

Report on CILIPS Annual Conference 2018

I was delighted to receive the news that I'd been awarded a bursary to attend the CILIPS Annual Conference 2018. Last year I reached a crossroads in my career. After more than twenty years as a school librarian, I found myself working as a library assistant in a public library while exploring options for the future. The CILIPS Conference offered me a fantastic opportunity to hear about developments in different LIS sectors and to network with colleagues across these sectors.

The first keynote address of Day1 was a wide-ranging overview of the scope of the Scottish Government's Culture Strategy, delivered by Leonie Bell. It was exciting to hear of the opportunities the strategy could offer libraries and communities in Scotland to contribute to the development of a more inclusive and democratic society.

I attended three breakout sessions. The first, on the background to this year's Summer Reading Challenge was presented by Mike Stirling, Sue Wilkinson and Anne Starrag. It was fascinating to learn about the local history behind the "mischief makers" of the *Beano* comic, and of the ways in which they have been brought up-to-date to promote reading to a new generation of children. In the next session, Jeanette Castle and Martina McChrystal highlighted a range of partnerships between public and academic libraries in Scotland. I was impressed by the efforts of the two sectors to create a more "joined up" service landscape. Martina McChrystal also presented the session on the development of Scotland's National Strategy for school libraries, outlining the challenges posed by the proliferation of service delivery models and the tight timescale for the project.

In the second keynote address, David McNeill provided encouraging insights into the role of libraries in Scotland's digital future.

After the presentations I took the opportunity stretch my legs by joining the Waterfront Welcome Tour. The evening was very enjoyable, with a drinks reception, an excellent dinner and interesting chats with people working in a wide range of contexts.

The first keynote address of Day 2 was delivered by Pamela Tulloch, who gave an account of the evolution of SLIC and discussed its role today.

Again I attended three breakout sessions. In the first of these, Karen McFarlane explored the emerging KIM sector and the opportunities it presents for LIS professionals. The session on protecting privacy in libraries, presented by Aude Charillon and Nik Williams, explained clearly the challenges and responsibilities that libraries face if they are to retain the trust of users. The final session, delivered by Karen Urquhart, looked at the opportunities and challenges libraries face in delivering services to Generation Z.

The final keynote address of the conference was a highly relevant and thought provoking talk by Darren McGarvey on the role of libraries in deprived communities.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Conference and returned home with plenty of food for thought. I'm very grateful to SLIC for giving me this opportunity, which I'm sure will stand me in good stead as I seek to move ahead in my career.