

Group News:AGM

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 1997/8

1. Committee and Officers

The membership of the LIRG Committee evolved over the year with two new members being elected in March 1997, Penny Garrod and Maurice Wakeham, and two others being co-opted : Steve Morgan in June as LIRN Reviews Editor and Carolynn Rankin in December as Publicity/Marketing Officer. Roz Cooper, who had been co-opted in March 1997, stood down from the Committee for personal reasons during the year. I would like to thank Roz for her work in maintaining the LIRG membership database whilst Membership Secretary and her contribution to the work of the Committee over the years.

The Committee during 1997/8 consisted of :
Alan Cooper, Library Association (co-opted LA Observer)

Roz Cooper, University of Northumbria (co-opted - resigned 1997)

Ros Cotton, British Library (Associate Editor, LIRN)

Eric Davies, Loughbough University

Biddy Fisher, Sheffield Hallam University (Treasurer)

Penny Garrod, University of Plymouth

Deborah Goodall, University of Northumbria

Elizabeth Hart, Huddersfield University (Secretary)

Victoria Manglano, City University

Steve Morgan, University of the West of England (LIRN Reviews Editor) (co-opted June 1997)

Clare Nankivell, University of Central England

Philip Payne, Leeds Metropolitan University (Chair)

Carolynn Rankin, Leeds Metropolitan University (Publicity/Marketing Officer) (co-opted December 1997)

John Sumsion, Loughborough University (LIRN Editor)

Peter Taylor, Taylor Graham (co-opted)

Isobel Thompson, British Library Research & Innovation Centre (co-opted BL Observer)

Maurice Wakeham, Anglia Polytechnic University

Dorothy Williams, Robert Gordon University (LIRN Associate Editor)

Several members of the Committee will be standing down this year: Eric Davies, Deborah

Goodall, and Victoria Manglano. We will miss their contributions to the work of the Committee. I would like to express the gratitude of the Group to all of them but particular thanks go to Deborah who was Secretary of the Group until 1995/6 and who was the driving force behind the relaunch of the Daphne Clark Prize.

The Committee met four times during the year (March, May, September, and December). Much of the detailed work of the Committee, however, takes place in the Working Groups: Events, Mentoring, LIRN, and Publicity/Marketing and through e-mail, telephone, and post. I am sure that LIRG members will want to join me in thanking all of the Committee for their dedication and hard work over the year.

2. Library & Information Research News

There have been major changes in responsibilities for producing LIRN and the transition has led to some delays in producing this year's issues. Ros Cotton, who had edited the publication for 7 years, handed over to John Sumsion. Ros produced her last issue (number 68) during the course of the year but we are delighted that she has agreed to continue to assist in the production of LIRN as an Associate Editor. John's first issue (number 70) is currently at the printers and will be distributed shortly. Issue no. 69 is a special issue, edited by Sacha Shaw and Philip Payne, consisting of papers presented at the LIRG E-lib seminar at Libtech '97 last September and will appear within the next couple of months.

Articles which have appeared or about to appear include:

Public library research methods (Deborah Goodall)

Gateway Yorkshire - an evaluation of a tourist information service (Jane Sheehan)

Electronic peer review (Dee Wood)

Exploring the effects of learning style on the use of an Electronic Library System (Joanna Worth and Christine Fidler)

The Stakeholder approach to the construction of performance measures (John Crawford)

Academic researchers' use of the Internet, and their consequent support requirements (Neil Jacobs)

IT in public libraries : seeking out the user's perspective (Colette Coles)

LIRN has included its usual mix of news and books reviews as well as articles. A special note of thanks goes to Eric Davies who stood down this year as LIRN Reviews Editor but not before finding an able replacement in Steve Morgan of the University of the West of England.

The new team involved in producing LIRN : John Sumsion, the two Associate Editors, Ros Cotton and Dorothy Williams, and the new Reviews Editor, Steve Morgan, welcome contributions from members and offers to review books. They will be introducing changes to the design, layout, and content of LIRN. You will notice the changes which will improve the appearance, readability, and reposition LIRN towards being more orientated towards news and views. The team would like to receive your comments on the changes as they appear.

A service level agreement for preparing artwork, printing, and distributing LIRN was signed with the British Library Print & Copy Unit during the year. This spells out respective responsibilities, timescales, and quality of production.

3. Student Prizes and Research Awards

The 1996 student prizes were awarded to Meral Seyfried of Thames Valley University (undergraduate) and Hazel Rothera of the University of Central England (postgraduate). Meral's success, with her dissertation on the information environment at the architectural practice of Dawes and Geddes, was the third time in the five year history of the LIRG student prizes that a student from Thames Valley University has won the undergraduate prize. Hazel won the postgraduate prize for her dissertation, *A subject indexing model for electronic databases in the humanities* against stiff competition. Seven entries were received and four were considered by the judges to be of the appropriate standard to be considered for the prize. Three dissertations were highly commended: Hyowon Lee (Robert Gordon University), *The Use of Microsoft Access for image database construction and use*; Anthony Simmonds (Loughborough University), *Convergence of academic libraries and computer services: operational and corporate outcomes*; Clare Woodcock (Sheffield University),

The Future of special collections in academic research libraries.

We are delighted that the student prizes attract so much interest and we are grateful for the support of Departments of Library and Information Studies in nominating dissertations for the prizes. Attempts to find a commercial sponsor for the prizes have not yet been fruitful. Judging is currently being undertaken of the eight entries for the 1997 LIRG Undergraduate Prize and the entries for the 1997 LIRG Postgraduate Prize have just been received.

The Elsevier Science/LIRG Research Award for 1997 has been won by Susan Copeland of Robert Gordon University to undertake a study of the production, management, access, and use of electronic theses. Susan will use the funding of £1000 to look at the transferability of development work being undertaken in the United States to the provision of on-line access to British theses. The increasing publicity for the Award, including an extensive piece in *Program* about the research funded under the 1997 award, has led to considerable number of enquiries from potential applicants. I would like to thank Elsevier Science for their continuing support for the Elsevier/LIRG Research Award.

A new LIRG prize for high quality practitioner based research was presented for the first time at Libtech '97 at the University of Hertfordshire. The prize was awarded to Neil Jacobs of Sussex University Library for a study of the use of Internet resources by researchers at the University. The Daphne Clark Prize will be awarded annually for a piece of 'in-house' research which is judged to have made a useful and timely contribution. The presentation of the prize at Libtech '97 was particularly appropriate as Daphne Clark was formerly a member of the library's senior management team at Hatfield Polytechnic (which is now the University of Hertfordshire). Daphne was a founder member of the Library and Information Research Group and Chair of the Group at the time of her death in 1983. The Prize is worth £250 and entries are judged by a panel made up of members of the Library and Information Research Group. The

judging panel are looking for evidence of successful innovation based upon sound and transferable research methods. The Prize is intended to encourage the use of sound methodologies in practitioner based library and information research and to encourage wider dissemination of small studies conducted by practitioners. The presentation was widely reported in the professional press with photographs appearing in both *Inform* and the *Library Association Record*.

4. LIRG Mailbase List & Web Pages
LIS-LIRG, the Mailbase list for the Library & Information Research Group, has proved to be very popular with both members and non-members. There are now over 100 members of the list with the membership drawn from the Government and commercial sectors as well as from academic institutions. The Mailbase list is proving to be useful to disseminate news, share information, and seek contacts.

I am pleased to report that the LIRG's Web Pages went live during the course of the year. We are very grateful to Kay Flatten of the University of Central England for her work in pursuing this project. We have Kay to thank for identifying the Group's requirements, designing pages, and preparing them for the web site. The pages are hosted on the Library Association's Web site at <http://www.la-hq.org.uk/lirg.htm>. We are grateful to the Library Association for hosting our pages on their site and, in particular, to Alan Cooper, the LA's Observer on the LIRG Committee, for ensuring smooth liaison over the mounting of the pages. The development and updating of the LIRG pages will now be the responsibility of the new Publicity/Marketing Officer, assisted by the LIRG Administrative Officer, with continuing help from Alan.

5. Events

E-lib. A one day seminar, *E-lib: the Electronic Libraries Programme and its contribution to information research*, was held as part of Libtech International at the University of Hertfordshire on 10th. September 1997. Speakers included John Kelleher (Tavistock Institute), Andrew Green (University of Wales Swansea), Graham Walton

& Catherine Edwards (IMPEL2 Project, University of Northumbria), and Professor Charles Oppenheim (De Montfort University). Workshops were led by Eric Davies (Loughborough University) and Linda Newall (University of Central England). There were 28 participants drawn from all over the world. I would like to thank all those who contributed to a very successful event and, especially Sacha Shaw, who co-organised the seminar.

Focus groups & diaries. This seminar was originally planned for February 1998 but unfortunately the arrangements had to be temporarily cancelled due to the personal circumstances of one of the primary speakers. It is hoped that this seminar can be re-arranged for mid-June and initial agreement has been made with all but one of those due to speak or facilitate this event.

Research methods courses. A considerable amount of time and effort has been invested in the careful planning of a series of one day courses on research methods. The Events Group (led by Liz Hart of Huddersfield University with the support of myself, John Sumsion, and Bidy Fisher) has endeavoured to ensure that the series is comprehensive, delivered to a high standard, and flexibly designed to allow attendance at all or only some of the proposed days. We are also seeking to put in place a programme which can be readily repeated, can be offered throughout the UK, which is affordable for participants, and which is financially viable. Discussions have been held with a leading firm of consultants about the production of workshop materials and the delivery of a series of five one day workshops. Although it is proposed to draw upon the services of a firm of consultants, the production and delivery of any workshop would be under the direct supervision and guidance of the Events Group. The research methods courses will represent a considerable investment for LIRG and great attention has been paid to the costing of these events in order to ensure that they break even on initial delivery and then subsequently become profitable. It is anticipated that the programme of courses will be offered from later this year.

6. Collaboration with other organisations

The Committee continues to benefit from having nominees from the Library Association (Alan Cooper) and the British Library Research and Innovation Centre (Isobel Thompson) as co-opted members. Both have continued to make a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee and I would like to thank them and their sponsoring organisations for their support.

We welcomed Maggie Ashcroft (Library & Information Commission) to the Committee meeting in May to talk to us about the formulation of the Commission's research strategy. Barbara Buckley (British Library Research & Innovation Centre) joined us for the December meeting to discuss with the Committee a draft of the BLRIC's Value and Impact Call. LIRG submitted a response in December to the Library and Information Commission's consultative document on its research strategy, *Proposals: a strategy for action*. A draft response appeared on LIS-LIRG and I would like to thank those members who sent in comments. LIRG was also consulted by the Tavistock Institute in connection with work, commissioned by the British Library Research and Innovation Centre (BLRIC), looking at the impact of research funded by BLRIC. May Pettigrew of the Tavistock Institute visited Leeds and talked to myself, Bidy Fisher, and Liz Hart.

7. Administration

And finally...

I would like to offer warm thanks on behalf of the Committee and the Group to Jo Glover, the LIRG Administrative Officer. Jo works four hours per week on behalf of the Group on various activities including maintenance of membership and subscriber lists, collation and proof reading of material for LIRN, preparation of papers and correspondence, administrative work, and liaison. Many thanks, Jo, for your hard work on behalf of the Group and for the friendly and approachable way in which you have supported me and other members of the Committee.

Philip Payne
Chair
Library and Information Research Group
March 1998

Hon. Treasurer's Report 1997

Last year at this time I commented that 1997 promised more activity. To some extent that has been true as the Libtech seminar in September certainly drew a good audience and created a ripple in the accounts. Other projects however are pending as we enter 1998 and the financial provision made for them remains on the current account. Also the impact of only one edition of LIRG produced during the year has provided a false sense of well-being on the current account and I would prefer to be slightly less in credit than we are.

In September the committee agreed on a generally applicable mileage rate of 27pence and a requirement to agree the use of personal transport with the Chair, Secretary or Treasurer in advance. The committee agreed in September, to increase the personal membership rate to £20 but to retain the current rates for Institutional and the Student subscriptions from January 1998.

Membership We retained 94 personal members, of which 14 students, and 104 Institutional members (figures as at December 1997). I am a little concerned about some organisations paying the personal subscription and Jo Glover and I will be investigating the incidence of these in the near future.

Committee costs Expenses for committee and other meetings was £2,005 and £1,121 respectively. The Committee attempt to keep expenses as low as possible, more London based members would help as those of us forced to use GNER make a considerable inroad into the expense account, but employers continue to be generous in their support of LIRG committee members.

Events The LibTech seminar grossed £1255 of which £640 was profit. 28 attendees including speakers.

Account news The Committee agreed that the Hon. Treasurer should open a 'Treasurer's account with the Halifax Building Society and the previous deposit account for the Daphne Clarke

Award was transferred to it. (Current balance £85). The interest rate promises to be more competitive than the standard deposit account. Philip and Bidy had a challenging time between Leeds and Sheffield Branches proving identity, perhaps providing the Halifax with the challenge of recognising that organisations do not always have officers in the same town or County.

Thanks As ever I am thankful for Jo Glover's hard work, and would like to bring members attention to the consistently cheerful way in which she manages the membership database as well as the other organisational administration. We are fortunate to have her. My thanks also to Philip and Liz on committee matters.

Biddie Fisher
Hon. Treasurer LIRG

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18 March 1998
The British Library Research & Innovation
Centre, 2 Sheraton Street, London

The AGM started at 4.00pm

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Hart, Bidy Fisher, Jo Glover, Maurice Wakeham, Eric Davis, Penny Garrod, Deborah Goodall

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Committee Membership

Three members were standing down from the committee - Victoria Manglano, Eric Davies and Deborah Goodall were thanked for their hard work

5. Chair's Report 1997

The full report will appear in LIRN.

6. Treasurer's Report 1997

In the absence of Bidy Fisher the Treasurer's report was presented by the Chair. The LIRG Accounts were approved by the meeting. The continuation of Susan Stott and Peter Preston as auditors were approved by the meeting. There were no questions.

7. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked Isobel Thompson for arranging the venue and catering arrangements for the meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 4.15pm

Library and Information Research Group				
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1997				
		1995	1996	1997
		£	£	£
Income				
	Personal subscriptions	1453.02	825.50	923.00
	LIRN subscriptions	3496.85	3587.00	4406.00
	Meetings	3500.00	0.00	1310.00
	LA grant	90.00	0.00	n.a.
	Royalties	122.29	22.60	0.00
	Daphne Clark award	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Elsevier award	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
	Interest - Capital Reserve	363.90	375.28	410.71
	Miscellaneous	268.99	0.00	2500.00
		9295.05	5810.38	10549.71
Expenditure				
	Committee expenses	2489.72	1388.36	2005.17
	Publicity	64.63	0	0
	Meetings	706.81	204.97	1121.67
	LIRN	982.35	264.68	539.3
	Account charges	0.00	0	0
	Administration	160.66	2230.89	1815.27
	Daphne Clark award	0.00	0	0
	Elsevier award	0.00	1000	1000
	Student award	500.00	0	750
	Miscellaneous	225.06	0	125.75
		5129.23	5088.90	7357.16
Surplus/Deficit				
		4165.82	721.48	3192.55
Reserve Account				
	Closing balance per 1996 accounts			14142.36
	Add surplus for the year			3192.55
	Transfer from capital reserve			-2500.00
				14834.91
	Income not credited in 1997			0.00
	Expenditure not debited in 1997			0.00
				0.00
	Balance as at 31 December 1997			14834.91
Reconciliation with Bank Account				
	Current Account			4305.14
	Capital Reserve Account			10529.77
				14834.91

Annual Lecture

The LIRG Annual Lecture was delivered by **PAT MANSON** who, since 1989, has been Project Officer at the European Commission DGX111/E-4 (Electronic Publishing & Libraries). Her subject was "**THE EUROPEAN UNION AND LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESEARCH**". She gave a detailed resume of the context of EU research, how it is structured and its characteristics. This was a particularly opportune time as the Research Programme for the next five years was now being defined.

The **scope** for DG XIII covers research into Libraries, Information Engineering (electronic publishing) and Language Engineering - as well as programmes 'INFO 2000' and the Multilingual Information Society. The research programme is large scale and generic. The current volume of activities shows over 100 projects and support actions underway, with 300 organisations already active in projects and a further 100 due to come on stream. There is a political dimension in that all research projects have to be in line with EU policies, and member states are represented on management committees.

Research features Value had to be added at European level. The long term objective is to modernise library services in Europe. That includes changes to secure the effective use of new developments, expansion onto the Internet, etc. Their library research is technical, not theoretical. Projects had to be international and collaborative - now rapidly expanding to countries on the European 'fringe'. Costs were shared - typically 50 per cent. Implementation was mainly through Calls for Proposals - with emphasis bottom up rather than top down. There are current attempts to introduce more flexibility.

Preparing the research agenda for the **5th Framework Programme (FP5)** began in 1996 with a series of brainstorming meetings organised with library sector interests to look at

- political imperatives
- challenges - content focus, content growth, etc.

- technical dimensions
- continuity - to build on existing work and alliances

There was some commonality with museums and archives.

The main issues to emerge were:

- managing change and transition - digital and virtual
- the importance of the physical place, a building people could come to
- the future availability of information produced in electronic/digital form
- organisational skills and infrastructure
- equality of access
- locality vs. globality (maintaining local cultural identities)
- copyright and rights management

Technical issues to emerge were:

- infrastructure stability in a time of rapid change
- scaling up problems (and economics)
- safeguarding the long-term availability of information
- Standards: rate of change and convergence

These issues informed the thinking for FP5 of which details are available on the web site.

The programme has been simplified for this call with four thematic programmes:

- Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme
- Multimedia content and tools
- Digital Heritage & cultural content - involving libraries, museums and archives
- Information access, filtering, analysis and handling

For all this Education and Training was a vital dimension.

The first call for proposals is expected in December 1998. Meantime agreement had to be negotiated with the European Parliament. This time round Library Research will be competing

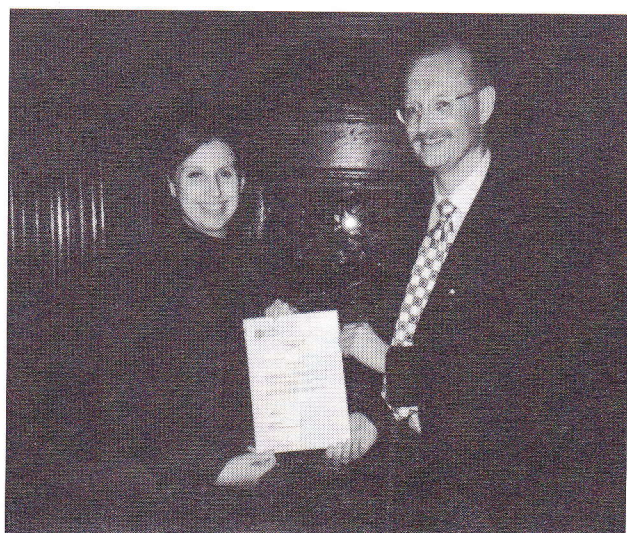
with other cultural organisations and with technological interests. All interested parties should check the Telematics for Libraries Programme web site
<http://www.echo.lu/libraries/en/libraries.html>.

Comments and questions: Peter Brophy was disappointed to find emphasis still on technology rather than on *information uses*. PM said the programme's sub-title was "creating a user friendly society" which might provide opportunities to work in user themes.

Finding partners? National focal points in each country were already looking at links - which included links with museums and archives. Ros Johnson said the Library and Information Commission were already aware of the need to link with museums and archives.

Sandra Ward: organising knowledge and access is not always an easy *message* to pass over to non-librarians. This should however become inherent in developing lines of research even if not explicit.

The Chair (Philip Payne) expressed the Group's appreciation to Pat Manson for her interesting, topical and stimulating talk.



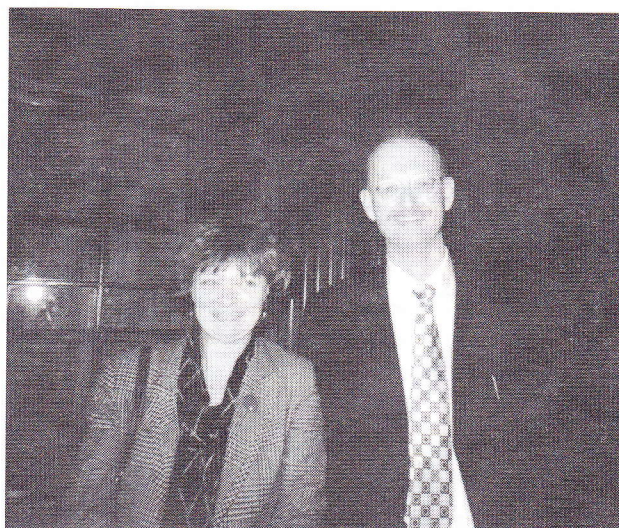
Meral Seyfried from Thames Valley University receiving the LIRG Undergraduate Student Prize 1997 from Philip Payne, Chair of LIRG.



Michael Mabe from Elsevier presenting Susan Copeland from The Robert Gordon University with the Elsevier/LIRG Research Award for 1997



Margaret Haines, Chief Executive of the Library and Information Commission and Professor Peter Brophy, Chair in Information Management, Manchester Metropolitan University at the LIRG Annual Lecture and AGM 1998



Pat Manson, Project Officer at the European Commission GDGXIII/E-4 (Electronic Publishing and Libraries) and Philip Payne, Chair of LIRG. Pat Manson gave the LIRG Annual Lecture 1998.