
Breakout session one: notes from the Library and Information Research Group speakers

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Miggie Pickton is a relative latecomer to librarianship, having spent most of her working life as an analyst/programmer in the much less interesting field of software development. Miggie graduated from Loughborough University in 2005 and is now Academic Librarian, Information Services (a combined subject librarian and 'e-person') at the University of Northampton, a post she describes as her ideal job. She spends most of her time supporting students and coordinating e-learning projects. Miggie's research interests include institutional repositories (the subject of her Master's dissertation) and the use of electronic resources. She is currently involved in a research project to investigate library users' perceptions and use of e-books. Miggie is a member of the Editorial team that is responsible for *Library and Information Research*, the journal of the Library and Information Research Group.

Notes

As a newly qualified academic librarian, my task is to provide the best possible service to my users. In order to do this I need:

- reassurance that the service I am providing is effective and useful – I must demonstrate the value that I can add as an information professional
- new knowledge, tools and skills to help me improve my service and enhance its credibility among users
- high quality, accessible materials and resources to support my users' information needs

If the LIS research agenda is to meet my needs it should therefore be focused on a greater understanding of three areas:

- the tools, methods and techniques necessary for evaluating and improving service performance (especially in user education) e.g. peer support, cross-sector collaboration; shared good practice.
- ongoing development of new and existing technologies, effective dissemination of these to practitioners, and appropriate training and education to support them. e.g. practical and useful applications of Web 2.0 technologies (not just 'new toys') – demonstrated and shared among the LIS community.
- continuing commitment to the long term provision of quality assessed, open access digital resources. e.g. development of technically standardised and interoperable digital resources; new models for the protection of IPR in the digital environment

As a practitioner researcher I can offer:

- advanced information skills
- research skills
- access to information users
- a 'test-bed' for new research and development
- access to a network of information professionals

The future for LIS research lies in collaboration between colleagues in all library sectors (academic, public, corporate and special) and between practitioners and members of the academic community.