

CILIPS Professional Development Fund Report

Lauren MacIntyre

I was delighted to be awarded the CILIPS Professional Development Fund to attend day 2 of the CILIPS Conference. I was initially quite nervous about attending as I've just returned to the profession after a career break and started working in the new (to me) sector of academic libraries, however, I needn't have worried as I felt very welcome and included throughout the event!

The day began with a keynote address from Dr Mia Ridge, Digital Curator at the British Library, about the benefits and challenges of using crowdsourcing and machines to increase access to British Library collections. I was interested to hear how this helped remove boundaries for people who hadn't previously engaged with the library and was impressed by the dedication and patience displayed in achieving such a task.

I then attended the session 'Carbon Literacy for Libraries' by Laragh Quinney from the National Library of Scotland. I was inspired by the work that is being done to help libraries achieve green goals. The case studies discussed show the breadth of creativity in libraries and how even small acts can make a big difference. Laragh also turned out to be my suffragette card match partner, which offered an additional excuse to talk to her afterwards!

After a lovely networking lunch was a keynote talk from CILIP president Sue Williamson MBE. I was blown away by her passion and determination to advocate for our profession. My favourite quote from her was '*You are the agents of positive change and innovation within your communities*', and I think this is the case regardless of which sector you work in.

Following this I attended the session 'Combatting Misinformation in Libraries' by the Ferret Fact Service, which was very helpful in identifying ways to verify online information. They also highlighted that librarians are amongst the most trusted professionals in the country, which demonstrates our unique position to assist others to do this too.

The last session I attended was 'Libraries for a Sustainable Future' which discussed findings from public and school libraries about the work being done to make them greener. It also included a talk from Donna Baird about her *Seeds to Success* project, which I found to be really innovative, and I was encouraged by her advice to be practical, collaborative and flexible.

The day ended with a keynote speech from Scottish Makar Kathleen Jamie, who discussed her time as Makar and gave several readings of her work. This was a lovely way to end a busy and successful day of information gathering and networking.

I had a great time at the CILIPS Conference and found it very rewarding, being inspired by the passion and integrity on display. After being out of the profession for a couple of years I really enjoyed the opportunity to network and learn about what's going on in the wider library and information world. Thank you CILIPS for providing me with the funding to attend the conference, and I hope to see you again next year!