

CILIPS Conference Feedback Reports



JILL REID : CILIPS Conference 2018 – Collaborative Communities

Thanks to CILIPS Tayside I was given the opportunity to attend the CILIPS Conference in Dundee on Tuesday 5th June.

Pamela Tulloch, CEO of the Scottish Library and Information Council opened the conference by talking about the background to SLIC and what they do. All the projects that SLIC are involved in, such as Code Club, Every Child A Library Member, One Card were summed up by the following quote:

“Partnerships are powerful”

I work with primary schools, in a secondary school library and with members of the public from birth to 100. Partnership working is key, and it was nice to hear that reinforced by Pamela.

The first workshop I attended was Embracing the First Minister’s Reading Challenge by Scottish Book Trust and school librarian Robin Dunlop. The Challenge was outlined by Jennifer from SBT and some good practice examples were given from across the country. Jennifer encouraged us to share any projects with SBT so that they can highlighted on their website.

School librarian Robin Dunlop from Renfrew High School then shared his year of events working with their Attainment Librarian and partners such as Waterstones, LUSH, the local college, museums and the public library service. Fantastic work took place including:

- New S1s creating poetry around the theme of Freedom
- Making Bath Bombs!
- Creating a book advent calendar with books chosen by pupils to be gifted through advent
- Visit by a script writer
- Paired reading between S6 and S1 pupils, and S1 and p1 pupils.

Whilst a lot of projects need funding and willing partners, this may not be able to be replicated in all schools, however it was brilliant to see how engaged the young people were and what can be achieved with Collaborative Communities.

Fife Libraries' workshop entitled Everything's Event-ual was the most practical of the day. Events such as "A Taste of Gin" were broken down to ideas, practical issues, partnership working and potential pitfalls. We were then tasked with going through the organising procedure ourselves, from naming our event, to marketing and what we would need to set up on the night. The format seems great and I look forward to trying it out in Mearns Library for my over 18 customers!

Young Scot's presentation on The Year of Young People: Looking at Information Needs was an interesting take on the subject of engaging with young people. "Young people are experts of their own experiences" stated Kirsten Urquhart and they want their content:

- personalised to them
- to be delivered in small snippets of information; a 1 minute video is too long!
- #usehashtags
- to use an authentic voice
- emoji filled

This is how we need to go about telling them what we have to offer in libraries and working with them to make it more relevant for them.

I didn't take copious notes listening to the final keynote speaker; Darren McGarvey, author of Poverty Safari, however, I will end on his words:

"Why do some people think the library isn't for them? Why do some people think it is?"

It's our job to figure this out, and, through partnership working within our communities, meet the needs of everyone as best we can.

Jill Reid

Network Librarian

Aberdeenshire Libraries



JOHN DARE : CILIPS Conference

If you said to me five years ago that I would be working as a library advisor let alone attending the CILIPS Conference, I would have laughed. Life has a wonderful way of steering you in different directions and not always for the best. In this case it has been a very positive journey and thanks to my local CILIPS branch I was sponsored to attend the conference at the APEX hotel in Dundee.

So, the day itself brought so many questions, will the exhibitors be relevant to my job, will I use any information from the plenaries and most importantly what is for lunch?

The conference was opened by President Margaret Menzies who introduced our theme, Collaborative Communities: Connecting with our Networks.

Our first key note speaker was Leonie Bell who is Head of Cultural Engagement and Culture Strategy, with the Scottish Government who explained the strategic plan of the Scottish Government and how that will impact on our sector.

This gave me an insight not only into the future difficulties we are going to face but the importance that is being placed on us all.

The first plenary that I attended was “books behind bars” which was of interest to me, as I had applied to work with Fife College within Perth Prison. I truly believe that education and Libraries play a vital role not only in rehabilitation of offenders but help prevent initial offending as education is the quickest route out of poverty.

The session was hosted by a former inmate Pete White who explained that the Library was his “safe zone” as books gave him respite from his predicament. It also led to him returning to education and he now works for Positive Prisons.

James King, head of learning and skills followed on to explain what action the Scottish Prison Service is taking to help with this project. He explained how they engaged both staff and prisoners to show the benefits to all.

Lunch time was great not just the food but to catch up with conference attendees and learn from their experiences.

Next Plenary was Collaborative Communities - Scottish libraries working together. As I work in an academic Library, I am surprised that I do not work with our council colleagues. The presentation informed us of the different successes of their projects and how putting in a little time and effort at the start does pay off in the long term.

The presentation was a joint effort of Jeanette Castle, University of West of Scotland, Martina McChrystal, University of Glasgow and Richard Aird, University of Stirling.

The final Plenary was Braw Blether: How bibliotherapy is empowering and enabling people in Midlothian. Presented by Jane Milne and Fiona Bailey, Midlothian Libraries.

I must admit this was a project I knew nothing about but by the end I wanted to know more. I often think that libraries should be safe places not only to be creative but also not be frightened to ask questions

The presentation explored how they set up events and engage people in the events.

It is something I will look to arrange at my own Library.

Finally, our afternoon keynote speaker was David McNeill, Director of Digital, SCVO on the subject of the role of libraries in Scotland's digital future.

Now you would expect a director of digital would be all things, well, digital, but not the case. He explained that technology will have a role within our libraries and it is still the case that Libraries will still need to provide the services that they do now but be adaptable to the changing demands of our users but remember that we are there for those that aren't Techno Savvy.

In conclusion I had a great time meeting great people, hearing about great projects and giving me ideas to implement in Perth.

Thanks CILIPS

John Dare

Perth College UHI Library