

SCONUL Focus is the journal of SCONUL, the Society of College, National and University Libraries.

SCONUL Focus aims to bring together articles, reports and news stories from practitioners in order to generate debate and promote good practice in the national libraries and the university and college sector. As well as the paper copy, the current issue of *SCONUL Focus* is also available electronically via the SCONUL website (<http://www.sconul.ac.uk>). Contributions are welcomed from colleagues in all fields and at all levels: we merely request that the items contributed are concise, informative, practical and (above all!) worth reading.

Opinions expressed in *SCONUL Focus* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SCONUL.

How are we doing?

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In this issue we have a selection of papers and reports from two conferences on important current themes: the Northumbria conference on performance measurement held in York and the SCONUL autumn conference on the university library of the future. The conference speakers and authors reflected on the changing UK higher education environment and how we can prepare for the future by identifying our strengths, working together to produce efficiencies, defining and articulating our core values and presenting our statistical and other data in ways that are meaningful to our various stakeholders. As usual we have received a number of interesting articles on current projects, including a successful initiative to provide 'more books' at Durham University Library and the making of some new library videos at City University. Two enthusiastic and expert users of Twitter provide some tips for new users and we have a bumper crop of news from member libraries.

In the editorial team we have been looking at ways to provide more information about SCONUL activities to members and we are very pleased to announce the launch of the *SCONUL Focus* blog site at <http://sconulfocus.wordpress.com>, which will help us disseminate news between print editions of the newsletter. We also have a Twitter account (@sconulfocus), which we will use to alert you to new content on the *Focus* website and forthcoming issue themes.

At the moment it feels as if we are all working extremely hard to improve our performance and prepare for a rather uncertain future. While working on the content for this issue I was inspired by the words of the great golfer Arnold Palmer, who defined performance as: 'Concentration. Confidence. Competitive urge. Capacity for enjoyment.' I hope that during this time of change we do all manage to enjoy both the process of developing our services and the rewards for all the excellent work that goes on. We will do our best to showcase successful initiatives in *Focus* and hope that you are inspired by the ideas you find here.