

## **UKeiG Management Committee Annual Report**

### **Incorporating the UKeiG Councillor's Report**

#### **January 2006 – December 2006**

2006 was the year that UKeiG 'put the SPECIAL back into Special Interest Group' continuing to enhance a portfolio of services and activities that culminated in our attendance at Online in London. A series of newly designed posters and marketing documentation heralded the completion of a busy and successful year and visitors were invited to: 'Try UKeiG...Leading the way as your personal digital navigator'. Membership continued to rise at a steady rate throughout the year as UKeiG attracted CILIP and non-CILIP professionals from across all sectors, including academia, government, law and commerce; clear proof of our achievements to date.

#### **Practical, relevant and cost-effective**

2006 was a successful year for UKeiG's CPD training and seminars programme. Workshops and meetings continued to be renowned for their practical content, relevance and cost-effectiveness. Throughout 2006, the management committee brainstormed new content, extended the location of the meetings and continued to offer discounted prices for all members. Topics included: 'RSS, Blogs and Wikis' (February, Newcastle), 'Taming Your Intranet' (March, London), 'Searching the Internet: Google and beyond' (March, Birmingham), 'Electronic Information Risk Management' (May, London), 'Making websites accessible' (May, Sheffield), 'Reaching beyond bibliographic referencing' (June, Birmingham), 'E-Resources in Higher and Further Education' (July, Manchester), 'Finding Pharmaceutical Information' (July, London), 'Business Information on the Internet' (July, Warwick) and 'Knowledge Management: the Next Generation' (September, London). The hugely popular 'Developing and managing e-book collections' was repeated at home and abroad (April, Newcastle; September, Dublin). All events were well attended and received positive and constructive feedback which we have used to inform the 2007 programme. 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.

#### **Calling all intranet managers & developers**

A specific innovation of 2006 was the successful launch of the UKeiG Intranets Forum. It was established to enable staff managing intranets to share experiences in an informal environment. The meetings have generated considerable interest. They included guest speakers initiating debate on intranet management topics of mutual interest, such as 'intranets in academia' and 'working with sub-editors.'

#### **Managing the flight deck**

The UKeiG AGM and associated meeting 'Desktop Search Tools – Managing the Flight Deck' held in London on Wednesday, 14th June 2006 was a great success. Two years earlier our meeting 'I'm an information professional – get me out of here!' considered information management strategies for professionals suffering the detrimental affects of

information overload; so in 2006 we decided to revisit that theme by addressing innovations and new technologies for smarter desktop searching. The event explored developments in personal document retrieval evaluating some of the tools available to the information professional. The feedback was very positive, topped by one comment that UKeiG's CILIP Councillor Karen Blakeman was: 'the Judi Dench of the information world...worth the admission fee alone.'

### **London Book Fair**

To extend our visibility, promote our services to a wider information industry and dabble in the world of publishing, UKeiG exhibited at the London Book Fair for the first time in 2006. It was a great success and generated some new members. UKeiG's Vice Chair Chris Armstrong, together with Ray Lonsdale from the Department of Information Studies at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, presented an introduction to e-books, in the fair's e-content pavilion.

### **Internet Librarian International**

Karen Blakeman flew the UKeiG flag at the Internet Librarian International conference in London in October 2006 with a presentation on 'Out-Googleing Google: Finding what Google Misses.'

### **Online @ Olympia**

In November 2006 UKeiG exhibited and presented at the annual Online conference at Olympia, London. Karen Blakeman offered two information skills masterclasses, one on 'Tricks and tips for better Web searching'; the other on 'What's new in search tools'. She had a lot to celebrate at Online, as she was presented with her Honorary Fellowship of CILIP by Chief Executive, Bob McKee during the event.

### **Outstanding contributions**

During 2006 UKeiG explored how best to promote and develop its awards programme. A key innovation was the decision to transfer the UKeiG awards presentation from the Online dinner and dance to the heart of the day-time conference forum. On behalf of UKeiG, and sponsored by Sage Publications, I presented two awards during Online. The UKeiG Jason Farradane Award, recognising outstanding work in the field of information and library science, went to the University of Warwick Library for The Learning Grid – revolutionary information and learning service. The Tony Kent Strix Award, given in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the field of information retrieval, went to Stella Dextre Clarke. The award was given in recognition of her sterling work in developing first the Government Category List, and then its successor, the Integrated Public Sector Vocabulary. Photos from both presentations are on the Online 2006 website and there were photo features in both *CILIP Gazette* and *Information World Review*.

### **Web & Web 2 too ☺**

2006 saw the demise of the remaining traces of UKOLUG when we decided to discontinue the use of the UKOLUG domains as a means of redirection to the new UKeiG Web pages. A considerable effort went in to enhancing the functionality of our Web content over the year. A welcome addition was the introduction of a wiki as a collaborative tool to complement the UKeiG blog. The wiki initially was set up to develop and share support materials for the UKeiG workshop on RSS, blogs and wikis, but is now being used as an experimental collaborative tool for developing fact sheets, FAQs and resource lists as

well as supporting the Intranets Forum. RSS functionality also was built into the site. Specifications also were articulated for a content management system. The committee continues to compare products; discussing required features, technology, support and budgetary considerations.

### **eLucidate**

Under the continuing guidance and co-ordination of editor Michael Upshall, Volume 3 of UKeiG's e-journal eLucidate was published over 2006, and continued to achieve a healthy balance of topical and 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 continued to be published in the journal or translated into 'how to' fact sheets, including one, for example, on social bookmarking by Tracy Kent, that included top tips, key facts and websites. Aligning training programme outcomes with service developments in other areas, particularly publications and Web content development, has proved to be hugely beneficial to the membership. Members actively were encouraged to write for eLucidate and share their practical experience and best practice with the wider community. The committee continues to assess content, distribution and publicity for eLucidate, whose visibility and continued success closely is aligned to the future management of the website.

### **UKeiG profiled in *Information World Review***

A communications and marketing strategy begun to reap significant rewards over 2006, with major UKeiG profiles in key industry publications. Some of you may have seen the two-page profile of UKeiG in the April 2006 issue of *Information World Review*. It's available on the Web at: <http://www.iwr.co.uk/information-world-review/features/2154539/ahead-game> and explains the work and planning UKeiG has been doing since re-branding in 2004. The exposure attracted interest in the Group and resulted in increased membership.

In late 2006 UKeiG also was profiled in CILIP's Gazette as part of a wider strategy to raise awareness about the nature and remit of CILIP SIGs in a feature entitled: 'Group focus: Electronic exchanges.' Groups like UKeiG continue to be the lifeblood of CILIP, and during 2006 we provided feedback for the review of branch and group rules.

### **LIS-UKeiG**

The LIS-UKeiG email list continued to be a key mode of communication with members over 2006, but more has to be done to encourage active participation and livelier debate in this forum.

### **Bank balance**

Jane Grogan did excellent work over 2006 to ensure that UKeiG continues to have buoyant and healthy finances; monitoring cash flows and exploring innovations in income generation.

### **On the move**

In December 2007 the UKeiG office re-located. It provided an excellent opportunity to weed 28 years' worth of paper archives.

## Looking ahead

Over 2006 the UKeiG management committee continued to work to six core objectives that informed operational planning and directed committee business. They 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
- Increase membership through proactive marketing and publicity

Already UKeiG is building on the successes of last year and looking forward to the next three years. There are a number of developments in the pipeline including:

- Applying for the CILIP Seal of Recognition for our courses portfolio, ensuring that UKeiG plays centre stage in support for continuing professional development
- Building on the success of the Intranets Forum by considering further social and networking events
- Raising our visibility at additional conferences and events. A presentation by Phil Bradley on 'Practical issues for Web 2.0 in a library environment' is being hosted by UKeiG at CILIP's June 2007 Umbrella Conference
- Working actively with CILIP over 2007 by inputting into future strategic planning, including the recent draft specification for a Policy Forum

I'd like to thank all of the UKeiG management committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment, none more so than our Honorary Secretary, administrator and membership coordinator Christine Baker, who continues to keep our show on the road with a firm but gentle hand. 2007 will be another challenging year, and the UKeiG committee hopes that you will support us in our endeavours. As the new UKeiG membership brochure states: 'Whatever area or discipline you work in, or specific interests that you may have, UKeiG membership will ensure that you are kept informed of news and developments across the e-information industry so that you always have the "bigger" picture.' Here's to the bigger picture.

**Gary Horrocks, UKeiG Chair**