the introduction of an extended project. As a result Julie Bramman agreed to circulate our presentation to other people including the Training Development Agency (TDA). The implication was that we could get involved in the development of training material for teachers as well as curriculum development.

Overall we felt the meeting was a success in that we managed to communicate with high level educational policy makers in government and to demonstrate that our profession had something to offer.

Further to these developments, at the last meeting of the CILIP Information Literacy committee (December 1st), it was agreed that we would contact other professional groups who are concerned with information literacy and the school curriculum such as the School Library Association and the Education Libraries Group. This will help make sure that we are aware of what each of us are doing and enable us to present a common front. This took place in January.

6.7 Presentations

Presentations have been given on behalf of the group:

Bodden, Debbi. Information Literacy Master Class: *Advancing information literacy in the workplace*. (Presentation) December 2006, London.

Bodden, Debbi., Parker, L. & Secker, J. *'Who should be teaching Information Literacy?'*. (Round table discussion) 5th International Conference on eLiteracy University of Loughborough. June 2006.

Bodden, Debbi. *'Information Literacy: Still in the wings or taking centre stage?'* (Presentation) University of the West of England. June 2006.

Bodden, Debbi. & Secker, Jane. *'Good ... Better...Best'*. (Presentation) Cilip South East Branch 1 day training School. Lewes. October 2006.

Bodden, Debbi., Stubbings, R.. & Secker, J. *'Who should be teaching Information Literacy?'*. IL Seminar. Imperial College London. March 2007.

6.8 POP-i

This was a collaborative non-commercial venture between Imperial College London (ICL) and the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council Library Service to develop an online learning programme for Information Literacy aimed at public libraries. The programme was created to develop the IL skills of public library enquiry desk staff and

enabling them to transfer these skills into the workplace. The project was created in HTML and housed in the open source VLE Moodle. The pilot took place with 15 library staff from across Bradford over fifteen weeks. Evaluation of the programme has shown it to be a great success. Phase two of the programme was to develop LolliPop which may be customised and it is suitable for use in any sector with a few local adjustments. As the programme has been written in HTML it can be uploaded into an VLE or onto any website. LolliPop HE will be piloted by the universities of Bedfordshire and Loughborough in April 2007.

LolliPop was officially launched at LILAC 2007 by Sheila Corral.

6.9 LILAC 2007

LILAC 2007 was held on 26th – 28th March at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Conference themes included:

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

Keynote speakers included:

Professor Christine Bruce

Associate Professor and Assistant Dean, Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Information Technology at QUT

John Dolan OBE

Head of Library Policy at the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

Sir J A 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

Dr Ross Todd

Associate professor in the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

After dinner speaker:

Caroline Williams

Executive Director of Intute

7. Finance

The finance of the group have continued their trend of a steady growth of a financial reserve that will ensure continued success of the annual conference even if there is an unforeseen financial down turn. At the end of 2006 the group had a reserve of £20 000. Membership income continues to decline but has never raised a significant income for the group. Group funding is almost completely reliant on a successful Lilac conference. Profits from the 2007 annual LILAC conference are expected to be £8000, a little lower this year because of the higher costs involved.

It is especially pleasing to be able to inform the group that some of last years profits have been used to fund free information literacy training events throughout the UK.

The 2006 balance sheet and accounts have been lodged with CILIP and are available for inspection. Any one wishing to see the accounts should email marcus.woolley@luton.ac.uk.

Committee members

Chair: [Debbi Boden](#)

Vice-Chair: [Ruth Stubbings](#)

Treasurer: [Marcus Woolley](#)

Secretary: [Lyn Parker](#)

Webpages: [Angela Newton](#)

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: [Sheila Webber](#)

Government representative: [Adrienne Harris](#)

FE representative: [Jane Tomlinson](#)

Public Library representative: [Andrew Lewis](#)

CyMAL representative: [Helen Williams](#)

Schools representative/Marketing officer: [Rebecca Jones](#)

Sconul WGIL representative: [Cathie Jackson](#)

[Lynn Barrett](#)

[Angela Jones-Evans](#)

[Diane Lindsay](#)

[Jonathan Smart](#)