



## SLIC Newsletter: Summer 2004



### Message from the director of SLIC

Since you received your annual report last year the Council has continued to work on your behalf, on a variety of issues which underpin library and information provision in Scotland and explore ways for improvement and service development. Partnership and co-operation underpins all of our work and this newsletter will give you a flavour of progress.

*Elaine Fulton*

### Cultural Commission

In April the Minister for Tourism Art and Sports announced the establishment of a Cultural Commission to review the cultural sector and consult on its future governance. The Commission chaired by James Boyle seeks to define cultural rights from the user's perspective, with particular attention to excellence, access, innovation, creativity and achievement. The scope of the Commission's work will include the arts, creative industries, museums & heritage, galleries, libraries, archives, architecture and promotion of events and festivals. Commission members include Dr Brian Lang, of St Andrews University, formerly of the British Library.

In response to this announcement SLIC organised a seminar at the annual Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) conference in Peebles to explore the role of libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in relation to culture and how the sector may begin to define libraries within cultural entitlements. The event was chaired by Rhona Brankin, MSP. Speakers included Grace Kempster (British Council), Norma McDermott (Irish Library Council), Martyn Wade (National Library of Scotland), Rod Stone (Voice of Chief Officers for Cultural, Community and Leisure Services), Marion Sinclair (Scottish Publishers Association). The speakers stimulated considerable debate from the 54 attendees. The key themes that emerged were information through technology, empowerment through access, learning through opportunity, the right to read and the development of national initiatives to support local delivery.

James Boyle addressed the seminar and gave delegates a more detailed view on the work of the Commission. He was also extremely pleased at the ideas and information presented and is looking to SLIC to be actively engaged to support the work of the Commission.

The results of the Commission will come at a critical time for public library services, the development of the "3<sup>rd</sup> set of standards" has just started. The standards will be developed in the style of "How good is your school", defining entitlements, providing self evaluation assessment and linking clearly to community planning objectives and the Best Value audits which authorities will be required to undergo. These two areas will be key strategic work packages for the Council in the coming year.

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## Information Handling Skills

The online Information Handling Skills course, developed for SLIC, learndirect Scotland, Scottish Enterprise Glasgow and the European Social Fund by Scottish Further Education Unit (SFEU) and eCom Scotland was launched on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2004 by MSP Peter Peacock the Minister for Education and Young People.

The course material is aimed at post-16s/lifelong learners and consists of 23 learning bites and five contextualised learning scenarios (further details are available from the SLAINTE website). It has been promoted to cross-sectoral groups and enthusiastically received by those who have seen it.

A roll-out programme was undertaken to provide public libraries, schools, higher education and other SLIC members with access to the material either online or via CD-ROM. Colleges of further education were provided access via SFEU.

A SQA national unit qualification at Intermediate Level II has been developed for anyone interested in gaining a qualification, details of which can be obtained from the SQA website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

Work is being undertaken to add to the existing course material. Scenarios based on health will be developed by Christine Irving, SLIC's new Information Skills Project Officer, in conjunction with a health librarians working group.

Funding has also been secured from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Unit to develop a citizenship scenario. Additional learning bites will also be developed where necessary.

[www.slainte.org.uk/Infohandling/index.htm](http://www.slainte.org.uk/Infohandling/index.htm)

## FE Libraries Self-Evaluation Toolkit launched

The *Library Service Development Toolkit*, was launched last November and aims to provide information and support to enable college library and learning centre managers to carry out self-evaluation. The work was organised by a consortium of Glasgow colleges, funded by the Scottish Further Education Funding Council (SFEFC) and supported by SLIC.

The main content of the Toolkit is a set of seven 'indicators' against which to evaluate the library and information function. These indicators use the SFEFC/ Her Majesties Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) four point scale so that they can be embedded into existing college wide processes of self-evaluation. Copies of the Toolkit are available from SLIC office or to download from the web.

[www.slainte.org.uk/furtherednetwork/index.htm](http://www.slainte.org.uk/furtherednetwork/index.htm)



## Readership Development

SLIC has been working with the Scottish Arts Council and CILIPS to roll out a programme of readership development skills to public library staff, through the establishment of a network of readership development co-ordinators.

The Readership Development Network (RDN) has held six training days and a special one day meeting was held with representatives of the national agencies engaged in reading. More training is planned for June, when they will be working on their national promotion. Funding is due to end in October 2004.

The number of groups has risen from 58 to over 120, direct evidence of the increased confidence of librarians involved in the training and running of these groups. Currently the RDN is updating the reading group data originally collected in Autumn 2002. There are many examples of good practice. East Lothian has formed a reading group for the visually impaired and Readers Days have been held in Fife, East Lothian, Dumfries and Edinburgh.

The Readers Day in Dumfries attracted 120 readers and the feedback was very encouraging. Visits have been made to the group by Russian and Danish librarians. The British Council has asked for a programme on readership development to be delivered, whilst staff are attending the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference this summer.

## People's Network

SLIC has continued to support public library services in the development of the People's Network. Access to on-line information services has been supported by New Opportunities Funding. All public libraries have access to general information services from KnowUK, business information from Kompass, a range of on-line newspapers from Newsbank and cultural information from the Statistical Accounts of Scotland.

14 authorities were awarded funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Scottish Executive Scottish Library Excellence Fund. Best practice from these projects was shared at a seminar held in June 2004. The event highlighted projects which demonstrated the contribution libraries can make in widening access to, and increasing awareness of, ICT in lifelong learning.

On-line learning has been brought to public libraries as part of a year long pilot project. Libraries offer on-line access to training materials for the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence), Customer Care Skills and Information Handling Skills.

[www.slainte.org.uk/Peopnetw/Peopnetprojects.htm](http://www.slainte.org.uk/Peopnetw/Peopnetprojects.htm)

*"All public libraries have access to general information services from KnowUK, business information from Kompass, a range of on-line newspapers from Newsbank and cultural information from the Statistical Accounts of Scotland".*





## Schools Sector

### Masterclass

The Scottish Executive are delivering a series of ICT training sessions for around 670 ICT “champions” nominated by local authorities. SLIC was contracted by Learning and Teaching Scotland to provide content for a two-day information literacy course for 40 teachers and school librarians in mid March.

The programme included content on information literacy definitions, safety online, practical information skills course, plagiarism, the online Information Handling skills course and ‘WebQuests’.

It was useful to have the opportunity to look at information literacy in depth and has led to some interesting follow-up invitations to speak to local authorities. SLIC continues to be represented on the Masterclass Steering and Co-ordinators’ groups.

SLIC has also been involved in the planning of Scottish Education and Teaching with Technology (SETT) and there will be a school librarian’s strand and pathway, in the forthcoming conference.

### Libraries Supporting Learners Working Party

This Working Group is developing a revision of ‘Taking a Closer Look at the School Library Resource Centre’, in line with ‘How Good is Our School, 2002’. A methodology and work-plan have been agreed; subgroups have been established. One subgroup is working on the quality indicators, following very positive feedback from HMIE. The second is working on best practice and case studies to support the Quality Indicators (QIs) and the third on literature review and additional information.

The Heads of School Library Services and Masterclass librarians have been asked to help with the identification of best practice. The intention is to have a short document containing 3 QIs aimed at the management audience and 7 QIs for school librarians. This will be supported by additional material including case studies. HMIE has offered support and publication as part of their “Improving” series.

It is anticipated that a document will be ready for publication later this year. Best practice material will be published on the web.

*“The intention is to have a short document containing 3 QIs aimed at the management audience and 7 QIs for school librarians”.*



*“Work is ongoing with supporting the pan-Glasgow strategy and the North Glasgow NHS Trust. There has also been support for the Steering Group which is offering advice and guidance at national level”.*

## Health Update

SLIC support for the health sector continues. Our focus has been on two areas: Library and information services development planning and information skills.

SLIC has worked with 5 NHS Boards in their service development planning processes; this work is nearing completion. Work is ongoing with supporting the pan-Glasgow strategy and the North Glasgow NHS Trust. There has also been support for the Steering Group which is offering advice and guidance at national level. Meetings have been held with Dr Ann Wales (NHS Scotland Library Service Development Coordinator, Knowledge Services Group, NHS Education) to discuss developments and progress. Work on the health scenario for Information Handling Skills course has recently commenced.

We also collaborate with a number of other health library interests and work will soon commence on the update of the SHINE (Scottish Health Information Network) database. This database, a crucial component of the health journal inter library loan scheme was set up some years ago and includes both the NHS and wider health sector.

SLIC will carry out the administration and carry out up-grade work on the database. A licence for use of this material is currently being discussed with North Glasgow NHS Trust, SHINE, SLIC and NHS Education.

## JISC Exchange for Learning (x4L) Project

A joint event with JISC was held in Edinburgh on 16<sup>th</sup> April entitled ‘Digital Repositories and Metadata Workshop’.

Elaine Fulton delivered a presentation on the work of SLIC in promoting standards and interoperability. Workshops explored web cataloguing and populating metadata repositories, Stephen Winch and Penny Robertson of SLIC hosted the web cataloguing workshops. The event was attended by 30 participants from FE/HE in Scotland.

## Prison Libraries

A Prison Libraries Strategy Group with membership drawn from SLIC and the Scottish Prison Service has been set up.

The Group is reviewing prison library services and guidelines with special emphasis on ICT, literacy and numeracy initiatives. They meet regularly in different prison premises, where members have an opportunity to view library and learning facilities, as well as discussing future library service development.



## Scotland's Culture

The Scottish Library and Information Council has been tasked with developing Scotland's national cultural portal. Launched by the Minister in December 2003, the portal offers access to a range of diverse information resources relating to Scotland's culture from collections, individual resources and electronic resources held in our institutions and the wider global network.

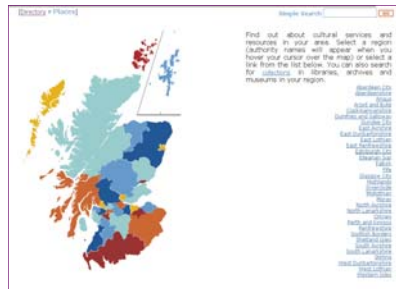
Coverage is growing with particular strengths in Scottish music and literature. The newly launched Scottish Bibliography On-line is supported by the portal infrastructure and provides access to the range of material of Scottish interest past, present and future. The databases covered are from the Bibliographic Data Services, based in Dumfries and the National Library of Scotland. The Scottish Bibliography Online is being promoted in libraries of all kinds to stimulate interest and demand in Scottish writing, publishing and culture. The service will also underpin the Scottish Publishers Associations e-commerce development.

Introductory pages have been translated into key languages to assist the understanding of Scottish culture world wide.

[www.scotlandsculture.org](http://www.scotlandsculture.org)



Regularly updated spotlights are added to the home page.



Our clickable map offers access to information at a local level.

## Web enabling public library catalogues

SLIC has provided support to public libraries to web enable their library catalogues. SLIC has worked with the Centre for Digital Library Research to ensure technical compliance and integrate public libraries into the Co-operative Information Retrieval Network (CAIRNS) service utilizing the Z39.50 protocol.

Assistance with technical costs is available from the New Opportunities Fund residue fund which is managed by SLIC. This project aims to have all public libraries web enabled and part of CAIRNS by December 2004.

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