# Information Literacy Community of Practice

# Minutes of the 7th Meeting

# 12th May 2015 at 2pm

## Venue: Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

## Attendees:

Jenny Foreman, Scottish Government Library (Chair)

Morag Higgison, Scottish Government Library

Bill Johnston, University of Strathclyde

Cleo Jones, Edinburgh City Council

Ian McCracken, IL advocate, retired school librarian

Seam McNamara, CILIPS

Lauren Smith, University of Strathclyde (Minutes)

Claire Roberts, City of Glasgow Council

Laura Hogg, Glasgow Life, School Libraries

Sheila Williams, Queen Margaret University

Morag Higgison, Scottish Government

Jenny Foreman, Scottish Government

Roddy Waldhelm, Scottish Government Legal Directorate

Marion Kelt, Glasgow Caledonian University

Veronica Denholm, National Library of Scotland

Lindsay McKrell, Stirling Council Libraries

Linda Hartley, West Lothian College

Lisa Powell, SLIC

## Introduction

Welcome to new members / attendees. Jenny welcomed everyone and the CoP thanked Jenny and Morag for providing the venue and catering.

Apologies were received from: John Crawford, Paul Gray , Christine Irving, Jamie McIntyre, Ian Watson, Amina Shah, Kirsten Urquhart, Linda Sutherland, Ann Robertson, Penny Robertson, Hilary Kidd

Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved. Some updates:

* The second draft of the National Strategy for Libraries will be presented this Friday at the COSLA meeting. It has been circulated to the strategy advisory group and will be circulated to heads of service group. SLIC are aiming to launch it soon. There has been a lot of work for all involved at all stages and SLIC would like to thank everyone involved for their work.
* Bill spoke briefly about ECIL conference in Tallinn in October, at which John, Bill and Lauren will be holding a panel discussion. The abstract is attached (Appendix A)
* Marion provided leaflets about the InformAll network

Many thanks were given to John for his contribution for the last several years for all his work for the CoP

## February Information Literacy Symposium Report (Jenny for John)

John’s report was shared and will be published in an upcoming edition of CILIP Update.

Discussion around the SQA presentation:

* The SQA Digital Passport Unit is 40 hours on Digital Skills has an IL strand - representative from SQA will hopefully be able to come to a future meeting to talk about how the unit might be useful for IL instruction
* Ian McKracken is keen to ensure that librarians are involved in taking this forward from the beginning to see if the materials would benefit from being translated into more appropriate language before it is applied in different educational and library environments.
* It was suggested that the Unit might help as a tool to show the worth of IL
* There are opportunities for librarians to deliver the unit and the SQA have no problem with this.
* It could also be used as part of other subjects, tying it into different subjects
* There is the potential for the unit to have relevance to workplace literacy
* Some SQA members are possibly looking at completing the course themselves and hoping to promote it to work areas within the organisation
* The unit is very big itself and in quite large chunks and there was some concern that the curriculum as a whole may be too packed to be able to apply parts of this size. A set of smaller modules might be easier to use and more manageable in practice
* The CoP welcomed that the SQA had developed and interesting IL unit. In order for content to remain relevant and practical, working in partnership with decision makers & LIS professions is vital if this topic is to remain high on the agenda for schools, FE, HE establishments and those seeking to develop digital workplace employability skills.

**Action: The CoP will set up a subgroup to look more closely at the unit and look at how it could be divided into smaller parts. Aim to get together in June.**

**Action: Linda Hartley has volunteered to have a look at the Digital Passport and feed back to the group how useful it might be to FE and schools**

Other discussion arising from reflection on the ILS included reports from members of the CoP have been in further contact with people from different sectors who presented at the ILS:

* Lindsey McKrell reported that Stirling will be visiting Dundee City Council to do with welfare reform and universal credit
* Ian has been in touch with the Health Alliance to try to put them into contact with school libraries, and YoungScot to put them in contact with Education Scotland
* CILIPS have been in touch with ALISS (A Local information System for Scotland) and Education Scotland to look at further partnership opportunities
* Ian mentioned in passing “Dr Google” – may be of interest to CoP members (re: online health information sourcing) <https://www.qut.edu.au/science-engineering/about/news/news?news-id=88458>

**Action: members of the CoP who have been in further contact with groups from the ILS to let John know what further activities might be happening**

There was much enthusiasm for another ILS, perhaps with even more attendance from people outwith LIS environment

**Action: ILS 2016 will be an agenda item for the next meeting and SLIC will be asked to host again**

## CILIP ILG Research (Lauren)

Lauren talked about the Learning Lending Liberty Project, a CILIP ILG funded piece of research which will run from May to October, looking at school libraries’ information literacy provision relating to political participation. A survey is currently being developed for circulation before the end of the school year. Interviews will be conducted and a report and related advocacy resources will be published by October. Full details of the project are available on the website: [www.learninglendingliberty.wordpress.com](http://www.learninglendingliberty.wordpress.com). The twitter account is: [@learnlendlib](http://www.twitter.com/learnlendlib) which will also share regular updates and related information.

## Report on meeting with Chris Yiu, SCVO (Bill and Ian)

Bill and Ian reported on their meeting with Chris Yiu:

* Library of resources as part of online presence of project work - looking at how CoP can help with that
* Want to move beyond basic skills into more complex notions of IL - this is something the CoP can help with
* Want it to be a ‘synergistic’ collaboration

Follow-up with Sally Dyson from SCVO to ask if she could come to CoP to cover what was missed at ILS, this will hopefully be arranged soon

Discussion on this topic included:

* Some discussion about the right name for IL when working with organisations who don’t recognise the term. ‘problem-solving’ for example poses its own problems
* Cleo reported that at the public library strategy meeting, organisations are not automatically thinking about libraries and they were considering having to create new frameworks for IL provision. There is a lack of awareness about what libraries are already doing and what they can do
* SCVO have received a lot of funding and there is a feeling that public libraries have perhaps been bypassed. More partnership working needed and SCVO should be referring to public libraries. Some of this is in place e.g. digital champions.
* In context of the SCVO gathering event (Ian) – for further useful insights see SAIF – Scottish Accessible Information Forum <http://www.saifscotland.org.uk#sthash.5trb3p62.dpbs> I

**Action: CoP volunteers needed to be part of a working/action group with SCVO. Sean has volunteered to be involved.**

## Report on meeting with Colin Cook (Bill)

Bill reported on emerging plans to conduct a study of information literacy activity in Scotland:

* The Information Literacy Symposium seems to have had a noticeable impact on stakeholders, which is a positive outcome to be acknowledged.
* Bill reported that he suggested using the term “information culture” within the context of the meeting because it was more easily understood by people within the civil service.
* Colin Cook agreed to see if it would be possible to make IL an agenda item for Fiona Hyslop. If so, the CoP would need to produce a list of bullet points outlining key IL issues.
* Now waiting to hear from Colin Cook to see if this is something that will be taken forward.
* Bill discussed the information literacy needs of older people and the work going on in this area and the thematic discussion group that was held.

Issues emerging from discussion about this meeting included:

* The lack of a proper linkup between different directorates in SG was identified as a problem
* Emphasis that it is important to talk to different stakeholders using terminology they understand, but that within LIS the term is appropriate and does serve the purpose of holding together a group of different competencies/skills/abilities that otherwise would seem scattered.

The mygov.scot website was discussed:

* Bill tried out some searches on the website which may be relevant to older people - burials and cremations, power of attorney etc. Could not find the content he was looking for and suggested there is a need to link up the online digital resources that are available - e.g. parliament website.
* New staff have been recruited - central government digital transformation service. Will be focusing on user experience of websites
* Suggestions about improving the website - putting different skins on the same website for different users. Linking up Citizens Advice Bureau, YoungScot, Shelter etc.
* Ian provided the following link as an example of a resource which can be altered to meet the different needs/preferences of different user demographics: <http://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk/resources>

**Action: please could members of the CoP email Morag or Jenny with suggestions for the mygov.scot website, content or structure etc.**

**Action: Morag and Jenny to keep Bill in the loop so that he can be asking the community groups he works with about what they need as well, which would possibly put pressure on the development team to ensure the website meets community needs (as well as ensure it is on the radar of elected members)**

**Action: Jono Ellis, Social Media Manager to be invited to the next meeting to talk about mygov.scot**

## Digitally Agile National Principles

Ian suggested that CoP get in touch with the Scottish Community Development Centre to support them with the national framework that is being developed

**Action: Ian, chair and vice chair to contact SCDC**

## Proposed policy statement on IL

* There is a need to decide what context the statement will be used in - what we’re saying and who we’re saying it to
* There appears to be a lot of groups are reinventing the notion IL at the moment because they don’t realise it exists already
* What it is, who it affects, why x group should pay attention - may be a good structure for the statement
* It would be useful to send out to people to publicise IL and show how it is useful to them
* It may also be useful to get groups to sign up to an IL policy or statement
* Some of the material from the ILS can be a source of useful text for a statement of this kind

**Action: Jenny to send feedback to John**

**Action: John to write draft policy and circulate to CoP**

**Action: CoP members to give feedback**

## Strategic issues in IL

* John will be working on a special issue of Library & Information Research – special issue on Strategic Issues in Information Literacy and invites CoP members to submit paper proposals
* One of the key strategic issues at the moment is disparate groups reinventing the same things - we really need to be communicating with each other
* It was suggested that the minutes from today’s meeting could form the framework of a paper
* We know the work being done is IL but it is not understood as being such by different groups and is understood as digital literacy
* One key issue is being able to afford access to information - even HE institutions struggle to afford the licensing arrangements
* Another strategic issue is letting people know that all these resources exist, and the way in which use is a justification of spending money on them - authorities are having to cut back their subscriptions because people don’t know they exist and therefore don’t use them
* Consortia arrangements were discussed - reference libraries, public, academic etc.

**Action: CoP members to propose papers for the journal**

## LILAC conference highlights

* Jenny and Morag shared their experiences from the LILAC conference and attendees thanked them for this information.

## AOB

* Claire from Glasgow City College will talk at the next meeting about an IL project they are working on at Glasgow City College

## Next meeting

* The next meeting will be held on 26th October 2015 at The Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ.

# Appendix A: Abstract for Panel Discussion at ECIL 2015, Tallinn, 19th - 22nd October

**Panel: Developing information literacy policy and activity in Scotland**

John Crawford, The Right Information: Information literacy skills for a 21st century Scotland, Glasgow, Scotland. scotinfolit@googlemail.com

Bill Johnston, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Strathclyde, Centre for Lifelong Learning, Glasgow, Scotland, b.johnston@strath.ac.uk

Lauren Smith, Doctoral Researcher, University of Strathclyde, Department for Computer and Information Sciences, Glasgow, Scotland, lauren.n.smith@strath.ac.uk

The objective of is to offer three presentations describing current and planned work on IL in Scotland. This will be followed by a discussion.

*Introduction and overview: John Crawford*

The Right Information: Information Skills for a 21st century Scotland is an online community of practice which works with the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) and increasingly with other bodies to promote the development of IL in Scotland. Following a successful programme of advocacy in 2014 a cross sectoral Scotland wide conference was held in February 2015 which attracted people from a diverse range of professions who recognise the value of IL in their own sphere. An analysis of the conference identified a number of ways forward including the preparing of a policy statement on IL aimed at decision makers at government level and a mapping exercise to identify overlapping areas of interest across various professions with an interest in IL, also to a develop a strategic plan for IL partnerships. The presentation will report on the progress of these initiatives and how government is being influenced.

*Information Literacy and the Older People’s Movement: Bill Johnston*

Scotland, like many nations, is an ageing society, with the numbers of people over 50 set to grow significantly in the coming decades. This demographic raises a number of social/ political issues: future demand for and organisation of health and social care services; lifelong learning provision; sustainability of pension provisions; community engagement and contribution of older people. These issues are of clear concern to Governments and service providers. They are equally significant for older people, their families and society in general. A key unifying matter is the question of how data and information relevant to ageing is to be organised and made available to all interested parties. Of these parties it is older people themselves who are likely to be at a disadvantage, so the question of understanding and developing their information literacy is critical. Bill Johnston will outline the landscape and offer a possible model for the future based on his involvement as Chair of the Scottish Seniors Alliance and involvement with the Scottish Older People’s Assembly.

*Learning, Lending, Liberty? Can school libraries be engines for youth citizenship?: Lauren Smith*

"Learning, Lending, Liberty? Can school libraries be engines for youth citizenship?" is a research and advocacy project which will be funded by a [CILIP Information Literacy Group Research Bursary](http://www.informationliteracy.org.uk/2015/02/cilip-il-group-to-fund-two-new-research-projects/). It will run from May to October 2015 and will be undertaken by [Lauren Smith](http://www.laurensmith.wordpress.com/), a researcher at the University of Strathclyde, on behalf of the Right Information, Scotland's Community of Practice for Information Literacy. Through surveys, interviews and case studies, the research will explore how libraries can support young people’s political participation both in and outside of school, what information was provided to school pupils in the run up to the 2015 UK General Election and 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum, how school libraries supported this provision, and what sources of information outside of school young people use (including mainstream and social media). Lauren will report on the outcomes of the research project, which will include recommendations for best practice for LIS profession relating to political participation and IL provision.

*Keywords:* *Advocacy, Citizenship, Information Literacy, Policy, Political information, Scotland, Older people, Young people*