

UKeiG Meetings Charges

UKeiG's programme of meetings during the past year has proved successful. We are repeating some of the more popular ones and have extended the location of the meetings to Belfast, Manchester and Edinburgh as well as London. We hope therefore that these developments and the wide range of topics that the meetings cover help to cater for the differing needs of UKeiG members.

It has become clear that the costs of some meetings will have to be increased. This is largely because we are finding difficulty in identifying venues that have over 10 PCs at competitive prices. 10 PCs allows us to have two people sharing but limits the attendance to 20, so we have had on occasion to turn away delegates.

Unfortunately, we have therefore decided to increase the costs of PC-based meetings to cover the overall meetings costs:

PC- based meetings: £150 + VAT (£176.25) for members and £180 + VAT (£211.50) for non-members

Other meetings: No change – £130 + VAT (£152) for members and £160 + VAT (£188) for non-members

We have still maintained our policy to keep the costs as low as possible, and feel that these meetings are still excellent value for money.

We are very grateful for those who provide venues for our meeting and would like to ask other UKeiG members to let us know if they could possibly provide additional venues, including those in London, that have more than 10 PCs for use by delegates.

Please contact the Secretary, Christine Baker (cabaker@ukeig.org.uk), if you know of a suitable venue. Your help would be most welcome.

Meeting Review

Statistics minus the lies and damned lies

UKeiG Meeting held at CILIP, London, Tuesday 7th June

As a librarian working in a busy academic library service, students have asked me pretty much every question under the sun. A healthy sprinkling of queries tends to involve the acquisition of statistical data somewhere along the line, so whether the enquirer is a sports scientist (Q: "How many people in the UK died in extreme sporting accidents last year?" A: "ROSPA haven't published the data yet") or a geographer (Q: "What was the average rainfall in August in Sheffield last year?" A: "181.0mm – Met. Office website"), it pays to have a few statistical resources up one's cardigan-sleeve.

The questions above highlight one of the first issues on the agenda at UKeiG's workshop, **Statistics minus the lies and damned lies**, the distinction between statistics from official and non-official sources. Official statistics, often a result of governmental daily business such as recording births, marriages and deaths should be relatively easy to find in this golden age of IT, but as the day progressed, participants saw how difficult it can be to a) find the data you want, and b) re-trace your steps to find a statistic that you know fine well exists, and you would be