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# The USTLG spring meeting

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The University Science and Technology Librarians Group (USTLG) is an informal group based on the JISCmail LIS-SCITECH mailing list. We meet once or twice a year (meetings are free) and new members are always welcome. It is a good opportunity to get to know other people working in the same field and to keep up to date on innovations and activities.

The 2007 spring meeting of the USTLG was held at the Open University Library in Milton Keynes on 23 April. The theme of the meeting was 'emerging services', with five speakers discussing new or evolving services.

Terry Hulbert from the Institute of Physics Publishing gave an interesting perspective on services the IoPP offers to its readers, including moves towards a community website model – not just to establish a single, common platform but to enhance the user's experience of IoPP products, creating a seamless and intuitive transition between IoPP sites.

Anne Bell and Ruth Thornton spoke about their experiences with the UK Research Reserve (UKRR) project. UKRR is a collaborative, co-ordinated and sustainable approach to securing the long-term retention, storage and access to low-use printed research journals. Ruth discussed how this project was put into practice at Cardiff University, and offered some advice on the practicalities of the project by discussing what they would have done differently with the benefit of hindsight.

Linda Kerr from Intute gave a brief presentation outlining the changes that have been made to Intute for Science and Technology, including linked search functions and RSS feeds. She noted that one of the main aims of Intute was to work with universities to embed Intute resources into virtual learning environment sites as well as cataloguing resources and maintaining links.

Gareth Johnson from SHERPA (Securing a Hybrid Environment for Research Preservation and Access), based at Nottingham University, gave a presentation about the history and aims of SHERPA, along with the current work of the project team. Gareth gave a thorough overview of the issues surrounding repositories, including topics such as copyright; the role of the library; technical issues; policy; professional support; advocacy; and the practicalities of running such a service.

The final speaker was Clari Hunt from the Open University, who gave an overview of some of the work being done by its library to support students' skills development at a distance through a virtual learning environment. Clari showed some of the generic tools that the library has produced to help development of information skills, and how this can be integrated into courses. She finished by showing how these can all be used within the course websites (which are all Moodle sites) to develop course- or programme-specific resources for students to use.

The meeting finished up with a tour of the Open University Library's facilities. Feedback from the day was very positive, with encouragement for the next meeting to build on the sharing of experiences. If you are a science and technology librarian, and would like to host a meeting or have a topical issue to share, we would be very happy to hear from you. In any case, keep an eye on the LIS-SCITECH mailing list for details of upcoming events.