**CILIPS Conference 2021 by Jennifer Dye**

This was my first conference and I was very excited about it. I had been to Bookbug conferences before and enjoyed milling around, meeting like - minded people, networking and sharing ideas. I knew I would miss all that but I was anticipating a day of fun and facts.

*The Welcome Speech by Cleo Jones* was good. Meeting people initially before we put our mics off was interesting. Seeing everyone’s backgrounds and listening to chats was interesting. Cleo spoke about the involvement of the libraries as a public service during the pandemic and how we facilitate help and advice during this time.

*Chickens, Bricks, Hospitals and Books: Reflections on Librarians and Librarianship, by Dr John Scally* was a great speech. I enjoyed this part very much. Dr Scally talked about his life and experiences. He illustrated through his talk that you never know where reading can take you! He talked about his employment and involvement in various projects over his lifetime. He told us about his ability to find good practices and take them forward into different places of work.

*Developing a Public Library Strategy for Scotland, by Janette Castle.* I found this to be interesting in the way that different authorities use this. The Q and A at the end was enlightening too. This was where I could add to the chat online and the speaker would answer the questions as they came up.

I was then in Group B for the breakaway sessions.

After a small change in the line - up, we commenced the first session.

*A Guide to CILIPS Online Resources: LGBTQ+, Anti – Racism, Neurodiversity, and Women’s Empowerment by Kirsten McQuarrie*. I looked forward to this. Kirsten showed us all the online resources that can be accessed on the website. She also spoke about the magazine, Information Professional. She talked about how the website has changed and how diversity and ‘ Wokeness’, has been taken into account. Diversity is being embraced and represented by CILIPS on the website. This will be very handy in the ongoing relationship between myself and CILIPS in the future. I see CILIPS as a key to my future as an Information Professional in the Library services.

*Climate Museum UK: Creative Conversation and Information Literacy as Keys to Environmental Engagement by Bridget McKenzie*. I found this to be an interesting topic. I have often wondered about how to tie this in to the libraries with last year being the Year of the Coast and this year’s Reading Challenge being all about the environment and biodiversity. Although I found the speaker a little lacking in tone, I did like some of the ideas and intend to carry them forward in my work.

The last speech was *Disinformation and the threat to Democracy by Peter Geoghegan*. Peter was a passionate speaker and very charismatic. I found quite a lot of his opinions to be in opposition to my own. I thought that although it sparked a lot of conversation, I felt that this may not be the best place to air his views. This is my own view though and not that of my authority or place of work. It made me think how outside influences can shape your opinions and values throughout life.

The *closing speech by Cleo Jones* was nice. It was a great experience in all and I felt that I could carry a lot forward in my job and in my life too. I enjoyed it overall and may ask to go again. It was interesting to see how it would play out and how the modern technology would be implemented in this way.

Thank you for this opportunity. I hope to attend another in the near future!