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## Group News

### CHAIR's REPORT for 2000/2001

#### 1. Committee and Officers

The Committee for 2000/2001 consisted of:

- Linda Banwell, University of Northumbria  
Andrew Booth, Sheffield University  
(co-opted) (joined – October 2000)  
Noeleen Cookman, David Haynes Associates  
– *Awards and Prizes Officer*  
Alan Cooper, Library Association (co-opted)  
Ros Cotton, British Library (co-opted)  
(resigned – January 2001)  
Eric Davies, LISU, Loughborough University  
(co-opted) (joined - June 2000)  
Juliet Eve, Manchester Metropolitan  
University  
Biddy Fisher, Sheffield Hallam University –  
*Treasurer and Vice-Chair*  
Pat Gannon-Leary, University of Northumbria –  
*Secretary*  
Elizabeth Hart, Staffordshire University  
Bruce Madge, British Library (co-opted)  
(resigned - September 2000)  
Steve Morgan, University of Glamorgan  
(co-opted) – *LIRN Reviews Editor*  
Clare Nankivell, University of Central England  
Judith Palmer, University of Oxford (resigned –  
January 2001)  
Philip Payne, Leeds Metropolitan University -  
*Chair*  
Carolynn Rankin – Leeds Metropolitan  
University – *Publicity and Marketing Officer*  
John Sumsion, Loughborough University –  
*LIRN Editor*  
Isobel Thompson, Resource (co-opted)  
Maurice Wakeham, Anglia Polytechnic  
University

During the course of the year, Ros Cotton, Judy Palmer, and Bruce Madge resigned from the Committee. All should be thanked for their contribution to the work of the Committee but, particularly, Ros Cotton who was Editor of Library and Information Research News (*LIRN*) for seven years. Juliet Eve of Manchester Metropolitan University joined us following last year's elections. Two new co-options joined us during the year: Andrew Booth of Sheffield

University and Eric Davies of Loughborough University.

The Committee took the view last year that we should ease the workload on the Chair by establishing the new officer role of Vice-Chair. It was also felt that this would help with future succession planning. I am delighted that Biddy Fisher has taken on this role. She has been combining this with her role of Treasurer during 2000/2001 but Juliet Eve has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Treasurer from this March.

The Committee met three times during 2000/2001: in March 2000 prior to last year's AGM and also in June 2000 and January 2001. The main concerns of the Committee have been the Group's future strategy, *LIRN*, the redesign of the LIRG web site, and the Shepherd Report. This is in addition to the regular business of planning events and overseeing the portfolio of LIRG Awards and Prizes.

#### 2. Library and Information Research News

There have been three excellent issues of Library and Information Research News (*LIRN*) over the year. *LIRN* has again included a mixture of articles, news, and reviews. Articles that appeared during the year included:

- What users actually do: a study of service seeking behaviour in an academic library (Kathryn Ray et al)
- Open University Students and Learning Project (Alison Bremner)
- The DCMS Website: an evaluation (Juliet Eve)
- Identifying the barriers to Libraries as agents of lifelong learning: a research project (Barbara Hull)
- The Future for Level 4 NVQs: a developmental approach? (Nicholas Lewis)
- An Evaluation of relevancy ranking techniques used by Internet search engines (Jonathan Back)
- Electronic theses some recent developments (Susan Copeland)
- Clearing the way: copyright clearance in UK libraries (Elizabeth Gadd)
- Research methodology applied in a review of preservation management training (Stella Thebridge)
- Awareness and use of electronic information services by academic staff (Andrew Hewitson)
- Job vacancies in library and information appointments (Margaret Chapman)



*LIRN* has also benefited from having a good range of book reviews that have been commissioned and edited by Steve Morgan, the Reviews Editor. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to *LIRN* over the year.

The Committee has been reviewing how *LIRN* can respond to an environment where it is increasingly more difficult to obtain high quality research reports for publication. This is partly a result of pressures on people's time and, partly, through authors in the academic sector wishing to place their submissions in publications that can contribute to ratings in the Research Assessment Exercise. *LIRN* faces particular difficulties in view of its relatively low circulation. However, *LIRN* can build upon the reports of research written up by winners of LIRG awards and prizes. The Committee believes that it would be worthwhile targeting those new to research to give them an opportunity of writing for publication for the first time. It also feels that there is scope for commissioning guest articles for a fee. *LIRN* might also focus more upon current awareness. Ideas that have been put forward include smaller pieces to allow people to publicise their research and reviews of relevant web sites and research resources.

The Group is indebted to John Sumsion who has edited *LIRN* for four years. John has now indicated his desire to stand down as Editor and we are now actively seeking a successor who can build upon John's sterling work. This will be an exciting opportunity to build a niche for *LIRN*. The Committee also feel that this is an appropriate time to explore making *LIRN* available electronically as well as in print form and this will be on the agenda over the coming year.

### 3. Student Prizes and Research Awards

The Committee finalised criteria for all its Awards and Prizes during the year and details of these were published in the Summer 2000 issue of *LIRN*.

The winner of the Elsevier/LIRG Research Award this year is John Cullen, Institute Librarian, Institute of Technology, Tallaght who

will be using the funding to undertake a study of the 'The Irish Market for Library and Information Work'. This is the first time that the Award has gone to someone from the Republic of Ireland. Last year's winner, Elizabeth Gadd, has written up her research on copyright clearance in the UK in libraries. This appears in the Winter 2000 issue of *LIRN*. We are indebted to Elsevier Science for their sponsorship of the Elsevier/LIRG Research Award and I would like to thank them for continued support. We continue to receive excellent applications for the Award and those who received the Award have used it to undertake high quality research work of value to the profession.

The LIRG student postgraduate prize was awarded this year to Cheryl Twomey of the University of North London for her dissertation: 'An Analysis of the Design and Quality of Patient Information Leaflets Supplied with Medicines Sold by Pharmacists in the United Kingdom'. Nominations for the undergraduate and postgraduate prizes for 2000 are still being judged.

The Group received three applications for the Daphne Clark Prize this year. The prize recognises practitioners who have undertaken an outstanding piece of research during the previous twelve months. The winners were Sally Rumsey and Jon Maslin of the University of Surrey for their research, 'Exam Papers On-line'.

I would like to congratulate all of this year's winners on behalf of the Group. I would also like to thank Noeleen Cookman who has coordinated our portfolio of awards and prizes in her role as LIRG Awards and Prizes Officer.

### 4. LIRG Web Pages and Mailbase List

Noeleen Cookman and Alan Cooper have continued their work on behalf of the Group to renew the LIRG web site. They have been working on a redesign and a review of the content. We were fortunate in being awarded a grant of £500 from the Library Association to assist with funding the work. The new LIRG web site will be going 'live' very soon, hosted



on the Library Association's web pages. LIRG will now have a web site in which we can all take pride and which will publicise the work of the Group not only in the UK but worldwide. Thanks to Noeleen and Alan for their hard work on this project.

LIS-LIRG, the JISCMail list for the Library and Information Research Group, continues to have a steady flow of messages from LIS researchers and practitioners interested in research.

### 5. Events

Planning is at an advanced stage for two seminars to be held later this year on the Effective Academic Library. The first of the seminars, to be held at Staffordshire University, will look at benchmarking. The second of the seminars, to be held at Leeds Metropolitan University, will look at the impact of libraries on learning, teaching, and research.

The Group has been actively considering how to proceed in future with the research methods course established two years ago. The Committee is keen to revise and re-run them for the benefit of the profession. However, given the high costs of running the courses and the relatively small number of participants, the Committee has been cautious about committing funding until income streams from other events can be established. The need for prudence is particularly great as a series of workshops of this kind can create significant cash flow problems for a small professional association such as LIRG.

### 6. Administration

Jo Horsfall, LIRG Administrative Officer, has continued to maintain the LIRG membership and *LIRN* subscriber databases throughout the year including sending out subscription renewals. However, as Jo has been on maternity leave for most of the year, much of the day-to-day administration has fallen on Committee members and upon my Secretary, Gill Walker. I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Jo, Gill, and members of the Committee for their work in maintaining

the day-to-day operation of the Group during the year. Jo will be going on maternity leave again later this year so we will need to maintain temporary arrangements for some time yet.

**PHILIP PAYNE, Chair,**  
Library and Information Research Group  
March 2001

### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2000

#### Presented to the AGM on March 15th 2001.

The good news for 2000 is that we have reversed the deficit balance that existed at the end of 1999. The balances of cash in hand (bank accounts) show a total of £14,786. The Capital Reserve Account can now be restored to c£6,000.

#### Expenditure

Figures this year show a large decrease in Committee expenditure. There are two explanations for this. The December meeting was cancelled, thus leading to an extra Committee meeting in 2001 and the attendance at Committee was extremely low.

The two additional undergraduate prizes are a result of catching up with payments from previous years.

#### Income

*LIRN* income rose to a three year high of £5,285. LIRG personal membership subscriptions raised only £1322, which is less of a decrease than 1998/1999, but is not a good trend.

The Library Association has made a £500 allocation to the Group, for web site development. Members will recall that capitation ceased three years ago, and that Organisations in Liaison were encouraged to submit proposals in order to release funds from the LA.

Royalties have now ceased.

The Daphne Clark memorial fund has now closed; the Group will continue to award the annual prize from other income. We enjoy the continued financial assistance from Elsevier and thank them for their support for research in the profession.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to our two auditors, Peter Preston and Susan Stott who have provided their services freely over the past four years. Jill Walker and Jo Horsfall have undertaken the administration of subscriptions and communication with members during the past year and I am very grateful for their contributions. The Chair of the group will be sending a final letter of acknowledgement to them for their assistance.

This is my last report as LIRG's Honorary Treasurer and I pass a healthy set of accounts over to Juliet Eve who has agreed to manage the LIRG finances from now on. May I also take an opportunity to thank John Tarrant who designed the current LIRG account spreadsheet and has patiently worked through the accounts with me each year. He too will miss Nankivell, Sumsion, Gannon-Leary, and co.

**BIDDY FISHER**

Hon Treasurer, The Library and Information  
Research Group

January 2001

**Library and Information Research Group****Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2000****Income and Expenditure Account**

	1998	1999	2000
	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Personal subscriptions	1,881	1,443	1,322
LIRN subscriptions	3,360	1,878	5,286
Meetings	70	0	0
Royalties	37	0	0
Daphne Clark award	250	250	409
Elsevier award	1,000	1,000	1,000
Res Mds Course fees	na	10,760	0
BL/LA grant	na	6,594	1,034
Interest - Capital Reserve	434	91	0
Miscellaneous	0	100	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,031</b>	<b>22,116</b>	<b>9,050</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Committee expenses	1,385	996	636
Publicity	596	0	0
Meetings	795	144	352
LIRN	1,379	2,412	1,651
Account charges	0	(3)	0
Administration	2,186	815	208
Res Mds Course payments	0	19,192	0
Daphne Clark award	250	250	500
Elsevier award	1,000	1,000	1,000
Student award	250	500	750
Miscellaneous	0	36	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>25,343</b>	<b>5,097</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(809)</b>	<b>(3,227)</b>	<b>3,954</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
Reserve Ac. balance 31Dec1999			55
Current Ac. balance 31Dec1999			10,778
Add surplus/(deficit) for the year			3,954
Income not credited in 2000			
Expenditure not debited in 2000			0
Balance at 31 December 2000			14,787
<b>Reconciliation with Bank Account 1Jan 2001</b>			
Current Account			14,731
Capital Reserve Account			55
			14,787

We the undersigned certify that we have audited these accounts and that they are a true and accurate record of the information supplied to us.

**Signed:****Name:**

P Preston ACIB

**Date****Signed:****Name:**

S Stott FCA ATII FPC

**Date:**



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LIBRARY & INFORMATION RESEARCH GROUP, THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2001.

Held at Bloomsbury Theatre Building, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1

The LIRG Chair, Philip Payne, opened the LIRG AGM2001 by welcoming those attending the meeting and the LIRG annual lecture.

**1. Apologies** Apologies were received from Pat Gannon-Leary, John Sumsion, Maurice Wakeham, Peter Brophy

**2. Minutes of the previous AGM 2000** The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a true record. (Proposed by Noeleen Cookman, Seconded by Bidy Fisher.)

**3. Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

**4. Committee Membership** Six nominations had been received for this year's LIRG committee. There were six members of the LIRG committee who had completed their term of office, but who were eligible to seek re-election. Linda Banwell did not seek re-election and there was a further vacancy as a result of the resignation of Judy Palmer. An election was therefore not required. The six nominations received were for:

Noeleen Cookman  
Eric Davies  
Pat Gannon-Leary  
Elizabeth Hart  
Philip Payne  
John Sumsion

There are some changes in the committee officers. Bidy Fisher is relinquishing the role of Treasurer to Juliet Eve. The Chair offered thanks to Bidy Fisher for all her hard work as Treasurer. Elizabeth Gadd from Loughborough University is to be the new editor of *LIRN*. Thanks were expressed to John Sumsion for his considerable work as *LIRN* editor. A full list of the Committee membership is available in the Chair's report 2000/2001

**5. Chair's report** Philip Payne presented the Chair's report for 2000/2001. A full account is published in this edition of *LIRN*. There were no questions on the Chair's report.

**6. Treasurer's report** Bidy Fisher pointed out the increase in institutional subscriptions. It was thought this was related to the quality of *LIRN* and the effectiveness of administrative support offered by Jo Horsfall. The last *LIRN* (January 2000) does not appear in this year's accounts. Bidy reported that she would be handing over the responsibility as Treasurer to Julie Eve. The auditors were formally thanked for offering their services on a voluntary basis. A new set of auditors would be appointed.

**7. LIRG's relationship with the new professional body** The LIRG Chair Philip Payne presented a paper on 'The Future for LIRG' [*reproduced overleaf - Ed.*]. He outlined two options available. Option One would be to remain unchanged as an independent association and to retain existing status as an Organisation in Liaison (OIL). Option Two would be to become a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the new professional body. The recommendation from the LIRG committee was that **in principle** LIRG should become a SIG.

Feedback was invited from those present at the meeting, and a formal proposal sought as to the best way forward for LIRG. A number of issues were raised regarding the continuing involvement of researchers who were not from mainstream LIS and therefore non-members of the parent body. The position of overseas members was also raised as an issue. If LIRG is to become a SIG the Committee believe this should be as soon as possible after the inauguration of the new professional body in 2002. This may require an EGM later in the year, or alternatively, could be considered at the AGM in March 2002.

The meeting endorsed the proposal which was proposed by Eric Davies and seconded by Sacha Shaw. The LIRG membership will be consulted about issues of concern.

**8. Any other business** There was no further business.





Daphne Clarke Prizewinners – Sally Rumsey & Jon Maslin of Surrey University Library receive their Award from Philip Payne.



Philip Payne (LIRG Chair) presents Postgraduate prize to Cheryl Twomey of the University of North London.



Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, in conversation with Geoff Smith.



Noeleen Cookman, LIRG Annual prizes officer, with Dominic Vaughan, Managing Director, Elsevier Science, London.



Some of the gathering at LIRG Annual Meeting and Lecture 2001.



Alan Cooper (coopted committee member from the Library Association) and Carolynn Rankin (LIRG Publicity Officer).