

Editor's Note

Welcome to issue 2 of eLucidate for 2016. We have some excellent contributions for you; thought provoking, informative and occasionally controversial.

The UKeIG Members' Day for 2016 was a great success, with an eclectic and enthusiastic membership taking time out to look to the future, addressing the trends and challenges impacting on the information profession. We showcase some of the themes and content from the day in this issue.

CILIP Chief Executive Nick Poole led on an optimistic note by encouraging the profession to embrace change. 'I believe the future for the information, library and knowledge profession is exciting and vibrant with endless possibilities shaped by changing technology and the changing needs of our users. The challenge is to continue to grow and develop, learn, adapt and innovate.' UKeIG is in a prime position to shape and lead change.

Lin Lin, Senior User Experience Researcher at EBSCO presented us with a dilemma by unravelling the student psyche and highlighting the processes that an average young scholar goes through to research for an essay. Any information literacy training is quickly forgotten, jettisoned in the last minute midnight rush to hit a deadline; pursuing Google and Wikipedia with a vengeance, and largely oblivious to information professional speak like 'Boolean', 'database, even 'catalogue.' Where have we gone wrong?

David Milward, CTO of Linguamatics, presented a fascinating insight into text mining, highlighting its huge potential to inform evidence-based decision-making. The auto-analysis and manipulation of free text on a large scale will enable us to extract and summarise key information, categorise documents more effectively, discover emerging terminology, generate metadata and define relationships between documents. However, there are significant challenges in this area, largely around making sense of masses of unstructured information and data, but also disambiguating natural language and all of the pitfalls that it presents in terms of synonymous terminology, different meanings and expressions, grammar and context.

A key benefit of text mining is that it can be used to improve the whole search experience and optimise search engine technologies, which segues conveniently into another article on understanding and improving search using large scale behavioural data, a feature based on Susan Dumais' (Microsoft Research) excellent Tony Kent Strix Award Annual Lecture in November last year. The rise of web-based search systems over the past decade has enabled information scientists to develop powerful large-scale behavioural logging technologies that provide a unique insight into 'what searchers do'; how people interact with web-based search systems. This ability to gather traces of human behaviour on an extensive scale and speed provides the backdrop to innovation and improvement in search, complementing other forms of experimental research that observes how people

engage with search systems including, for example, controlled lab-based observational studies.

Just as students have developed workarounds to minimise research time and access information quickly, Danny Kingsley, founder of the Office of Scholarly Communication at Cambridge University, shows that researchers are also circumventing cash-strapped academic libraries (often illegally) to access the full text of scholarly papers. We feature an interview with Danny, who discusses this and other research support issues.

As part of UKeIG's aim to disseminate the wealth of research undertaken by the LIS community, we have a special feature by Carol Price, an MSc Information Management student, who writes about her research into Access to Research (A2R), which provides free online access to academic journals in public libraries. It's a sterling piece of research, and I'm sure will generate significant discussion with our colleagues and members not only in public libraries, but across all of the sectors UKeIG represents.

Additional features include an overview of digital humanities developments in the Nordic Countries written by UKeIG Conference Grant recipient Karolina Andersdotter, updates on some new web resources and a preview of the up coming Internet Librarian Internal Conference in October, with a reminder that UkeiG members are eligible for a 25% discount.

On a final note, not all of this issue is forward facing. We have an interesting feature by Martin White on the history of intranets and knowledge management and the early days of intranet technology. It's intriguing to trace how developments decades ago are impacting on our working lives and practices today.

It's also worth noting that all of these articles were written pre-Brexit, and a few post-EU questions may arise from some of the themes highlighted in this issue. More food for thought, and certainly for contemplation in future issues of eLucidate.

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