

LIRG News

DAHPNE CLARK PRIZE 1996

The Library & Information Research Group (LIRG) is pleased to announce that it has launched a new prize for excellence in practitioner based library and information research. Applications are invited for the Daphne Clark Prize which is for research by practitioners which has made a useful and timely contribution to research in its field. The Prize is named after Daphne Clark, a founder member of LIRG and Chair of the Group when she died in 1983, who actively promoted excellence in library and information research through her own work.

The Prize is worth £250 and entries will be judged each year by a panel made up of members of the Library and Information Research Group. The judging panel will be 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.

Entries are acceptable from any individuals or staff teams who have conducted practitioner based research. Candidates can also be nominated by their employer. Entries should consist of a short summary (2000-5000 words) of the research activity, method, and outcomes. Any sort of research project can be nominated but externally funded projects are not eligible. The research must have been completed within the last two years. Applications should include the name of the candidate(s), a contact address, and a brief CV. Candidates must also be prepared to provide further evidence of the work undertaken (eg working papers, reports, committee papers etc) if required.

Prizewinners are required to submit a short report describing their research within three months of receiving the Prize. This will be published in the Group's journal, *Library & Information Research News* or publicised as considered appropriate by the judging panel. If the research findings have been previously published, then the report submitted for *Library and Information Research News* must demonstrate originality.

The closing date for applications is February 14th. 1997 and it is expected that the prizewinner will be announced at the Group's AGM in March. Applications should be sent to Philip Payne, Chair, Library & Information Research Group, Leeds Metropolitan University, Room C717, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3HE (telephone 0113 283 5966, fax 0113 283 3145, email P.Payne@LMU.AC.UK)

LIRG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 20th March 1996, Birkbeck College, London.

The AGM started at 4.04pm

1. Apologies

Malcolm Smith, Monica Blake, Eric Davies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Committee membership

Standing down as full members: Kay Flatten, Harry East, Tony Oulton.

Standing down as co-opted member: Sacha Shaw

New full members: Victoria Manglano, Biddy Fisher, Clare Nankivell, Dorothy Williams.

New observer: Isobel Thompson (British Library)

Change from full membership to co-option: Roz Cooper

Resigned during 1995/6: Ian Rowlands

Standing down from officer posts at the AGM: Christine Abbott, Deborah Goodall

New holders of officer posts following the AGM : Liz Hart (Secretary), Biddy Fisher (Treasurer)

As Jo Glover, LIRG's Administrative Officer, will be taking responsibility for the LIRG membership database the post of Personal Membership secretary, previously held by Roz Cooper, will no longer be required.

Committee members who were leaving the Committee or relinquishing posts were thanked by the Chair for their hard work for the group.

Tony Oulton noted that it was pleasing to see that people were wanting to join the Committee and were willing to take on duties.

5. Chair's Report

The following corrections were noted: in section 1 Ros Cotton's name had been omitted in the 1995/6 Committee list, in section 4 there had been six, not eight, nominations for the Student Prize.

Philip Payne expressed his thanks to Sacha Shaw for enabling a smooth transition between one chairperson and another, and to the Committee for their efforts in developing the Future Strategy.

There were no objections to the setting up of four Working Groups (LIRN, Mentoring, WWW and Events). LIRG members were encouraged to get involved with or make their views known to the Working Groups.

There were no questions.

6. Treasurer's Report
Attached.

Christine Abbott noted that the accounts reflected a lower level of activity in 1995 compared to previous years. However the accounts were healthy which allowed some flexibility in establishing the work towards the Future Strategy. Despite the surplus it would be necessary to look for alternative sources of income as overall income from subscriptions was declining.

There were no questions.

7. AOB
None.

The meeting closed at 4.16pm

**The AGM was followed by an opportunity for
LIRG Members to comment upon the future strategy:**

Tony Oulton expressed concern with the emphasis on information and asked the Committee to consider what the unique selling point of LIRG is - he felt it was not to do with information in the broadest sense but rather with information handling/storage and that this tended to take place in libraries.

David Haynes noted that he missed the south-east evening meetings and would like to see them starting up again. He also felt this was a way of attracting new members.

Tony Oulton noted the networking value of regional meetings and felt that one of the activities where LIRG had a role was in trying to get the different research communities to work together. One way of doing this was by linking with other organisations for courses etc.

John Allred noted how he had used LIRG and LIRN to keep up-to-date with research and would like to see the group do more about how research is done rather than simply disseminating results.

David Haynes asked if it would be possible to have a mailing list set up so that LIRG members could communicate between themselves.

Dorothy Williams queried the profile of LIRG amongst graduates.

Nigel Macartney stressed the British Library's support for LIRG and offered to carry a flyer for the Group in the Research Bulletin as this would help it reach a wider audience.

Tony Oulton felt that many practitioners do not see research as being relevant and asked was this a British phenomenon. He felt there was a role for LIRG to disseminate the research ethos.

John Allred felt that it was still necessary to persuade practitioners of the value of research and to think about methods already being employed and if they could be improved.

Christine Abbott felt that a primary aim of the group should be on improving methodology and that there should be a focus on training for new researchers. Perhaps it was also necessary to target lecturers in library schools. Many students are part-time now and want to take a practical approach to their work and this requires use of different methods.

Tony Oulton noted that the Research Assessment Exercises had given a different orientation to research in some library schools.

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 1995/6

1. Committee and Officers

This is my first year as Chair of the Library and Information Research Group. I would like to thank the Committee for their support in helping me to get to grips with the duties and responsibilities of the post. I would particularly like to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Sacha Shaw, who has provided me with much help and guidance and facilitated a very smooth transition.

The committee for 1995/6 consisted of:

Christine Abbott, University of Birmingham (Treasurer)
Hazel Clarke, University of North London
Ros Cotton, Library and Information Commission (LIRN Editor - co-opted)
Roz Cooper, University of Northumbria at Newcastle (Personal Membership)
Eric Davies, Loughborough University (LIRN Reviews Editor)
Harry East, City University
Kay Flatten, University of Central England
Deborah Goodall, University of Northumbria at Newcastle (Secretary)
Elizabeth Hart, Huddersfield University
Tony Oulton, Manchester Metropolitan University
Philip Payne, Leeds Metropolitan University (Chair)
Stephen Richard, Glasgow University (Publicity Officer)
Ian Rowlands, City University
Sacha Shaw, Goldsmiths College (co-opted)
John Sumsion, LISU, Loughborough University
Peter Taylor, Taylor Graham (co-opted)

Ian Rowlands resigned from the Committee during the course of the year. The Committee had four meetings during the year (July, September, December, and March). The Committee also met in Shrewsbury for two days in November to discuss future strategy for the Group.

The Group is dependent upon those who are willing to become actively involved. We have a committed and highly motivated Committee who work strenuously on behalf of the Group. I am sure that the membership as a whole would wish to join me in thanking them for their considerable efforts on behalf of the Group.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to several long serving Committee members who will be leaving the Committee this year: Harry East, Kay Flatten, Tony Oulton, and Sacha Shaw. Their contributions to the Committee's discussions will be missed but I hope that they will all continue to be actively involved in the Group in other capacities. Special thanks to Harry, Kay, Tony, and Sacha for their efforts on behalf of the Group over the years.

All of the officers of the Group, other than the Editor and Reviews Editor of Library and Information Research News, have changed over the year. Stephen Richard took over as Publicity Officer when I became Chair after last year's AGM. Deborah Goodall and Christine Abbott have decided to stand down this year as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. On behalf of the Group, I would like to thank Deborah and Christine for their hard work as Officers of the Group over the years. I'm very pleased that both will be continuing on the Committee which will facilitate a smooth handover of responsibilities to their successors. Roz Cooper will be giving up her responsibilities for personal membership as the maintenance of the LIRG membership database will be subsumed in the work of the new LIRG Administrative Officer, Jo Glover. Maintenance of the database, subscription renewals, and dealing with membership enquiries are laborious tasks and I would like to thank Roz for her work on them over the years.

We have appointed Jo Glover of Leeds Metropolitan University to work 4 hours each week as LIRG Administrative Officer to give much needed administrative support to the Group.

2. **Future strategy**

The Committee embarked on a review of the Group's mission, membership, activities, and organisation. LIRG was founded in 1977 and, twenty years on, it remains active in its central mission of bringing together those with an interest in library and information research and its application. Its high profile within the LIS community has been primarily achieved through the publication of Library and Information Research News, its meetings and conferences, its publications, and its range of awards and prizes. The liveliness of the Group, despite its small membership, is a tribute to the efforts of a succession of people who have participated actively in it over the years.

A discussion paper was prepared by myself and both circulated to personal members of LIRG and reproduced in Library and Information Research News No. 64. Many thanks to those members who responded to the discussion paper. Each reply has been considered by the Committee and each has informed our thinking in working upon the future strategy for the Group. We hope that all the responses will be reproduced in Library and Information Research News.

The Committee spent a weekend in November thoroughly considering our current position, developing a plan of what we feel the Group should become, and began putting in place the building blocks for future development and growth. A summary of our proposed future strategy has been distributed to personal members and we are actively encouraging members to comment upon it.

The main focus of the strategy is to build up the personal membership of the Group, seek greater involvement by members in the Group's activities, and raise the profile of LIRG within the LIS community. We hope to achieve this through enhancing the content and presentation of *Library and Information Research News*, through facilitating improved networking between members, offering mentoring and support to new researchers, offering research training, organising regional and national meetings, and developing the present package of LIRG prizes and awards. We propose to have LIRG Working Groups, consisting of both Committee Members and other LIRG members, to develop the following areas:

- *Library and Information Research News*
- WWW and electronic communication
- Mentoring of new researchers
- Courses

3. Meetings

After a busy year of events in 1994/5, we have had no meetings in 1995/6 other than the LIRG Student Prize Presentation at City University in December 1995. Research methods courses and regional meetings are being developed by the Short Courses Working Group. Seminars on the FIGIT Electronic Libraries Programme are being planned for the Autumn.

4. Student Prizes and Research Awards

The 1994 LIRG student prizes were awarded to Liz Mackie of Robert Gordon University (undergraduate) and Victoria Manglano of City University (postgraduate). The awards were made at a special meeting on 22nd November 1995, hosted by the Department of Information Science at City University. Each winner gave a brief account of their work to an interested audience. The presentation of the prizes was preceded by a joint presentation from Professors Micheline Beaulieu and Stephen Robertson of the Department of Information Science at City University on the importance of student projects to the Department and how these projects linked to the Department's research activity. Many thanks to the Department for its hospitality and making the event such a success.

Six nominations were received for the 1995 undergraduate prize and the winner is Robin Pearson of Thames Valley University for his dissertation on the use of library footage in the production of TV news. Steven Dyson of the University of Central England was commended for his dissertation on planning a library service for Hawthorn House. Judging of the postgraduate prize is currently being undertaken.

There is growing interest in the Elsevier/LIRG Research Award and there were several good applications for the Award this year. The judging panel decided to award the prize to David Allen of Sheffield University's Department of Information Science, to enable him to illustrate the ways in which higher education institutions are transforming the way they provide information for teaching and learning and investigate the transformations and any strategies developed. We are very grateful to Elsevier Science for their continued support of the Award.

The Committee have decided to relaunch the Daphne Clark Award later this year as a prize for practitioners who have made an outstanding contribution to research.

5. Library and Information Research News (LIRN)

LIRN represents a substantial benefit of personal membership of the Group whilst institutional subscriptions represent a major source of income. Consequently, the development of LIRN has been given a very high priority in both discussions at Committee Meetings and in considering the strategy plan for the Group.

Three issues of LIRN have been published over the year. The continuing quality of LIRN and the regularity of production is a tribute to LIRN's editor, Ros Cotton, who continues to produce it almost single handed. However, the Committee has acknowledged that Ros needs more support and we hope that the new editorial group will give the Editor practical help as well as generate ideas for the content.

Attention has also been given to ways in which the production of LIRN can be streamlined. Contributors are now encouraged to submit material in machine readable form as we are looking towards providing all copy to the printer on floppy disk rather than having them type it up from manuscripts. We are also seeking a service level agreement with the current printer.

Articles in LIRN over the year have included research reports on the INPEL (Impact on People of Electronic Libraries) Project at the University of Northumbria, academic library services for students with disabilities, benchmarking, information needs in drug prevention initiatives, and developing a flexible library and information workforce. We have also continued to have a steady flow of book reviews as a result of the efforts of the Reviews Editor, Eric Davies. The Committee has agreed that the news content of LIRN should be expanded and future issues will include more news items.

6. **Relations with other organisations**

A useful discussion took place in November between the new Director of the then British Library R&D Department, Nigel Macartney, and representatives of the LIRG Committee. It is clear that the new Director is very supportive of the work of LIRG. The meeting resulted in an offer from BLR&DD to host future LIRG Committee Meetings and the nomination of a BLR&DD Observer on the LIRG Committee. We welcome Isobel Thompson to the Committee and hope that her involvement will facilitate communication between the two organisations. LIRG submitted a response in February to the BLR&DD's consultative document on the disbursement of grants in 1996/7.

We have built up initial contacts this year with the Library and Information Commission and intend to pursue these in the forthcoming year as well as develop our links with other LIS organisations.

PHILIP PAYNE

Chair, Library & Information Research Group

March 1996

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1995

Summary

After a very busy year in 1994, 1995 was a relatively quiet year for the LIRG Treasurer, with no meetings of the LIRG South east Group, and no major events or conferences. As noted in the Treasurer's report for 1994, a large part of the loss incurred during that year was due to the timing of income and expenditure across the end of the financial year. This is reflected in the 1995 Accounts by the £3500 income figures for meetings, all but £75 of which relates to activity which took place in 1994.

The low level of income overall was matched by a low level of expenditure, so the Group continues to hold substantial reserves.

The general trend however is that income from LIRN and personal subscriptions is on the decline. It is important for the long term future of the Group for us to find alternative or renewed sources of income, through a revitalised programme of activities.

Notes

Income

1. Although the income from personal subscriptions was substantially greater in 1995 than in the previous year, much of this income relates to 1994 subscriptions. The number of personal subscriptions in fact reduced from 98 to 89. During the year 28 subscriptions were cancelled by the Personal Membership Secretary due to non-payment.
2. There were 107 institutional subscriptions to LIRN at the end of the year; total UK subscriptions reduced by seven to 69; overseas subscribers reduced by 4 to 38. As predicted in last year's report, several Public Library authorities cancelled their subscriptions in 1995. While we have had a number of enquiries from overseas agents and libraries concerning new subscriptions during the year, in several cases subscription payments have not been forthcoming, and the subscription has subsequently lapsed.

Personal subscription rates remain unchanged for 1995, at £15. The institutional rates also remained the same for 1995, but for 1996 they have been increased to £40 for UK subscribers and £45 for overseas ones.

3. From March 1995 bank charges were no longer charged on the current account. The interest rates on the Capital Reserve account were raised at the end of 1994 from 3.625% and have remained between 4.125% and 4.625% throughout 1995. This, and the fact that it proved possible to move £3000 from the current to the Capital Reserve account during the year, explain the increased interest earned.

Expenditure

4. The expenditure figure for committee expenses in 1995 includes £988 for the Strategic Planning Weekend in Shrewsbury in November 1995 (excluding travel expenses). The remainder represents the cost of committee meeting attendance.

5. The small amount of expenditure on publicity and administration during the year reflects the reduced level of activity of the Group.
6. LIRN charges for 1995 include the production and despatch costs of LIRN 61 (Winter 1994) and LIRN 63 (Summer 1995). No charge was made for LIRN 62, because of errors made at the despatch stage. Charges for LIRN 64 (Winter 95) will be incurred in 1996.
7. LIRG has not made any grant to the Daphne Clarke fund for 1995, and no award has been made for the year.
8. While the Elsevier award was made for 1995, the £1000 grant income and expenditure are not reflected during the year, but will appear in the 1996 accounts.
9. Under "miscellaneous", the £225.06 payment relates to a cheque paid to the Group in error, and subsequently debited.

Christine Abbott
LIRG Treasurer
March 1996

Accounts for year ended 31 December 1995

	1993	1994	1995
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Personal subscriptions	1577.00	573.81	1453.02
LIRN subscriptions	4093.16	3951.50	3496.85
Meetings	239.00	8912.00	3500.00
LA grant	90.00	0.00	90.00
Royalties	96.15	187.93	122.29
Daphne Clark award	50.00	0.00	0.00
Elsevier award	1000.00	0.00	0.00
Interest - Capital Reserve	170.16	280.87	363.90
Miscellaneous	7321.47	13906.11	9295.05
	<u>7321.47</u>	<u>13906.11</u>	<u>9295.05</u>

EXPENDITURE

Committee expenses	681.06	951.38	2489.72
Publicity	84.61	2394.85	64.63
Meetings	691.48	11510.81	706.81
LIRN	826.37	2051.21	982.35
Account charges	79.68	25.20	0.00
Administration	323.68	376.53	160.66
Daphne Clark award	250.00	381.76	0.00
Elsevier award	0.00	1000.00	0.00
Student award	500.00	0.00	500.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	255.06
	<u>3436.88</u>	<u>18691.74</u>	<u>5129.23</u>

SURPLUS/DEFICIT	3884.59	-4785.63	4165.82
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RESERVE ACCOUNT

Closing balance per 1994 accounts	9255.06
Add surplus	4165.82
	<u>13420.88</u>
Income not credited in 1995	247.63
Expenditure not debited in 1995	1165.10
	<u>917.47</u>
Balance as at 31 December 1995	<u>14338.35</u>

RECONCILIATION WITH BANK ACCOUNT

Current Account	2094.57
Capital Reserve Account	12243.78
	<u>14338.35</u>

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

Signed:

Name

Date:

Signed:

Name

Date:

MEETINGS ACCOUNT 1995

Follett Fallout seminar (1994)	30.00
Better by Far conference (1994)	3395.00
	<u>3500.00</u>

£

EXPENDITURE

AGM	264.38
LIRG South East	0.00
Student prize award ceremony	442.43
	<u>706.81</u>

DAPHNE CLARK AWARD

Position as at 31 December 1995

£

Balance at 1 January 1995	827.11
Interest for the year	6.22
Balance as at 31 December 1995	<u>833.33</u>