

Hello. My name is Alex, I am the Sustainability Coordinator at the AK Bell Library in Perth and am very new to the profession of information services. My professional background is in nature conservation, and I worked as a countryside ranger for several years before moving into the community engagement sector. From there it was a natural step for me to start working at the Library, as Libraries are hubs of knowledge, bringing the community together in their shared passion for the written word and for learning. As the Sustainability Coordinator, I am involved with the Lend and Mend Library, The Seed Library, and general issues about sustainable practices within the library. This is honestly the perfect position for me as it combines environmental awareness and education, nature conservation and my love for books and libraries.

As part of my role, I researched the Green Library movement, Sustainability Goals for Libraries and read dozens of articles about how libraries around the world are working with the changing climate and how to optimise the libraries carbon footprint. This research brought me quickly to the Green Library Week Website by CILIP and from there to the CILIPS Conference. Once I saw the list of topics on Tuesday 4th of June, I threw my hat into the ring to see if I would get a bursary placement. This was easy enough to do, all I had to do was write a short text about why it would be beneficial for me to attend the conference. This bursary enabled me to go to the Conference to listen to the guest speakers and network with other professionals who are working on keeping Libraries open and sustainable. I met some wonderful people from Dundee University and chatted about how to promote the Maker Space and the Lend and Mend Library. It is great to hear the opinions from others who struggle with the same things as we do. The Conference itself was huge and busy and at the end of the day I was very tired. However, I took home with me some information about an upcoming training course in Carbon Literacy for Libraries, which will be a very useful addition to our Green Champions Programme and the rewriting of our Climate and Sustainability Strategy. I hope to get the training booked for staff later this year. The second highlight was the session about combating misinformation in the Library Services from The Ferret Fact Check. This session was very interesting and so important today that, again, I am hoping to get this training session booked at our Library for staff to attend. As we learned, Librarians are on place 2 of the top 5 most trusted professions in Scotland and we have to uphold this position! It is not about Censorship but about how to find out if what you read every day is true. This is more important than ever as people are bombarded with information every day and we need to know how to fact check these!

I am so glad I had the opportunity to attend the conference and am hoping I can do so in the future. The application for the sponsored place was easy and straightforward and experiencing the conference was great. I can only recommend trying to apply for a space next year as it will open up a huge network of librarians from all across the UK and it is quite rare to get such an insight into the different ways our profession is carried out.