



SLIC Newsletter Summer 2003



Message from the director of SLIC

2002/2003 has been a year of change for the Council, new offices, a new Chair and the retirement of the previous Director, Robert Craig. The new offices were necessary due to increased staffing, which was the result of partnership projects to deliver a Scottish Cultural Portal, a National Readership Development Project and support for FE and Health services.

Rosemary McKenna, MP ended her term of office on a high note – opening the new office and seeing the successful completion of the People’s Network project for public libraries. Our new Chair, Rhona Brankin MSP, is keen to continue the sterling work of her predecessor, in particular in relation to the sector’s contribution to the work of the Scottish Executive.

Robert Craig, the first Director of the Council, announced his retirement in June 2002 and left the services of the Council in December. His contribution to the development and role of library and information services is significant. I hope to be able to build on this work and support the continued improvement of services whatever the sector. We are currently looking at how to communicate more effectively with members using the annual reports, this bulletin and using e-bulletins on a monthly basis and would appreciate any comments you might have.

An enhanced look for SLAINTE

A new web site for SLIC and CILIPS (www.slainte.org.uk) was launched with enhanced features and new sections for the Further Education sector and the People’s Network. A Readership Development section is currently under development. A new Opac has also been added to the site, with improved search capabilities. The homepage features a regularly updated ‘Web Resource Spotlight’, resources can be submitted for inclusion.



The homepage is currently receiving around 2500 page views per month.



Readership Development image map, currently under development.

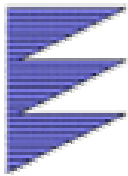
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Information Handling Skills course under development

The Scottish Library and Information Council has undertaken the development of an on-line information handling skills course for over 16 year olds, staff and the general public. SLIC recognise that the ability of the citizen to access and assess accurate information is crucial to the development of lifelong learning, skills development and active citizenship.

The project is funded by SLIC, SUFI and Scottish Enterprise Glasgow. The steering group includes funding partners: the Scottish Further Education Unit (SFEU); Scottish Qualifications Agency (SQA); local authorities; colleges and universities. The course is being project-managed by the Scottish Further Education Unit. Further funding is being sought from the European Social Fund.

The course consists of 23 generic learning objects which will be available for to partners to download to their managed learning environments and incorporate in their information skills courses. In addition, the online course will contain five contextualised scenarios: shopping; research: travel; leisure; sport and finding employment.

This on-line course will be available at no cost to all members of SLIC and as a result will be available through every public library, college, and university. The web site will be launched in autumn 2003.

Prison Service Libraries

SLIC worked in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service to produce guidance to help improve and standardise the quality of prisoner libraries in Scotland. The guidance is intended to assist governors and prison librarians in achieving appropriate library provision.

The report, *Prison Libraries: Good practice Guidelines – a Framework for Development*, recognises the major contribution that a well run prison library can make in the creation of opportunities for information, recreation and education. The report examines how books and other resources can be used to support and facilitate learning and social inclusion. The report is not yet available.



SFEFC award funding to Glasgow Colleges Group



Catherine Kearney, FE Network Project Officer

The Glasgow Colleges Group won funding from the SFEFC to extend the work on self-evaluative indicators begun by SLIC. The project ran from April to November 2002 and SLIC continued to offer support through the secondment of Catherine Kearney as FE Network Project Officer to assist development work.

Quality Improvement Forum is managing progress. SLIC believe that college libraries should take a leading role in the provision of information structured and delivered in the ways that learners need and are keen to promote the role of the library in supporting teaching and learning within Virtual Learning Environment development.

November 2002. This seminar 'Next Generation Further Education Libraries' also considered online service development in a strategic planning context.

An Advisory Group to develop self evaluating indicators met for the first time on 1st May 2003. The work of the Project coincides with revision of the HMIE review framework due to take place in 2004.

An advisory group chaired by a member of SFEU's

Consultation on the draft self-evaluative indicators for online services took place in

People's Network

SLIC provided support for the rollout and development of the People's Network. A number of training events were organised which examined issues including Acceptable Use Policies, access issues, video conferencing and filtering. A series of regional training workshops took place at venues around the country. SLIC developed a checklist for the New Opportunities Fund ICT Training for Public Library Staff for Outcomes 2-8 and the Supplementary Outcomes which is available on SLAINTE. A short term working group developed User Manual Tool Kit for ICT and guidelines for staff manuals.

New Opportunities Funding enabled SLIC to negotiate Scotland wide subscriptions for electronic databases. A seminar in August 2002 gave authorities the opportunity to evaluate the services available. The services chosen were KnowUK, KompassUK, Newsbank and the Statistical Accounts for Scotland. These resources are now available at every public library in the country providing equity of information provision.

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Readership Development

SLIC has been working in partnership with the Scottish Arts Council and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland to create and support a Readership Development Network in Scotland. Working closely with local authorities, a Reader Development Co-ordinator has been identified in each of the 32 public library services. They are undergoing a two year programme of training, coaching and practical experience in reader development techniques. The training is being carried out by Opening the Book.

Reader Development is relatively new to Scotland and the idea of working from a reader centred perspective needs to be introduced across a range of other agencies. This helps them to understand the underpinning philosophy and also increases the effectiveness of cross-agency Reader Development work. A mapping exercise has been carried out of existing reading initiatives and some models of good practice identified. A section of SLAINTE will be set up in 2003 to aid the distribution of good practice and provide a forum for all parties to inform and support the wider reader development community.

Careers Scotland Resource Points

An initiative to establish Careers Scotland Resource Points in public libraries is taking place in 11 authorities around the country from Dumfries & Galloway in the south to Moray in the north.

The project is a partnership between SLIC, Careers Scotland and the local authorities.

It demonstrates that public libraries can support other agencies in delivering their services in the hearts of communities.

Libraries will have resources including books, software and access to databases, which will help people of all ages make choices about education,

training and careers.

Careers Scotland staff will support the project by holding events in libraries and providing specialist advice to people who are referred to them.

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Cultural Portal

SLIC were awarded funding for this pilot project by the Scottish Executive to identify cultural content for Scotland. Both electronic and print based resources have been identified and the team hope to unearth some of Scotland's rich cultural resources, for the benefit of the electronic traveller.

As of April the project has successfully amassed 500 web resources, but has also brought together thousands of other resources using Z39.50 technology, unleashing the sometimes hidden content of some of Scotland's information services.

The portal is all about collaboration, from not only the library sector but museums and archives too. If we can communicate with colleagues and realise the way forward, this should enable us as a nation to communicate as a whole within the context of an electronic global village.

School Library Masterclass

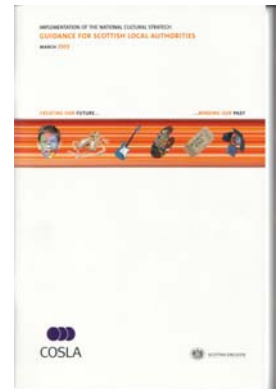
The Scottish Executive has funded a new schools ICT training initiative called Masterclass. Education Authorities and agencies identified 600 participants for intensive ICT training, who were then charged with promoting learning communities in ICT. Eighteen of the 6000 participants had a school library background and SLIC worked closely with Masterclass Advisory Group to develop the school librarians' programme.

Three collaborative tasks were undertaken: developing an electronic resources identification and evaluation framework; creating a template for planning and evaluating school library investigations and a review of the current work on mapping progression of information literacy skills, required in 5-14 year olds with a view to integrating this with the ICT guidelines. SLIC has now been invited to join the Masterclass Advisory Group as planning begins for the second phase of the initiative.

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Cover of Scottish Executive and COSLA "Implementation of the National Cultural Strategy: Guidance for Scottish Local Authorities, March 2003".