24TH ANNUAL UKSG CONFERENCE

Workshop Reports

Nine workshops were held at this year's conference, each repeated three times, generating much interesting debate and discussion. Reports reflecting the content and discussion at some of these workshops are included below.

Managing access to e-journals: challenges from a cataloguer

Paul Cunnea, Bibliographic Services Manager, Napier University

This was a comprehensive and practical workshop, covering all issues surrounding the administration, management and bibliographic control of e-journals in a University Library. It was well attended with a good mix of delegates. A thirty-minute presentation was followed by a thirty-minute group discussion.

The differences between the management of print and e-journals were explored and it was generally agreed that the hybrid/virtual library is still very much in transition, with some libraries still only considering cataloguing e-journals.

Cataloguing practicalities and issues were covered in some detail, which afforded a good practical background to the questions raised. Some discussion ensued over the role of library system vendors for the provision of MARC records for e-journals and the practicalities of outsourcing, though no-one present had taken this route. It was agreed that one of the main problems still facing the e-cataloguer is the lack of e-ISSN's as many publishers consider the e-journal to be the same product as the print journal and so carries the same ISSN.

Access routes to e-journals yielded interesting discussion on whether e-journals available by multiple access routes should be catalogued separately, or whether single catalogue records should be used showing the related URL's. It emerged that libraries are using both methods and there was no consensus for a preferred method.

Consideration was given to the acquisition and development of e-journals, which touched on trials of e-resources and how they compare and overlap with other resources; package deals with 'bonus' titles; archiving; staff resources; and last but not least, licensing issues.

Licensing issues centred on the principle that discovery is access, in the sense that remote, multiple and concurrent use can be made of e-journals, whilst giving the library the opportunity to deliver a value added service, with extras, such as a profiling and alerting service.

This workshop gave a good overview of how e-journals can be handled in practice. The group discussion was useful in that experiences and examples of best practice were exchanged.

A short list of e-resources for e-cataloguing was provided:

- Cataloguing & Indexing Group in Scotland's cataloguing guidelines at: http://www.catriona.napier.ac.uk/docs/lis/cunnea/biblcone.pdf
- OCLC Cataloguing Internet resources manual at: http://www.oclc.org/oclc/man/9256cat/toc.htm
- Library of Congress USMARC guidelines for the 856 tag at: http://www.loc.gov/marc/856guide.html
- IFLA official ISBD(ER) International Standard Bibliographic Description for Electronic Resources document at: http://ifla.inist.fr/VII/s13/pubs/isbd.htm

Jayne Everard
Staffordshire University

21st Century working – changing the patterns of work
Lyndsay Rees-Jones, LA

This thought provoking workshop encouraged us to look at the way we work and how employers, even libraries, could promote better working environments.

Lyndsay raised two topics for discussion; firstly, we were to consider three things that we could change tomorrow and which would improve our work-life balance, and secondly, to think about the impact on ourselves and on our organisation?

A few weeks after the conference, Lyndsay emailed the outcome of each of the three workshops to the participants. The following is a brief outline of the main issues raised over the three sessions. The discussion concentrated on the first question. However, the second question was also debated.

- Flexitime, including half days working at home and flexibility in travel arrangements was, perhaps, the most popular choice especially amongst the library community. Misuse of flexitime and lack of proper planning, were, however, highlighted as potential problems.

- Email/phone/meeting free days to enable staff to concentrate on important tasks.

- Working from home/reduced contact time were popular with many colleagues but questions were raised about what you can actually achieve at home and whether isolation from colleagues has both positive and negative aspects.

- Cross-organisational working, where several bodies merge to reduce stress. This would only work, if effort were put into good communication and the development of a shared understanding.

- Get away space/time. Ideas included: one day a week away from the office; use of earphones in the office to develop personal space; meetings outside the office to provide a different atmosphere, and an equivalent of 'going to the library' for library staff themselves.

- Recognise the needs of the individual, both staff and clients/users.

From the discussion it appeared that work practice amongst the Scandinavian delegates differed greatly from that of the British. The general feeling was that British employers have a great deal to learn from their Scandinavian colleagues.

Lyndsay rounded off by commenting that, if employers treated employees with more respect and trust, there would be a marked increase in loyalty and effort. Employers should also realise the role work plays in the lives of individuals.

Graham Stone
Bolton Institute