

# Information Management

**Martin White**

## **The CILIP Information Management Summit**

In my September column I mentioned that there was going to be a [CILIP IM Summit](#) at the end of October. This took place at CILIP HQ on 31 October and was a great success. The Summit was really a workshop, set up as a component of the work of the IM Advisory Board. It was largely put together by Sandra Ward, with some assistance from me, and excellent support from Annie Mauger, Guy Daines and Jason Russell from CILIP. Around 50 people turned up to hear Professor Clive Holtham (CASS Business School) as the keynote speaker, followed by a dozen short and very well-presented papers on all aspects of information management. The delegates sat at tables, carefully arranged so that there was a mix of interests (academic, business, charity, public sector etc.) at each table, with a table leader who had been well briefed in advance. During a long lunch break, the groups discussed a range of issues, mainly centred around the potential role of CILIP in furthering the IM cause. A feedback session after lunch was very lively and came up with a lot of great ideas. Further presentations and then a wrap-up by me and then Annie brought the workshop to a close.

At the workshop we invited delegates to let us know if they would like to continue the support of the work of the Board and around 20 wished to do so. This was very encouraging. On 2 December there was an Open Board meeting, at which around 10 of the 20 were able to attend. The purpose of the meeting was to start to prioritise the work of the Board for 2014. This was accomplished by asking attendees to write suggestions on Post-It notes and stick them on a set of flip-chart pages. The exercise worked well, and the makings of a good action

plan for 2014 emerged quite clearly. In the near future, the most visible first steps will be a list of IM resources on the website. The Board then moved into a closed session to decide how to take things forward.

At this stage it looks as though there will be a two-level governance structure. The Advisory Board, reporting to Council, will manage the overall programme of work with the support of Guy Daines and Jaqueline May from CILIP. Then there will be a wider group of people who will be able to contribute on specific topics from time to time, and also act as the eyes and ears of the Board in identifying development in good (and bad!) practice in IM that needs to be incorporated into the work plan for 2014. CILIP will be starting to prepare a five-year plan for 2015 onwards during the course of the year, and it is clear to me that IM will be an important component of the CILIP offering to members in the future.

From a UKeiG perspective there are two opportunities. The first is for individual members with an interest in IM and would like to contribute to the work of the Board to make contact with Guy Daines ([Guy.Daines@cilip.org.uk](mailto:Guy.Daines@cilip.org.uk)). The second opportunity is for UKeiG to take on some element of the work in supporting CILIP's initiatives in IM, perhaps in offering training courses or running IM-focused meetings. Again Guy is the key contact so that there is coordination across CILIP, as there are other groups with similar interests. It is not yet clear who will be chairing the Advisory Group in 2014, but the really good news is that both Karen McFarlane and David Stewart, two advocates for IM and KM, are now on Council. I am standing down from my role as co-chair as I think that the Board needs practitioners in IM and not consultants though I still hope to be involved from the sidelines.

I am very encouraged by the momentum that has now been generated within CILIP, and it is interesting to see that many of those who are willing to participate in the work have not previously been active within CILIP as they felt that IM was low on the list of priorities.

Peter Griffiths, who died on 13 November, would have been delighted with the progress that has been made since he was the catalyst from the development of the Board and chaired from its inception until illness meant that he had to stand down at the beginning of 2013. Peter made an enormous contribution to CILIP in

so many ways, including as President, but it could well be that his greatest achievement will be seen in the future will be his work on getting CILIP, and indeed the profession, more focused on the importance of effective information management.

In signing off this column I would like to take the opportunity to thank Michael Upshall for his enthusiastic and professional editorship of *eLucidate*. As the past editor of *Inform* I know just how much work this takes, and Michael has been brilliant at making sure I kept reasonably close to deadlines. It was been a pleasure working with him and UKeIG are very fortunate that Michael has set the standard for CILIP B&G newsletters. Excellent work Michael. Thank you. Enjoy your “retirement”.

*Martin White is Managing Director of Intranet Focus Ltd*