Editor’s Note

Welcome to issue 3 of eLucidate for 2016.

Martin White argues that the information profession has a lot to learn from the construction industry, introducing readers to Building Information Modelling as a sterling example of exemplary information management way beyond the confines of the “desk-bound” digital workplace. Dion Lindsay addresses the human focus and significant social function of Communities of Practice, enabling knowledge sharing, organisational learning and problem solving.

Two beneficiaries of the UKeiG student and early career professional grants programme report back on conferences they attended earlier in the year. Their focus is on higher education: the emerging skills set required for effective collection development in universities, and the complex cultural (even political) considerations that have to be borne in mind before launching electronic reading list projects as part of the wider technology-enhanced learning agenda. Claudio Svaluto, Graduate Trainee at the Albert Sloman Library, University of Essex writes: “The reading list conference in Loughborough in April was closely related to e-resources, accessibility and the user experience, all subjects I have a personal interest in. Being in contact with professionals from different institutions has helped me choose how to develop my career, including affecting my choice of a postgraduate course next year. UKeiG has provided an excellent opportunity to publish in eLucidate. Sharing knowledge via publications and networking is a powerful way to give back to the community and acquire new creative ideas.”

At UKeiG’s 2016 Members’ day in June this year John Wickenden reflected on his varied career working with one pharmaceutical company. Over the years he managed to reinvent his role as technology advanced, influencing management and ensuring his continued relevance to the business critical objectives of his employer. There are so many lessons to learn from his experiences that we revisit his career in this issue and are taken on a whirlwind tour of nearly five decades of technological transition. With every decade of IT change Wickenden, rather than fearing obsolescence through disintermediation, grabbed the opportunity for change. He was left standing long after his company’s library was closed to make way for conference space.

Enjoy, and please share your feedback and join us in debate on Twitter and Facebook.

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