

## Welcome letter to all new members from the chair

*Note: We thought Elucidate readers would be interested in this letter, which is sent to all new members of UKeiG.*

Dear Member,

On behalf of the UKeiG Management Committee I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Group. Our key objectives are to:

- Stimulate communication and the exchange of knowledge about electronic information
- Disseminate high quality advice, information and publications about e-industry news and developments
- Raise awareness of existing and new technologies that retrieve, manage and process electronic information
- Support continuing professional development by delivering a high quality portfolio of practical and affordable training programmes and seminars
- Encourage innovation in electronic information retrieval, management and processing.

Your enthusiasm and active interest in professional developments in this vastly complex and ever-changing area are crucial to our continued success, and we look forward to your active participation and feedback about the resources and services on offer. UKeiG's strength lies in our eclectic membership which extends across all key UK sectors: higher and further education, government, legal, business & commerce, science, technology, healthcare and the public sector, for example. Whatever area or discipline you work in, or whatever specific interests you may have, UKeiG membership will ensure that you are kept informed of news and developments across the e-information industry, so you always have the 'bigger picture.'

There are many benefits for you to enjoy during 2006/7. Our e-journal **eLucidate** focuses on popular and emerging topics in electronic information and is a great source of current information that will keep you on top of developments. It provides practical feature articles complemented by book reviews, industry columns, current awareness and press releases. Reports, discussions and questions generated from UKeiG training courses and seminars are published in the journal and translated into useful 'how to' fact sheets. Please consider writing an article for the journal so that we can share your practical experience and best practice with the wider community. **eLucidate** is available on the UKeiG website – <http://www.ukeig.org.uk>. Access is by username and password and Karen Blakeman (Karen.Blakeman@rba.co.uk) can supply this information to you. We can also e-mail you a personal copy as a PDF document. Please contact Karen and let her know your preferred e-mail address for delivery. (That e-mail address will only be

used to deliver issues of **eLucidate**. It will not be used for any other purpose nor will it be divulged to any other organisation. Should you decide at any time that you do not wish to continue to receive the newsletter by PDF, just send an e-mail to [eLucidate@rba.co.uk](mailto:ELucidate@rba.co.uk) with the message unsubscribe in the title.)

Another key mode of communication with UKeIG members is the LIS-UKeIG e-mail forum, and I encourage you to join this e-discussion group in order to gain maximum benefit from your membership. To join, simply follow the instructions on the website. UKeIG also has a wiki at <http://ukeig.xwiki.com/>. If you want to edit pages or comment you will have to register. Just click on Register and fill in the form. You can choose your own user name and password. The intention is to use the wiki as an experimental forum for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

The website is a great source of information. Look out for the fact sheets section, where members have commissioned digestible and practical guides to issues and conundrums that test the e-community on a day-to-day basis. If you want to identify the top ten free software utilities for your PC; want a quick guide to dealing with spyware, need help with desktop search tools, RSS feeds and RSS readers, social bookmarking, or a basic introduction to blogging, this is the place to go. Also, look out for information on the UKeIG awards portfolio. We are proud to encourage innovation and support students, professionals, libraries and members with a series of financial incentives to stimulate initiative and innovation. Contact us at [awards@ukeig.org.uk](mailto:awards@ukeig.org.uk) if you have any further queries.

Our annual training and seminars portfolio is an invaluable resource and essential to any continuing professional development activity. Workshops and seminars are held at venues across the UK throughout the year, with discounted prices for all our members. The portfolio of training programmes continues to be varied and previous topics have included: FOI and copyright, knowledge management, intranet forums, developing and managing e-book collections, advanced Internet searching; information retrieval and management tips, innovations in bibliographic management, and statistical information sources. New courses are promoted on a regular basis and are listed on the website. Your suggestions for topics and training venues are most welcome, so please contact the UKeIG Meetings organiser Shaida Dorabjee at [sdorabjee@sdis.demon.co.uk](mailto:sdorabjee@sdis.demon.co.uk) (tel: 01737 350767). Every June we hold our annual AGM and members' day. These are hugely popular events and we'd love to see you there. If you can't make it, look out for us at conferences and exhibitions throughout the year, particularly the annual Online Information conference and exhibition in London.

UKeIG currently is articulating a strategy and operational plan for the next three years. There are a number of developments in the pipeline: further enhanced functionality of the website; investigating CILIP validation of the training programme; exploring the viability of a UKeIG conference or residential meeting and exploring partnerships and collaboration

with other special interest groups. The UKeiG committee hopes that you will support us in our endeavours.

Thank you for joining UKeiG, and we look forward to your continued membership over the coming years.

Yours sincerely

Gary Horrocks,  
Chair UKeiG