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Entitlement Cards and Libraries

The Improvement Service is a partnership between the Scottish Executive, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). The service is devoted to improving the efficiency, quality and accountability of public services through learning, sharing knowledge and delivering improvement solutions.



SLIC was approached by Customer First division are introducing a national entitlement card for transport, young people and public libraries in Scotland. SLIC has been considering how libraries can co-operate and share resources for some years and this programme offers the opportunity to enable library entitlements in a real and meaningful way, which will be potentially wider than public libraries.

The heart of the project is to ensure that library systems are compliant with the national technical standard. A Project Board has been established and a series of meetings with library authorities and system suppliers have taken place which will inform the development of the project and has the backing of The Improvement Service Board.

!STOP PRESS!

SLIC AGM will now take place on
Friday 1st Dec, 2006, 2pm in the Mitchell
Library, Glasgow.



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Scotland's Culture

The long awaited response from the Scottish Executive to Cultural Commission report, published in June 2005, was announced in January 2006. Culture Minister Patricia Ferguson said plans to invest an extra £20 million per year from April 2007 will support plans to nurture the best creative and cultural talent, while cutting back on unnecessary bureaucracy.



The plans include; | concrete local entitlements for every person backed by a framework of rights; a new cultural development agency to be called Creative Scotland; direct government funding of the main national performing companies.

In relation to libraries the government response gave support for the development of the Public Library Quality Improvement Matrix and £500,000 funding to encourage public library improvement over the next two years. It also highlighted a desire to develop collections and a digital media strategy. In addition the National Library of Scotland will absorb the Scottish Screen archive.

European Digital Library

Under the EU Presidency by the UK plans were announced at a conference in Bristol to develop the European Digital Library.

SLIC is working with the National Library of Scotland and the Scottish Executive to ensure that Scottish and other Home Nations interests are represented to MLA (Museums Libraries and Archives Commission for England).

Scotland has already in place some key elements which could be included, Scottish Collection's Network (SCONE), Scotland's cross searching service for library catalogues (CAIRNS), digital collections held by the National Library and other cultural institutions.

Details of the European Digital Library can be found at:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/>



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Public Library Quality Improvement Matrix

SLIC has been developing a new framework for measuring public library service provision for some 18 months at the request of the Scottish Executive.

The Public Library Quality Improvement Matrix will replace the 1995 COSLA public library standards. It is linked to the frameworks of "*How good is our school*" (revised edition 2002) and "*How good is our community learning and development*".



new library at Bonnybridge

In late 2005, the Minister asked SLIC to pilot the draft framework. Nine authorities have participated in the pilots: West Dunbartonshire, Scottish Borders, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Highland, Perth and Kinross, Stirling, Dundee and Fife. SLIC is currently working with these authorities and the Scottish Executive on an implementation programme based on the outcomes of the pilot.

The Scottish Executive has committed funding of £500,000 per annum to support improvements in library provision. A call for proposals was made in June 2006. Successful local authorities are East Renfrewshire, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, Stirling and West Lothian.

The SLIC FE Membership Offer

For 2006 SLIC launched a new membership package for the FE sector which includes a hosted area on SLAINTE website, a free annual briefing event, and an invitation to a new Innovation and Development showcase event.

The SLIC FE Conference 'Sharing Vision, Planning Practice' will take place at The Bridge, Easterhouse, Glasgow on 27th November and promises to be THE most exciting event of the year in the FE LIS professional's diary. Attendance is free to FE sector members of SLIC (3 places are available per college) and you can register for a place at sllic@slainte.org.uk.

SLIC is redeveloping the FE pages on SLAINTE to build a database of professional practice for our members. Over the summer you will find some new sections including information on which colleges are running which library management systems and a 'factpack' on learning spaces.



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Scottish Executive Consultations

●● Shared Services

The Scottish Executive's consultation for Shared Support Services was issued in March

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/11102023/4>

The consultation document sets out the Scottish Executive's proposals for taking forward shared services across Scotland. It provided evidence to support the Scottish Executive's view that shared services can release significant efficiency savings for investment in front line services, but equally highlights the potential for shared services to drive up service quality and consistency.

SLIC's response highlights good practice from across all library and information sectors, but also cautioned that services should be user led, and that any savings should be re-invested in front line services.

●● Lifelong Learning Strategy Consultation

The Scottish Executive are about to consult on it's Lifelong Learning Strategy with the aim of considering their current lifelong learning strategy, the policy which flows from it and the context in which it operates, and consider if any updates or changes are now appropriate.

SLIC will be submitting a response and would welcome views to inform this from members once the consultation document is published.

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence, published in November 2004, announced values, purposes and principles for the curriculum for 3-18 year olds in Scotland.

The new framework is intended to support all children and young people "to develop as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors".

SLIC has been in discussions with the Scottish Executive about the role of libraries and in particular information literacy.

Discussions with school librarians have led to a review of the Information Handling Skills accredited course. Work has commenced on a second version, which will be fully web accessible and should be ready by early 2007.



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Common Infrastructure Standards Advisory Group (CISAG) & Cultural Technical Group

SLIC has been involved since 1999 in the development of the Scottish Executive's drive for an interoperability standards based approach to electronic service delivery and digital inclusion. Progress is slow but now beginning to have some impact. SLIC has a place on CISAG and co-ordinate the Cultural Technical Group.

The work of these two groups is important as the Scottish Common Information Environment develops. These Scottish Executive Groups are committed to supporting standards and encouraging standards implementation.

The Cultural Technical Group has been established to recommend appropriate standards for the cultural sector in the widest sense and has representation from libraries, museums, archives and other arts and heritage organisations.

There has been a shift from solely advocating e-gif to the wider standards agenda which helps support e-gif and a recognition that suppliers need to produce products which are truly standards compliant.



The drive is towards public administration only being able to buy products which are on the government category list. The Group informs the Scottish Executive about the standards required to deliver more effective and efficient services.

Electric Connections:

Over 70 people attended this year's event which took place at 'The Space' Dundee College on 8th August, 2006.

Jointly sponsored by SLIC and the Scottish Museums Council, the event featured speakers from libraries, museums and the Scottish executive.

Presentations from the event may be viewed on the COSMIC website: <http://cosmic.cdlr.strath.ac.uk>.



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Diploma and Advanced Diploma in the applications of ICT in libraries

The Scottish Qualifications Authority launched the two People's Network legacy qualifications late in 2005. Commissioned and funded by the Big Lottery Fund, SLIC developed the Diplomas for use throughout the UK.



The diplomas are part of the SQA's Professional Development Awards and provide new routes to professional qualifications. They will enable staff to certificate their People's Network training in the library contextual outcomes.

A number of Scottish authorities are likely to introduce the Diplomas. The first will be Angus, who worked with SLIC to develop a training needs analysis framework.

The online learning extends to nearly 600 web pages and is freely available at <http://www.ictl.org.uk> website.

As a result of this work with the SQA, SLIC has been involved in the development of the first qualification in Internet Safety, which the SQA launched this summer.

SLIC Innovation and Development Fund

SLIC is pleased to announce that two colleges are among the recipients of funding for projects following the 2006 call. They are John Wheatley College who are carrying out some action research into their new model of library provision and Cumbernauld College who are looking at podcasting and the use of MP3 technology to promote and enhance library use.

The first SLIC/CILIPS Innovation and Development showcase took place at Glasgow Metropolitan College on June 15th.

Chaired by Evelyn Simpson of the NMS, the event featured presentations from five SLIC supported/ funded projects. These were:

- The CMS Metadata Interoperability project (CDLR)
- Project Wishart (Dundee City Council)
- Housebound users online (Falkirk Council)
- Help Yourself to Learning (Scottish Borders Council)
- Resource Sharing Scotland (Ayrshire Libraries Forum)

Also featured was the multi award winning Sighthill project, recipient of the 2006 CILIP Libraries Change Lives Awards. Presentations and final reports are available on <http://www.slainte.org.uk>



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Reader Development: Voices of Scotland & So you think you know Scotland.

Scotland has a rich and diverse literary heritage and we've produced some of the best known and best-loved writers in the world,' said Caroline Beaton, Community Libraries Manager at Perth and Kinross Libraries and Lifelong Learning.

Lovers of crime writing can choose suspense Victorian style with Conan Doyle, or come bang up to date with Louise Welsh, Val McDermid or Ian Rankin. For people who enjoy reading books written with the unique flavour and rhythms of Scots dialect, there are classics like Grassic Gibbons' *Sunset Song*, or you can grab a slice of contemporary Scottish life with writers such as Ann Donovan,

There are two separate collections now touring public libraries across each authority in Scotland. *So You Think You Know Scotland* features the classics and current day bestsellers and *Voices of Scotland Now* spotlights new and less familiar names.

Elaine Fulton, Director of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland and the Scottish Library and Information Council said: "All the public library services in Scotland have worked together on this collection. We believe there are a lot of people out there who may not have read any Scottish writing since they left school and we think they will be surprised at the variety of books available, from poetry and hard-hitting thrillers to science fiction and family saga."

Further funding has been secured to support Highland 2007, which will celebrate Highland culture throughout Scotland.



Elaine Fulton,
Director, SLIC, CILIPS



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Dates for your Diary

●● **Information for Scotland** is being held at A. K. Bell Library on 24th November and the theme this year is Scotland's common information environment. See <http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/> for further details.



●● **Enterprising e-content: the 6th e-book event**

This year's e-book event is being held at Glasgow Metropolitan College on Friday 27th October.

The Conference programme features speakers on pod casting, consortium purchase of e-resources, an update on the JISC e-book study, case studies and more.

An exhibition will run alongside the main event and feature a variety of e-content suppliers.

E-books is being chaired by John McColl of Edinburgh University and bookings are open now at <http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/>
The delegate rate is £80 plus VAT.

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