LILAC CONFERENCE REPORT

Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC)
University of Liverpool & Liverpool John Moores University
4th – 6th April 2018.

I recently attended the Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC) thanks to an award from the CILIPS Professional Development Fund.

I had chosen to attend LILAC because I am currently working towards my Library Chartership award and Information Literacy is an area I am interested in developing in. Information Literacy has always been an area of Librarianship that had somewhat puzzled me, I had never felt able to pin down exactly *what* it was, what it was made up of and, if you needed to teach it, what do you teach?

It transpired that LILAC was the perfect conference to attend, not because it gave me some answers to the above point, though it certainly did, but because in his keynote speech "Putting theory to work into practice", Ola Pilerot explained that the definition of Information Literacy was somewhat changeable and varies depending on who is using it and the field in which it is being used. This was the lightbulb moment for me of the conference because it explained to me why I had struggled to define this term and had found it hard to do things that would help me "learn" about it.

The two other keynote speakers of the conference, Barbara Band (School Library, Reading & Literacy Consultant) and David White (Head of Digital Learning at University of the Arts London) provided some very though-provoking and entertaining presentations.

Barbara's presentation "The elephant in the room - why are information skills not an essential part of the curriculum? Has a title that speaks for itself. She outlined the very concerning aspect of school librarianship where Information skills are not seen as being an essential part of the curriculum or a central function in a School Librarian role and some of the knock-on effects of that position. David's "Posthuman literacies: reframing relationships between information, technology and identity" was an excellent outline of the modern day issues in our new relationships with technology and how issues such as data security, your dataself and online persona were now a huge factor in our lives.

Across all three days plenary sessions were held around the keynote speeches. These sessions were very varied in nature which slightly surprised me as coming into the conference I perhaps had a very narrow idea of the reach and width of Information Literacy and Information Skills. These sessions certainly broadened my horizons as they discussed methods of teaching, producing information resources, active research and there were even some sessions around my own field of Scholarly Communications, it was very nice to see the view of this from the other side of the fence.

The organisation of the event was excellent and provided us with a number of interesting and fun evening social events in addition to the professional sessions given during the day. I really enjoyed the opportunity of speaking to librarians from other parts of the world and from different library sectors. Certainly the opportunity to see the Terracotta Warriors in Liverpool's World Museum was very welcome and attending the conference dinner, which was held in the crypt of the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, is unlikely to be something I will have the chance to ever do again.

I had a marvellous time in attending the LILAC conference and I would like to thank CILIP in Scotland for giving me this wonderful opportunity in awarding me a grant from the Professional Development Fund.