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Innovation and Development Fund

SLIC announced in May that four projects had been selected to receive funding in 2007. The successful applicants were:

- Forth Valley College of Further and Higher Education - *Learn at your library*
- John Wheatley College - *Keyword and educational descriptions training development*
- North Lanarkshire Libraries - *Second life in libraries*
- Strathclyde University - *Forensic Readiness for Local Libraries in Scotland (FRILLS)*

The four organisations will each receive a proportion of the £35,000 fund. More information about the successful projects can be found at:

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/SLIC/idf/slicidf.htm>.

The 2006 Innovation and Development project from Cumbernauld College, 'SLiCpod' has been nominated for Sector Leading Best Practice as a result of a recent HMle review.

The Big Plus in Libraries

SLIC launched *The Big Plus in Libraries* annual report on World Book Day 2007. The Big Plus in Libraries is a partnership initiative between Learning Connections, the learning arm of Communities Scotland, and SLIC. The initiative aims to promote adult literacy and numeracy opportunities and the report highlights the range of supporting services available in local libraries.



Big Plus in Libraries launch



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Public Libraries Quality Improvement Matrix

The Public Libraries Quality Improvement Matrix (PLQIM), the new framework for public library service delivery in Scotland, was launched by the Culture Minister last March. The Matrix which replaces the 1995 COSLA public library standards, is an evaluation tool for local authorities to help deliver more effective library services. Developed by SLIC in partnership with local authorities on behalf of the Scottish Executive, it is being supported by a £1million pound funding initiative.

UK Joint Forum

SLIC, the Scottish Museums Council and the Scottish Council on Archives are each represented on the UK Joint Forum, where projects and policy with UK-wide implications are discussed. Strategic organisations use the Forum for communication on a wide range of issues. Working groups have responsibility for Marketing, Workforce Development and Collections. Meetings of the UK Joint Forum take place twice a year.

FE Library Standards Toolkit Review

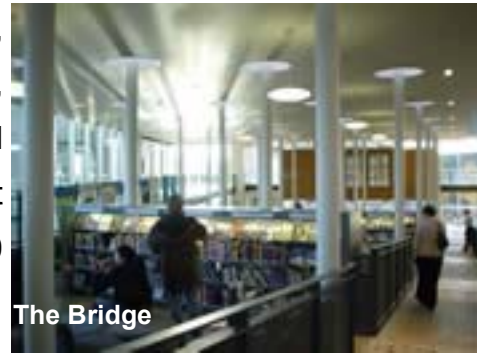
SLIC Board has approved the formation of a working group to review and update the Library Standards Toolkit published in 2003. Work will begin in early autumn and involve a wide consultation with the sector.



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FE Conference

The first SLIC FE Conference 'Sharing Vision, Planning Practice' took place at The Bridge, Easterhouse, Glasgow on 27th November. All presentations are available on our website at www.slainte.org.uk Attended by over 70 delegates, feedback was overwhelmingly positive and a date has been set for this year's



Conference – 23rd November. The themes are professional partnerships and cross sectoral collaboration and a programme will be available in August.

European Digital Library

The European Digital Library is the flagship project of the overall European Commission strategy to boost the digital economy, i2020 (see: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/what_is_dli/index_en.htm). Since an announcement was made about UK plans to participate in development of a European Digital Library, SLIC has been working in collaboration with The National Library of Scotland and the Scottish Executive to ensure Scottish interests are represented to the Museums Libraries and Archives Commission for England. This has included publishing a response to the Dynamic Action Plan for the European Digital Library and i2020 which noted that Scotland is well placed to contribute to the European Digital Library while stressing the importance of building on existing work rather than re-inventing services. The full SLIC response can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/replies_online_consultation/replies/scottish_library_a302886.pdf.



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IRI Scotland

SLIC continues to support a range of digital initiatives to ensure that Scotland can develop a robust infrastructure to help support the strategic objectives of the Scottish Executive. One such project is the Institutional Repository Infrastructure for Scotland which aims to provide the organisational and technological framework for a Scotland-wide institutional repository infrastructure for research. The project is funded under the JISC Digital Repositories Programme and project partners also include University of Edinburgh on behalf of SCURL (Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries), The Centre for Digital Library Research (CDLR), Strathclyde University, Glasgow Metropolitan College, The National Library of Scotland, OCLC PICA, The Scottish Crop Research Institute, Universities of Aberdeen, Abertay, Dundee, Glasgow, St Andrews, Stirling and Strathclyde. Findings are likely to be disseminated widely when the project concludes later this year. <http://www.iriscotland.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

JISC

Through participation in the JISC Content Services Committee SLIC has been monitoring progress towards the establishment of JISC Collections, the recently launched content procurement company. This exciting development opens up new opportunities and possibilities for cross sectoral consortium purchase of e-content coordinated by SLIC.



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New Administration

The Scottish National Party has formed a minority administration and has outlined its five strategic priorities (see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/purposestratobj>). The main reporting route for SLIC is the Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, Linda Fabianni who will report to the First Minister's Office. As ever, SLIC will continue to work across all areas of the Scottish Executive to lobby and advocate for library and information services and their role in supporting the administration's strategic priorities.

It is clear that the efficient government and shared service agenda will continue to play a key role in policy development. The new administration published *Choices for a purpose: review of Scottish Executive budgets* (Howat report), which was commissioned by the previous administration. The report identifies "headroom" in some budgets including higher education and health sectors. The Howat report is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/178289/0050741.pdf>.

First e-Qualification

Following on from successful collaboration with the SQA to create the Professional Development Awards for ICT in libraries, SLIC has been involved in the development of the SQA's first paperless qualification. Internet Safety (SCQF Level 4) has been designed for complete online delivery and was piloted in 2006. Teaching and learning materials were developed in electronic format for on-screen delivery and two types of e-assessment were produced. The qualification was officially launched in July 2007.



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Scottish Executive Consultations

●● Draft Culture (Scotland) Bill

Consultation on the draft Culture (Scotland) Bill ended last March and SLIC published a response to the draft which proposed some amendments aimed at adding clarity to the legislation, we also recommend that the Bill and Guidance be adopted as an integrated package and requested some clarification on how powers will be applied under the new Bill.

The full SLIC response can be found at:

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/Files/pdf/SLIC/sliccultbill.pdf> .

●● A Strategy for Scotland's Languages

SLIC submitted a response to the Scottish Executive's consultation on *A Strategy for Scotland's Languages*. Our response outlines the role for libraries in supporting the rich diversity of languages spoken in Scotland, presents an overview of existing initiatives and offers comment on how future developments in this area can be supported by the Scottish Executive.

The full SLIC response can be found at:

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/news/Archive/Files/pdf/SLIC/scotlandlangstrat.pdf> .

●● Lifelong Learning Consultation

The Scottish Executive carried out a consultation into a proposed refresh of their Lifelong Learning Strategy in early 2007. SLIC recorded our disappointment that libraries did not feature and submitted a detailed response stressing the many ways in which the various library and information sectors contributed towards this policy objective.

The full SLIC response can be found at:

www.slainte.org.uk/Files/doc/slicresponselifelonglearning.doc.



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National Entitlement Card

SLIC has been working with the Scottish Executive to integrate membership of public library services into the suite of services being delivered through the National Entitlement Card. All 32 local authorities have signed up to the development and there have been discussions with suppliers to ensure full functionality with library automated systems.

A Curriculum for Excellence

Key discussions continue to take place between SLIC and the Scottish Executive regarding the role of libraries and provisions for information literacy skills within the revised curriculum. SLIC coordinated feedback following a recent meeting with the Heads of School Library Services and has submitted this to the Curriculum Review Team.

E-content Report

SLIC continues to manage the recently renewed consortium service package which has been in place since 2003. We have published an e-content report which analyses information gathered from the 2006 survey of public libraries. The survey gathered information about current ICT and e-content provision in public libraries.

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/Files/pdf/SLIC/econtent06.pdf>



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Dates for your Diary

●● Accessible e-content: the 7th e-book event

This year's e-book event will be held at the Edinburgh Training Centre on Friday 26 October. The Conference programme features a blend of presentations, case studies and an exhibition showcasing e-books and e-content technology. The delegate rate is £85 plus VAT and the deadline for bookings is Friday 19 October.

●● FE Conference

This year's event will take place on 23rd November. The themes are professional partnerships and cross sectoral collaboration. A programme will be available in August.

Book now at: <http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/evntcalendarsummary.cfm>.

Board Changes

A redrafting of the Memorandum and articles of association to align with new Charities legislation saw SLIC Management Committee renamed SLIC Board. At AGM Stuart James retired from the Board and Company Secretary, George Kerr stepped down to be replaced by James Beaton.

SLIC said goodbye to some members of staff this year and 'hello' to others: Hazel Lauder, former Service Development Manager at SLIC, joined North Ayrshire Council as Records and Information Manager. New faces at SLIC include Celia Jenkins and Gillian Hanlon who both took up posts as Information Resources Officers at SLIC HQ in February.

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