



CILIP Information Literacy Group

Annual Report 2020/2021



Message from the Chair

Welcome to the 2021 Annual Report of the CILIP Information Literacy Group (ILG). It has been a very difficult year for many people and the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic has made it very challenging for everyone, myself included, both personally and professionally. I continue to be indebted to the work the ILG Committee are doing at the current time and for the support they have been giving me. I am also astonished that all the committee members have continued to participate in committee business and join regular online meetings at a time when many people are really suffering. We have continued to forward plan for the future of ILG and I am incredibly proud that we are able to launch a draft 2025 strategy for the group at the 2021 AGM.

The group is in a stable but challenging situation financially since our main source of income (LILAC) has now not been able to run for two years. Claire Packham (Chair of LILAC) and the LILAC Committee are working hard to create a unique online experience with the FestivIL event scheduled for 6-8 July 2021. This event will potentially bring in a wider audience than might be possible at a face to face event so do save the date in your calendars!

We have continued to share good practice and advocate for information literacy. [Twelve case studies](#) were produced last year and have been a valuable way for librarians across all sectors to share their practices as they have shifted information literacy activities online. The [Journal of Information Literacy](#) has also continued to publish high quality peer reviewed articles in the field and we were delighted to welcome a new Managing Editor, Meg Westbury, to join our international editorial board led by Dr Alison Hicks.

Thank you to all our committee and sub-committee members for their hard work over the past year and thank you to our members for their support. I hope you are all keeping well and safe and surviving these difficult times.

Dr Jane Secker

Chair, CILIP Information Literacy Group

14th April 2021

Changes to the ILG Committee

During the year we have had two changes to the Committee membership.

We were saddened to see Andrew Walsh step down from his long standing role as one of the group's Training Officers. We plan to recruit a new Training Officer in the next few months. We were also sorry to lose Abi Ward who stepped down as the Membership Officer.

Full membership of the current Committee can be found in Appendix One.

CILIP definition of Information Literacy

The [revised CILIP Definition of Information Literacy](#) was launched in April 2018 at LILAC and this year saw several online events where members of the committee have spoken about the definition and the work of the group both nationally and internationally. A [PDF version of the definition](#) can be downloaded from our website. Events this year included:

- Jane Secker gave a keynote at the [Cambridge Information Literacy Network](#) event held in June 2020.
- Jane Secker gave a [keynote](#) at the Dutch Information Literacy Group's conference based on the CILIP IL definition in October 2020.
- Jane Secker chaired a panel on online teaching and the role of librarians during the pandemic at the CILIP Conference in November 2020.

Our Priorities

In 2020, the committee priorities remain aligned with those of CILIP's 2020 action plan, which focuses heavily on information literacy. However, we have created a Strategic Plan which is being launched at the AGM and we will be collecting feedback and comments from ILG members. *We believe this strategy will make us more resilient as a group, and sustainable in our promotion of information literacy.*

Advocacy

The circumstances of the pandemic have meant that 2020 has been a quieter year than usual for advocacy and outreach. The main activity has been under the auspices of an initiative aimed at encouraging greater recognition of IL in the school curriculum. A statement to this effect was issued in May 2020, which now has over 160 signatories from various professional backgrounds. This has enabled us to reach out to organisations with which we have had few dealings previously, including the Association for Citizenship Teaching, the Digital Life Skills Company, Parentzone, the PSHE Association and

Wikimedia. It has allowed us to establish a dialogue with academics from hitherto neglected disciplines, for instance with the politics department at the University of Manchester. The statement is available online: <https://www.informall.org.uk/news/il-school-education/>

We have also been able to deepen existing relationships, notably with Sense about Science (see below). As we move into 2021, the challenge now is to develop practical means of taking this initiative forward.

This section highlights some of the activities in which we have been involved during the past year including:

- ILG have been invited to join the Steering Group of a research project led by Dr Julian McDougall from Bournemouth University on the role of comics in spreading public health information. The project is called “Comics in the time of COVID-19: Tracking data on web-based comics and evaluating their potential for communicating public health messages” and is funded by UKRI.
- Stéphane Goldstein remains a member of the Ofcom ‘[Making Sense of Media](#)’ advisory panel . He took part in all their meetings during the year, but again because of Covid-19, the panel’s level of activity has been relatively subdued.
- At the instigation of ILG, Sense about Science contributed an article to the June-July issue of *Information Professional*.
- In October, Jacqueline Geekie and Stéphane Goldstein took part in a couple of roundtables organised by Sense about Science to help them refine their policies on combating conspiracy theories. In the context of Sense about Science’s Evidence Week 2020, Jacqueline wrote to and received a useful statement from her MP, the SNP’s Richard Thomson. And In January, Jacqueline took part in a further Sense about Science event on social policy.
- In March 2021, the Workers Educational Association (WEA) approached Jane Secker with an invitation to address the All Party Parliamentary Group on Adult Education, on two occasions in April and July (the WEA provides the secretariat for this APPG). This was also an opportunity to establish links with WEA.

TeenTech and Great School Libraries

We have sadly had to suspend our sponsorship of the Research and Information Literacy Award which is part of TeenTech, a science and technology initiative in schools. This was partly due to our reduced income, but also because JCSONline withdrew their support for the award. Several members of the committee were still involved in judging TeenTech research projects and we attended the online event in June 2020 alongside celebrities and

other TeenTech sponsors.

Jane Secker and Stéphane Goldstein remained members of the Great School Libraries working group.

Research

Due to financial uncertainties we have been unable to offer any new bursaries for research in 2020/21. We will continue to review this on an ongoing basis. and have captured the importance of this work in our 2025 strategy.

Journal of Information Literacy

We continue to publish the [Journal of Information Literacy](#), the diamond open access peer reviewed journal, twice yearly to promote high quality research in the field. We also published an additional special LILAC issue this year in place of the cancelled LILAC conference.

Issues this year have been:

- Vol. 14(1): Three peer reviewed articles with authors from the US and the UK; two project reports with authors from the Philippines and Kazakhstan, and the UK.
- Vol. 14(2): Five peer reviewed articles with authors from Canada, Germany, Singapore, UK and the US; One project report with authors from Australia; Two book reviews.
- Vol. 15(1): LILAC SPECIAL ISSUE: Two peer reviewed articles with authors from Canada and the US; Five project reports with authors from the Netherlands, Qatar and the UK.

The board recruited two new copy editors, Ellen Cole and Tom Peach, and a new Production Editor, Harriet David as well as a new Managing Editor, Meg Westbury. Plans for next year include: the recruitment of a statistician, three new editorial board members, and a special COVID themed issue (June 2022). A guest editor has also been lined up for the June 2023 Special Issue.

LILAC

LILAC 2020 was due to take place at Manchester Metropolitan University but sadly has had to be postponed until 2022. The [keynotes for 2022](#) will be:

- Emily Drabinski, Critical Pedagogy Librarian at the Graduate Center, City University of New York
- Elizabeth Charles, Assistant Director of Library Services (E-Services, Systems and Collections) at Birkbeck, University of London.

The LILAC committee are in the process of organising a one-off event '[FestivIL by LILAC](#)', which will be held online over three days in July 2021. FestivIL by LILAC is an online event to share knowledge & experiences and to bring the information literacy community together, as we continue to work in what is a very different professional environment for many of us.

Website and social media

A particular focus for 2020/21 has been closer coordination of the group's communication activity. We have rebranded our website editorial team as our Comms Team, and they now have a broader remit to cover all communication activity across a wide range of platforms. By introducing new processes behind the scenes, we are now taking a more joined-up approach, in collaboration with the LILAC and JIL teams, to reach our target audiences.

Our [Information Literacy website](#) blog provides a platform for the information literacy community to showcase innovative teaching and research activity, promote forthcoming events and offer comment on hot topics. We have published **102** blog posts since April 2020, including regular updates from our sector reps, online teaching case studies and guest posts from a wide range of contributors.

We are continuing to update the content of the Information Literacy website, including the launch of new sector pages for Public Libraries and the Health Sector. Page views for the period Apr 2020 to Mar 2021 have increased 15% on the previous year.

We have also continued to develop our presence on other social media platforms, including Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn, and our regular ILG newsletter remains an important tool for communicating with our members. As of April 7th 2021, our @infolitgroup Twitter account has 6,995 followers.

Training events and sponsorship

We continue to support the development of library and information professionals' information literacy and related literacies and teaching skills via events and webinars. Activity this year has sadly been much reduced but we were able to deliver a popular event:

- Shifting Your Information Literacy Teaching Online - this was held as an online event on 18th September 2020 and all the recordings from the presentations are available [online](#).
- Over 100 people attended the event and there were 9 presentations from different

speakers in schools, colleges and universities who shared their experiences of the shift to teaching online.

Information Literacy Awards

We offer an annual award for achievement in Information Literacy in the UK. The [IL Award](#) recognises an outstanding contribution made by a researcher or practitioner working in the IL field in any sector. The winner in 2020 was Clare McCluskey-Dean at York St John University.

The [Digital Award for Information Literacy](#) (sponsored by the Open University) rewards an innovative/high impact digital resource developed by a UK-based individual or group. The winner in 2020 was [Step up to Masters](#) - Jiani Liu, Dan Pullinger, Sunny Dhillon, Angela Newton, Paul Cave, Laura Fitch at the University of Leeds.

Appendix One: Committee Membership

Officers:

- Chair: Jane Secker
- Deputy Chair: Rosie Jones and Laura Woods
- Treasurer: Jonas Herriot
- Secretary: Catherine McManamon

Members:

Pip Divall, Jacqueline Geekie, Stephane Goldstein, Kate Grigsby, Anne-Lise Harding, Padma Inala, Rebecca Jones, Claire Packham, Sarah Pavey, Dan Pullinger, Geoff Walton, Liz White.

Co-opted member: Alison Hicks (JIL Editor)

Appendix Two: Financial report

See separate document

