

## **CILIPS Annual Conference in Dundee: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of June**

I was happy to have been awarded the professional development fund to go to CILIPS annual conference with the theme 'Courage, Laughter and Innovation. A Resilient Profession.' I wanted to gain a better understanding of the wider profession as well as learn of the newest developments of the fields I am working in.

The conference was opened by the President of CILIPS Yvonne Manning. Her welcome was followed by the first Keynote speech by Sue John. Her talk focused on the history of the Glasgow Women's Library and why it is important for Scotland's cultural heritage.

I then attended three breakout sessions. The first one was a workshop on health literacy. We were given an overview of the issue and then were asked what we as librarians would do to tackle it, as librarians are key to empower citizens to make choices about their health and wellbeing. The topic of the second session was open access and Wikimedia. A fascinating talk on how contributions to Wikipedia can help give everyone access to information and open data. The third one was a talk on text and data mining. It showed how data and text mining can be for almost everyone and introduced and compared different tools for this task.

The next keynote speech was held by author Erwin James. His story on how books and reading have changed his life showed that what we do can make a difference. Lucy Crompton-Reid held the third keynote speech. This keynote was interesting, but had similar content to the second breakout session I attended.

The second day of the conference started with the keynote speech by Jane Cowell on innovation. She showed that running an innovative service does not require the newest technology or substantial finances. Instead innovation needs only ideas and the freedom to fail and to try again. The second keynote speech of the day was on digital collections and maker space, by Kirsty Lingstadt. She showed how digital collections are not a substitute for the physical, but rather an addition which can increase accessibility, innovation and usage.

I again attended three breakout sessions. One on the topic of open access and academic publishing, which focused on the issues university libraries face in their pursuit of achieving open access. The next session was on the value of public libraries, that highlighted the importance of public libraries in combatting loneliness and providing access and learning opportunities. The last session was about the engagement of academic and public libraries with social media. This talk was very practical, and gave tips on how to run social media accounts for libraries.

This conference gave me the opportunity to explore many different aspects of the information profession and the possibility to talk to others about their experiences. It gave me a new outlook on where my personal professional development might be heading. As well as where the profession as a whole might be heading.