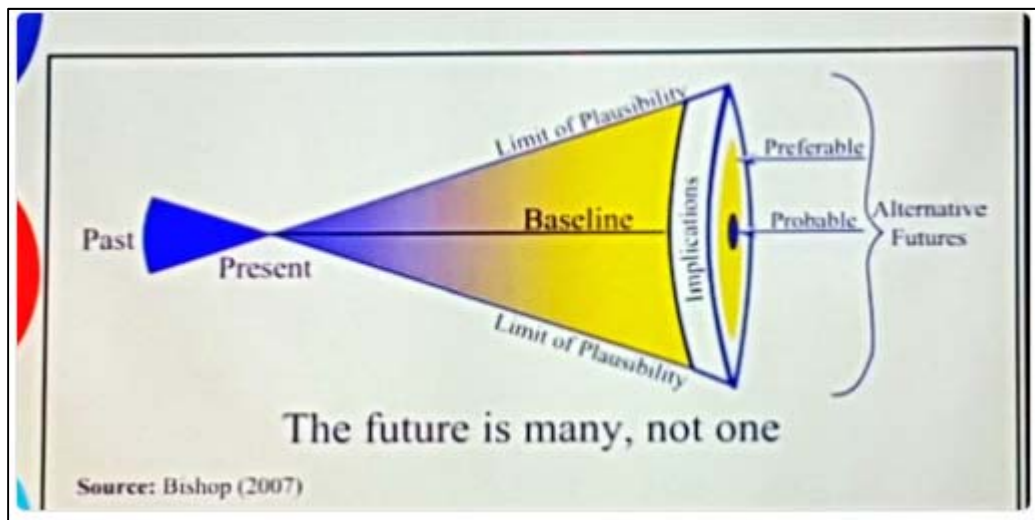**CILIPS Conference 2017 – Strategies for Success**

Dundee, 6th and 7th June

I attended my first CILIP Scotland conference in 2016 and was very glad to be going back for a second time this year thanks to the Professional Development Fund.

The theme of this year was strategies for success and started out with a presentation from Miguel Figueroa, Director of the American Library Association Centre for the Future of Libraries. I hadn't come across the ALA's Trend Categories before, and it was very interesting to hear Miguel speak about the work that he is doing. I really enjoyed thinking about the future as an opportunity rather than a threat!

(Photo from Miguel Figueroa's presentation)

During the day I attended parallel sessions on Copyright, User Experience (UX) techniques, and Digital Capability. It was interesting to hear about the work going on in other sectors, and provided a great opportunity to think about how to apply the ideas in my own workplace.

Day 1 was finished off with an absolutely brilliant talk from Val McDermid. I love her books, but even for those in the room who may not have been fans I'm sure they felt just as positive about their choice of career afterwards. She talked about how the public library in Kirkcaldy was partly responsible for her application the University of Oxford, the first person from a Scottish state school to attend. She is an excellent advocate for public libraries. And in terms of the sector as a whole, what I took from it was the importance of access to information, fiction and non-fiction, and the impact libraries and information professionals can have. The conference made the paper the

following day as a result!

(Tweet from CILIPScotland)

The following day we started off with the AGM and a keynote about copyright that was very engaging! Dr. Jane Secker (City, University of London) and Chris Morrison (University of Kent) spoke eloquently and enthusiastically, making the case for copyright literacy and the importance of being open with the decisions we make about copyright. They really worked on breaking down the idea that copyright is an "other" and advised pragmatism when dealing with questions on copyright. In addition to that they tossed chocolates into the audience, in lieu of anyone wining the brief quiz, which made for an enjoyable consolation prize!

On Day 2 I attended Overcoming Disability and Barriers: Using assistive technologies in libraries, Linked Data and Towards an Information Literacy Strategy for Scotland and Managing your Digital Footprint. Again I was left with lots of ideas and resources to bring back to work and to reflect on for my chartership. Plus some homework from the Digital Footprint session - searching for myself on various search engines to better monitor my presence online. Nothing scandalous to report!

The day finished off with a keynote from Nick Poole on the topic of what is on the horizon for 2018 for information professionals, highlighting campaigns from CILIPS, CILIP, CILIP Cymru and CILIP Ireland.

The conference also provided a great opportunity to speak to colleagues and suppliers during the breaks between sessions. Professionally, I felt that I got as much out of these informal conversations as I did the parallel sessions.

Siobhán O'Brien   June 2017