

Press Releases

Library conference passes resolution on making poverty history

1 July 2005

Governments challenged to recognise role of libraries in sustainable economic development

At the closing plenary session of the biennial Umbrella conference in Manchester, delegates unanimously backed a resolution declaring their support for the Campaign and calling on the UK government to recognise and promote the essential role of library and information services in every country if the Make Poverty History campaign is to succeed. The full text of the Resolution passed at the Umbrella conference reads:

Whereas library and information services underpin information, literacy and the learning process; and

Whereas literacy and learning underpin all our aspirations, locally and globally, for ourselves, our communities and our economies including equality, social justice and the eradication of poverty;

Therefore be it resolved that this conference declares its support for the Make Poverty History campaign and calls on the UK government to recognise and promote the role of libraries in sustainable economic development."

"Managing a country's knowledge is no different from managing its other assets such as agriculture or transport," commented CILIP's President Debby Shorley after the resolution was passed. "It needs properly qualified professional and paraprofessional specialists, and expert technical support, if it is to succeed."

Sending out a strong message both to the current G8 Summit and to the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society, conference made clear that the developed world would be failing poor countries unless it took seriously their need to develop their own strong knowledge economies. "Investment in telecommunications is not enough on its own, and the World Wide Web provides only a fraction of the detailed and complex scientific, technological and economic data that countries will need if they are to pull themselves out of poverty," Ms Shorley continued. "If governments are serious about empowering countries to eradicate poverty, they must recognise the need for library and information services that are as effective as those we in the developed world take for granted."

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2005 Tony Kent Strix Award winner is Jack Mills

30 June 2005

The Tony Kent Strix Award, given by UKeiG, was awarded to Jack Mills at the CILIP Umbrella Awards Dinner. In his absence, the Trophy was presented by Chris Armstrong to Vanda Broughton, a colleague and member of the team who nominated Jack for the award. She spoke warmly of his appreciation, and thanked the Group on his behalf.

Jack Mills has spent more than sixty years of his life in the study, teaching, development and promotion of information retrieval, principally as a major player in the British school of facet analysis which builds on the tradition of Ranganathan. He is probably best known to the wider professional community in his role as a researcher. In 1966/67 he was Deputy Director of the prestigious Cranfield Project, supporting Cyril Cleverdon in the first major exercise in

information retrieval in the United Kingdom. The results of the work at Cranfield had a major influence on British information science, and the documentation of that project continues to be cited in the professional literature today.

A founder member and chairman of the Classification Research Group (1952–), he has lectured and written about, and been an advocate for classification theory. Since the 1960s he has been the driving force behind the revision of the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification*, chairing the Bliss Classification Association Committee, and undertaking the greater part of the work of revision as Editor of the new scheme.

In 1998, Jack Mills was acknowledged by the Conference on the History and Heritage of Science Information as a 'pioneer of information science'. In 2003 his contribution to the field was marked by the award of an Honorary Fellowship from CILIP.

The [Tony Kent Strix Award](#) is presented each year in memory of Dr Tony Kent, a past Fellow of the Institute of Information Scientists, who died in 1997. Tony Kent made a major contribution to the development of information science both in the UK and internationally, particularly in the field of chemistry. The award is offered in recognition of individuals or groups who have made an outstanding contribution in the field of information retrieval.

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Elsevier/LIRG Research Award and LIRG Postgraduate Prize

30 June 2005

The 2004 Elsevier/LIRG Research Award has been given to Dr Hazel Hall of Napier University and Melanie Goody of KPMG for their study on *'The sense of outsourcing: an investigation into the viability of outsourcing corporate research services'*.

The purpose of this research is to investigate perceptions of the value of outsourcing research services held by those in the business information community with experience of work with external partners. A particular strength of the work is that it is to be conducted by a practitioner-academic partnership. Melanie Goody works in an environment where outsourcing of services is becoming increasingly popular, and Hazel Hall has experience of conducting sociotechnical analyses in corporate environments.

The Award is offered annually by the Library and Information Research Group (LIRG), a special interest group within CILIP. Its purpose is to encourage research and innovation in library and information science. It is intended that particular attention will be paid to proposals intended to improve the accessibility, retrievability and usefulness of information. The maximum value of the Award is £1000. Applications are judged by a panel drawn from members of the Library and Information Research Group.

The judges were very impressed with the quality of the winning proposal and felt that the research findings would be of interest not only to those who are currently outsourcing or plan to outsource their information services, but also of wider significance to the profession in the future provision of information.

Hazel was present at the LIRG AGM at Umbrella to receive the award for herself and Melanie from Tony McSéan, Director of Library Relations, Elsevier.

David Dmytriw from Northumbria University has won the 2004 LIRG Postgraduate Prize for his dissertation, *Information acquisition and exchange within the cryptozoological virtual communities*. David's study of this original topic was a fine example of research into information-seeking behaviour, innovative and well thought out. Jennifer Dunn of the University of Central England Birmingham was highly commended for her study, *Out on the Shelves? Access to children's literature with lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered characters in libraries*, a well-researched and convincingly argued account of a relatively unexplored area.

A prize of £300 is awarded to the successful candidate, and highly commended certificates to any runners-up who are also judged to have produced work of particularly high quality. Schools/Departments of Library and Information Studies are invited to nominate their best project and a judging panel drawn from the Library and Information Research Group evaluate the entries and select the winners.

David and Jennifer received their prizes and certificates from Debby Shorley, President of CILIP, also at the LIRG AGM at Umbrella.

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Winners of the ISG (CILIP)/BookData Reference Awards 2004

30 June 2005

The winners of the ISG (CILIP)/BookData Reference Awards 2004 were announced on Thursday 30 June during the CILIP Umbrella Conference in Manchester. The winning titles ranged from design, Georgian portraits, superstitions, and national biography to surveying and Devon, emphasizing how wide and varied the range of reference works printed and published electronically in Britain each year continues to be.

The awards, which are judged by a panel of expert librarians, have been rewarding excellence and promoting awareness of outstanding reference products since 1970 and are sponsored by BookData, the leading supplier of timely, accurate and content-rich bibliographic information to libraries and information specialists worldwide.

Francis Bennett, Chairman of BookData, congratulated the winners and praised the high quality of all the finalists work. Speaking during the ceremony he said "We continue to support these awards because the key to successful reference works is the unerring ability to 'get it right'. This applies, equally, to title information which is the heartbeat of our industry." He went on to urge librarians to recognize the importance of the role they play now and in the future by providing the best service to their users. That, he argued, could only be done by using the best available information, rather than searching for free services on the Internet.

The winners of the **Besterman/McColvin Medals** are:

Printed category: *The Design Encyclopedia* by Mel Byars, published by Laurence King Publishing.

Electronic category: *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* edited by H C G Matthew and Brian Harrison, published by Oxford University Press.

The Walford Award for sustained and continual contribution to the science and art of bibliography was awarded to Ian Maxted.

A full list of titles nominated is available on the [CILIP website](#).

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British Library Chief Executive accepts permanent contract

29 June 2005

Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library has accepted a permanent contract from the Board of the British Library, following her successful five year tenure as Chief Executive. The announcement was made to staff by Lord Eatwell, Chairman of the Board. The offer was made with the unanimous agreement of the Board and was supported by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Lynne Brindley joined the Library in 1 July 2000, being both the first library information professional and woman to hold the position of Chief Executive. On her appointment she undertook a fundamental programme of modernization of services and structures, set up public and private partnerships, significantly raising the profile to ensure the Library's continuing relevance.

The British Library strategy for 2005-2008 was launched on Wednesday 29 June and outlines the mission, vision and six strategic priorities. The Library is a key player in building the UK's digital research environment and it is planned to further develop its work collecting digital items, digitising existing collections, and archiving websites, to ensure long-term access to the digital output of the nation.

The national digital library is at the heart of British Library strategy. "The national digital library is a key part of the UK's research e-infrastructure," said Lynne Brindley, predicting a switch from print to digital publishing by the year 2020. "We will develop new tools to help researchers in the digital world. We will be collaborating across the research community to guarantee that both text-based and data-based research outputs are preserved and available for the researchers of tomorrow."

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Internet Librarian International announces conference programme

27 June 2005

[Internet Librarian International](#) – a leading forum for information professionals using, developing and implementing web-based strategies – has today published details of its Keynote sessions at this year's event, taking place in London on 10 & 11 October 2005.

Oxford's Bodleian Library and the Google digitisation project

Ronald Milne, Acting Director of Library Services at Oxford University and Bodleian Librarian, will give the opening Keynote address at the event, and will discuss Oxford's world-renowned Bodleian Library's involvement in the Google digitisation project. Speaking about the project, Milne said, "When Sir Thomas Bodley founded the Bodleian Library in Oxford some 400 years ago, he laid down the specific condition that this new library should not just serve his alma mater, but should also be a library for the worldwide 'republic of letters'. The emergence of the Internet, and the scope for creating digital surrogates of library materials for networked availability, has radically altered the paradigm for access to the Library, opening up a whole new meaning for the Bodleian as a 'library for the world' in the 21st century." He continued, "Oxford's mass digitisation programme with Google fits perfectly into this historic context as a key modern element of the Bodleian's strategic aim for the whole of its existence: to bring its great collections to the wider world."

Stephen E. Arnold, a noted technology expert based in the US, will provide the Keynote for the second day, speaking about the relevance and future of search. According to Arnold, "Relevance is in the eye of the beholder, not a PhD with an algorithm and a hunger for tenure. Google delivers relevance by using some basic metrics, and the solid growth in Google's traffic indicates that its formula works for many people. FindWhat, Google and Yahoo have too much to lose by chasing relevance at the expense of advertising dollars or vice versa."

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2005 Library Hi Tech/LITA Award Winner Announced

24 June 2005

Emerald and LITA support award for Outstanding Communication for Continuing Education in Library and Information Science

William Gosling has been named as the winner of the Library Hi Tech/LITA award for Outstanding Communication for Continuing Education in Library and Information Science. He will be presented with the award, a citation of merit and a \$1,000 prize. The award, now in its 13th year, has had a number of prestigious winners. William Gosling has served as the director/university librarian at the University of Michigan since 1997. During his tenure as university librarian he has overseen a period of rapid change and dynamic technological innovation, including the expansion of the fledgling Digital Library into one of the premier digital library programs in the country.

Michael Seadle, Editor of Library Hi Tech, said, "The Library Hi Tech/LITA award represents a long partnership in search of excellence in library technology. William Gosling has provided international leadership in large-scale digitization, as shown in the recently announced University of Michigan – Google project. We are particularly proud to honour him with this year's award."

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Blackwell Psychology Handbooks now on Xreferplus

14 June 2005

Xrefer and Blackwell Publishing are delighted to announce that twelve titles from the well-known "Blackwell Handbooks in Psychology" series are now available online as Xreferplus Specialist Reference titles.

Each title in the series covers a specific area of psychological study, ranging from infant development and adolescence to research methods in clinical and experimental psychology. Also included are social psychology handbooks in the fields of interpersonal and group processes.

Institutions can now purchase unlimited user access to the Blackwell handbooks from Xrefer for their library patrons, either in addition to their Xreferplus Ready-Reference collection or as individual titles. Online packages of the titles are also available, with a specially-discounted subscription price when an institution subscribes to all twelve titles.

For more information about the Blackwell handbooks, visit <http://www.xrefer.com/titles> and click on the "Philosophy & Psychology" section.

"The Handbooks are a very strong component of our Psychology list," said Edward Crutchley, Blackwell Book Sales Director, of this development, "and we are pleased to be partnering with Xrefer to ensure their wider online distribution in the academic and professional communities." John G. Dove, Xrefer's CEO added: "This demonstrates that Xrefer is now an effective platform not only for general reference, but for building a core of reference books in specialist fields such as psychology, working with the best lists from the best publishers."

Also from Xrefer, June 22, 2005: Xrefer, provider of online reference services to libraries worldwide, and Paratext, the independent publisher of online reference databases and library services, announced today that the Xreferplus Ready-Reference service is now integrated with Paratext's premium bibliographic database, Reference Universe. More details at <http://www.xrefer.com/news/index.jsp?m=2>.

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Snapshots International announces company rebranding and new website 1 June 2005

Snapshots International, the innovative market research firm, announces that from June 5th 2005 the company will revert to its official name of Snapdata International Group. In addition, Snapdata International will unveil its keenly awaited new website at the SLA 2005 Annual Conference Info-Expo in Toronto, Canada. Designed in partnership with end users around the world, the site will set new standards in clarity, ease of navigation, and functionality. The new site will shortly go live at <http://www.snapdata.com>.

Explaining the changes, Debra Curtis, Snapdata International Group CEO said, "Snapshots International has become firmly identified by our clients with our core product of Snapshots reports. However, in keeping with our strategy of releasing new products on to the market the company is reverting to its official name of Snapdata International Group.

"This will enable us to expand our product range under the Snapdata banner, whilst maintaining those qualities for which we have become known and valued; quality, simplicity and value for money. The Snapshots Series will be retained as the primary product name.

"To coincide with our company rebranding, we are in an ongoing process of improving the functionality of our website, and I am delighted to use the occasion of SLA Toronto 2005 to unveil the first stages.

"During the next few months users will notice continued development of the website, which will incorporate an advanced search engine, faster response times, and a further range of features not previously available."

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The European Library seeks user opinion

June 2005

[The European Library \(TEL\)](#) (previously known as Gabriel – Gateway and Bridge to Europe's National Libraries) wants to find out what works for the user of the new portal, and what doesn't. Together with [IRN Research](#), and in co-operation with the national libraries of Britain, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Switzerland, an online survey has been created and is available at (UK) <http://www.irn-research.com/EuroLib/english.htm>.

The survey is mainly about the research and retrieval capabilities of the site and the developers would be grateful to any researcher able to give 10-15 minutes worth of time to answering eight questions. TEL will donate 2 Euros to [Book Aid International](#) for every completed questionnaire it receives. The answers will help TEL to decide on the best way to develop the portal for the benefit of its users.

The European Library is a portal for accessing the digital collections of nine of the National Libraries of Europe. TEL is owned by the Conference of European National Libraries (CENL) and aims to access digital collections from all 43 member libraries within the next five years. It was launched as a Beta site in March 2005.

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