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THE UK e-information Group (UKeiG) is committed to encouraging and championing excellence and innovation across the library, information, and knowledge profession.

The Group sponsors prestigious international awards and a portfolio of bursaries, endeavouring to support the continuing professional development of library and information students and professionals to encourage research, information exchange and good practice.

The UKeiG management committee is proud to sponsor two full bursary places for the 2024 CILIP conference and my colleagues were delighted by the enthusiastic responses from successful applicants when I rang them with the news:

'Thank you so much for your phone call, I am thrilled! I am so grateful for the opportunity to attend.'

'I am so excited to have been chosen!'

In organisations that are strapped for cash and can ill afford any CPD opportunities, we shouldn't underestimate the value and impact of these invaluable conference bursaries.

Last year's successful applicants wrote: "As a new professional, this was the first time I had been able to attend a major event like this in-person. It was a valuable experience to attend talks and get a feel for what is taking place in the wider sector. Returning to work after the CILIP conference has given me a boost and made me feel more connected to the UK library world."

"I am incredibly thankful that I had the opportunity to add my own voice to the mix of discussions that were held over the two days. The CILIP Conference was full of thought-provoking discussions and presentations, and it was a fantastic opportunity to be able to learn from other professionals in the library and information sector that were facing similar challenges."

While reviewing recent conference

reports from previous recipients, several themes arose:

- The power of networking – not only exposure to a diagonal slice of an organisation, from senior managers to library assistants, but also learning from the cross sectoral experience of colleagues from the private, commercial, and public sectors, schools, further and higher education, the NHS, healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, science, social science, law, finance, arts, humanities, public libraries, archives and museums.

- Imagination and inspiration – networking also unleashed the imagination, providing inspiration and ideas to take back to the workplace and transform into practical reality. So many of UKeiG's bursary recipients report that they return to their desks enthused with ideas and (perhaps more importantly) the possibilities of collaborative working.

- Curiosity – previous CILIP conferences unleashed a world of possibilities for UKeiG's bursary recipients; ideas and approaches from other sectors that they had not considered. It's so easy in a nine-to-five world to become blinkered and myopic and unaware of the vastly shifting paradigm of disruptive technologies and innovations going on in the world round us. We need to grab change by the scruff of the neck, exploit it and run with it.

One particularly powerful comment from an early career professional stuck with me:

"I was so pleased to be able to add my voice to such an eclectic mix of professionals. I never feel confident to do that back at work, and this kind of liberated me."

So, there we have it.

If you're interested in pursuing any of UKeiG's bursary opportunities, please visit our website via the CILIP Community/Special Interest Group web pages. The key criterion for all applications is some element of digital



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information or information science. Our primary focus is developments and innovations in anything digital, embracing artificial intelligence, digital literacy, effective information retrieval and search technologies, enterprise search, social media, data management, research support, scholarly communication, and open access publishing.

Bursaries include:

Postgraduate – these bursaries provide an excellent opportunity for library and information science MSc and MA students to present their postgraduate research at a conference and/or to publish an article highlighting their postgraduate research activity. They are open to any postgraduate student registered at a UK school or department of librarianship, information studies, information science, knowledge management or information management running courses accredited by CILIP.

Conference – discretionary bursaries to support current library and information students or early-career professionals to attend a relevant conference.

We look forward to hearing from you. **IP**