

Notes of the second meeting of the SCONUL Advisory Committee on Information Literacy, 7th February 2003.

Present: Hilary Johnson (Chair)
Janet Peters
Wendy White
Helen Hathaway
Peter Godwin
Deborah Bragan Turner
Jo Parker
Stephen Town

Also present: Kathy Ennis (CILIP)

Item 1 Apologies received from Martin Jenkins

Item 2 Notes of meeting held on 18th November 2002 were approved.

Item 3 Matters arising

Key skills work. Jo Parker reported that further work had been completed on drafting Level 1 and 2 of a Key Skills qualification in information literacy and that Chris Dillon was in contact with the QCA, which is reviewing Key Skills qualifications.

Customisable Shell. A meeting is scheduled for 28th Feb at the OU to take forward the intended pilots at Reading, Nottingham and Southampton. To report to next meeting (Action JoP)

MOSAIC. Jo Parker further reported on the second cohort of student undertaking the U120 module. 240 had submitted a portfolio, and marking is in progress. The use of the First Class conferencing system had been noticeably more active this time, perhaps due to more of the students being continuing students. A number of course teams in the OU were working on integrating parts of the 'SAFARI' system into their courses.

Secretary/Membership of ACIL. Hilary Johnson reported on discussions with SCONUL Secretary about identifying someone willing to undertake the role of Secretary. An approach was agreed. (Action HJ). The draft Terms of Reference for the Committee will be considered by the next SCONUL Executive meeting.

Big Blue. Deborah Bragan Turner reported on discussions with Malcolm Batchelor of JISC, who had been charged with following up the recommendations from the Big Blue Project. A 'glossy' publication is in hand to publicise the results. A meeting of JCALT will consider further actions. A colloquium may be held in May. (Action: DBT to keep ACIL informed).

HESDA. Hilary Johnson reported that the HESDA Skills Development Group had held a further meeting. Again the focus of activity of the group had been Basic and Generic skills development. A conference on the subject had been mooted, but no further information was available, and the projected changes to HESDA may mean that the initiative is delayed.

ACHS. Hilary Johnson reported that she and Wendy White will be attending the meeting of SCONUL ACHS on 14th February. ACHS remained interested in the further investigation of information literacy within the healthcare profession.

ILTHE. Janet Peters reported that the publication of her piece on the work of the SCONUL Task Force had been put on the ILTHE web site and had led to contacts from interested parties.

Researchers' skills development. Stephen Town reported attending a meeting on Research Libraries support to consider the RSLP report (which however had not yet been published). Sheila Webber also attended. It is important to remember that researchers are not only located within universities, and that information skills for this group could need to be considered in that wider context.

TFPL meeting on workplace skills. Stephen Town reported. It would be useful if the meeting presentations were to be published, as there had been a good contribution from an industry participant.

UNESCO forum (John Lindsay). It appeared that the meeting to consider input to the UNESCO forum had been postponed and had taken place in January. No-one from the ACIL had been able to attend. (Action: HJ to contact John Lindsay).

Item 4 CILIP and information literacy.

Kathy Ennis outlined recent developments at CILIP which related to information skills. Some of this had begun under Library Association auspices. The launch of CILIP had signalled a wider representative engagement among the whole information profession. Kathy drew attention to three documents which indicated key policy and action areas

- Libraries & Lifelong Learning
- Start with the child
- CILIP in the knowledge economy

A theme running through these is the necessity, in the context of social inclusion and the development of the knowledge economy, for information professionals to recognise the need to help clients develop the skills to manage and exploit the use of information. This meant staff in libraries and information units developing their own information literacy skills and engaging with the teaching of those skills to others. One issue encountered was the need to be able to define 'information literacy' in a way that allowed for the varied professional and other groups to be able to work together.

Discussion identified a spectrum of potential activity, from activities related to the idea of 'reader development' through to commercial concepts of knowledge management. Members of ACIL expressed interest in talking with others from other sectors about definitions and objectives of IL programmes. A possible starting point for debate could be the '7 Pillars model'. A critical issue is that of information professionals themselves 're-skilling' to be able to deliver information literacy development, and currently there were little signs of this – for example the recent ISNTO Skills Foresight exercise had not recognised this need. The review of the CILIP professional development framework might be a useful way to take this aspect of the work forward.

(Action: KE and HJ to liaise over the idea of a CILIP-sponsored seminar on information literacy to which members of ACIL could contribute).

Item 5 **'Open meetings'** called for by the SCONUL Executive. The meeting noted that this need will be met by the joint event in planning between ACIL and UCISA TLIG.

Item 6 **SCONUL Conference**, Lancaster, 2-4th April 2003.

Hilary Johnson reported on discussions with Gail Downe, Kathy Wiles (LTSN) and Sue Roberts. Kathy Wiles and Jane Core will be offering a workshop at the conference, which will have as a theme relationships with stakeholder groups. A discussion group session scheduled for the Thursday afternoon (3rd April) could be used to focus on information literacy issues, which can follow on well from the LTSN workshop. Suggestions were made as to possible speakers to contribute to the early afternoon session. (Action: HJ to pass ideas to Sue Roberts). It was noted that whilst SCONUL Conferences had in the past been aimed very much at 'Chiefs' the intention is to be more inclusive of a range of staff levels and kinds.

Item 7 **UCISA TLIG/ACIL joint event.** Planning for this had been thrown by the announcement of the Glasgow conference (the second IT and Info lit conference). However, the meeting felt that the planned meeting should go ahead – hopefully avoiding the dates of the Glasgow meeting. A focus for ACIL can be the use of VLE/MLEs for the delivery and assessment of information skills delivery and student achievement. Peter Stublely (Sheffield) and Jenny Brook (Huddersfield) were mentioned as possible contributors. A speaker from the LTSN subject centre (CTI) was also suggested. Sheffield Hallam had done work on key skills online. Workshop suggestions were ITLiteracy and the 7 Pillars model, using webboards and online conferences for info skills work, how to use technology to set and mark assessments, and the relationship between marketing using the web/VLE and information skills. The ILRT (Emma Place) may also be able to contribute. (Action: JaP to check with Martin Jenkins about date and venue, HJ to log ideas about content for further work by planning group - WW, PG HJ & MJ)

Item 8 **Glasgow conference.** The meeting discussed possible contributions. The deadline set by the call for papers is 28th February. It seemed unlikely that the ACIL could make such a large 'showing' as on the previous occasion, as lines of action (e.g. on MOSAIC) were not far advanced. (Action: all to consider options and submit papers if possible)

Item 9 **Action Plan.**

Hilary Johnson tabled a revision of the Action Plan in the light of previous discussion. Peter Godwin undertook to produce a revised text for a flyer. (Action: PG) Specific items for the next meeting's agenda were noted as the Web site plans, liaison with Sheila Webber over her AHRB research project, and the development of researchers' information skills (contact Michelle Shoebridge?). (Action: agenda/invitations – HJ) In the light of interest (stimulated by Janet Peters' ILTHE contribution) from an Art & Design academic, Janet was asked to pursue the notion that Art & Design could be a focus for a subject study of some kind. (Action: JaP to sound out through ARLIS/ Vanessa Crane) It was noted that this subject brings to the fore the related concepts of media and visual information literacy.

Item 10 **AOB**

TQEC report. The meeting noted the report, which was clearly going to have a major impact on the support for quality enhancement in learning and teaching in universities. It was felt that SCONUL should respond to it (Action: HJ)

In discussion, it was decided that it would be useful to undertake a quick and dirty survey on the SCONUL mailing list to find out the state of play of information skills/literacy within institutions' **Learning and teaching strategies**. Also the suggestion was made that SCONUL could publish as part of the series of working papers, any specific L&T strategies from academic libraries/information service units. (action: JaP)

UCISA TLIG. Janet Peters noted that the annual TLIG meeting which reviewed activity with other groups is soon to take place, and that the content of today's meeting can be relayed (and to the SCONUL Executive).

Peter Godwin asked Kathy Ennis about **CILIP's activity in training the trainers** in relation to information skills The Training and Development section is running courses for a range of professionals, and this is likely to feature in ideas about career planning and development linked to re-thinking the new professional accreditation report, which is to become a portfolio.

Date of next meeting : Wednesday 30th April

Please note that the SCONUL meeting room is not available on that date. Thanks to Helen Hathaway who will investigate the possibility of meeting at the *University of Reading* instead.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm HJJ 9/2/03

Action checklist

1. **Customisable shell.** Report outcomes of mtg 28th Feb (**JoP**)
2. **Secretary/Membership of ACIL.** HJ to approach agreed name(s).
3. **DBT** to keep ACIL informed re **Big Blue** follow-up.
4. **HJ** to contact John Lindsay re. **UNESCO forum** meeting outcomes
5. **KE and HJ** to liaise over the idea of a CILIP-sponsored seminar on information literacy
6. **SCONUL Conference** HJ to pass ideas to Sue Roberts.
7. **UCISA TLIG/ACIL joint meeting.** **JaP** to check with Martin Jenkins about date and venue, **HJ** to log ideas about content for further work by planning group (WW, PG HJ & MJ)
8. **Glasgow conference: all** to consider options and submit papers if possible
9. **Revise text** for a flyer **PG**
10. **Action Plan** agenda/invitations **HJ**
11. **JaP** to sound out subject focus idea on Art & Design through ARLIS/ Vanessa Crane
12. **TQEC** report draft response – **HJ**
13. **L&T strategies** survey and publications – **JaP**
14. **UCISA TLIG** – **JaP**
15. Next meeting **30th April** – **HH** to check for venue at Reading.

Next agenda

- Customisable shell
- Big Blue follow up
- CILIP liaison
- UCISA TLIG/ACIL joint meeting
- Web site /ACIL Flyer
- Researchers' information skills development