

CILIPS Scotland conference report by Jessica Walther

This year's CILIP in Scotland conference was held in Dundee on June 6-7<sup>th</sup>. The theme "Making Connections" was the red thread that connected the talks.

The conference kicked off with a keynote speech by Colin Cook, Head of Digital Public Services and Business Transformation, The Scottish Government. His talk, while motivating, was problematic. The proclaimed interest and support of the government in public libraries as a hub of digital engagement, made for a problematic statement, in the face of many recent public library closures across the country. An early highlight was Stewart Bain's talk on "Twitter tips from Orkney Library". Apart from demonstrating key tweets that received multiple retweets and likes, he highlighted the user feedback, he received, and showcasing the impact and fun the account has brought to the many users of Orkney libraries and beyond. Especially impressive was the fact, that he persuaded J.K. Rowling to spontaneously appear at a book group meeting. The first day ended with a talk by author James Robertson, who enthralled the audience with his passion for libraries, as well as reading a few short stories from one of his books.

The second day, began with the keynote talk by Jan Holquist from Guldborgsund Libraries on "Libraries: Making communities smarter through connections", which to him boils down to "think globally, act locally", which to revoked the Orkney twitter account with is primarily for meant for Orkney, but has a worldwide reach, which created positive impulses for the library. After the lunch break, Peggy Hughes talk on "Behind the scenes at the book festival" of Literary Dundee and offered a glimpse into the work outside of libraries. The shared love of books and stories resonated well with the audience. It is always good to look further than the limits of one's own institution and the profession as a whole. The Scottish Book Trust, delivered in a similar reign, and it was impressive to hear about their engagement both for children and adults.

The conference provided engaging and interesting talks, which will feed into my daily work, as well as into future CPD activities. As a first time conference attendee, it was inspiring to immerse myself in the manifold activities of my fellow practitioners. The networking lunch and the many refreshment breaks provided ample opportunities for chatting to interesting librarians and information professionals, who I hope to see again soon. I immensely enjoyed the positive and welcoming atmosphere and the seemingly never ending supply of muffins, croissants, cookies.... There was plenty food for thought and I left the conference with a positive outlook on the profession and feeling grateful for CILIPS awarding me the funds to enable my attendance.