

Editorial

I am continually surprised by the sheer diversity of research interest among members of our profession. This issue exemplifies this, both geographically and historically.

Sarah McDonald, one of 2010's excellent group of LIRG student prize-winners, writes about the currency of news sourced from London newspapers and re-printed in Dublin City newspapers in the last decade of the eighteenth century. Combining primary research within recently digitised London and Dublin newspapers with a sound understanding of the print trade and transport networks in those years, McDonald tells a fascinating story. That she laments the lack of data sources covering environmental and logistical factors during that period simply reinforces the thoroughness of her approach to her research.

Although similarly focused on a major city, Helen Byamugisha and colleagues deal with an entirely different information challenge, in this case one that really can change lives. The authors examine information needs and use among urban farmers in Kampala City in Uganda. Through a mix of face to face interviews and focus groups, the researchers established the types of information that were useful to crop and animal farmers and the occasions or situations in which that information was most needed. Peppered with quotations from the farmers themselves, this study really emphasises the life-changing benefit of appropriate, accurate and timely information.

Given the excellence and value of LIS research, our third paper, from Gaby Haddow, is especially significant. It addresses the issue of how research is communicated to practitioners, and in particular the important role of professional association publications. Among professional literature these publications are the most widely read by practitioners and therefore have the greatest potential to disseminate research to that group. *Library and Information Research* has always strived to present research in a way that makes it relevant and useful to readers, I am sure we can learn from Haddow's work.

Our four book reviews as usual cover a range of interesting subjects: information strategy and policy; the design and planning of new library buildings; copyright and e-learning; and issues surrounding the support of international students in academic libraries. Most of us will be able to relate to at least one of these topics so I urge you to read the review and then perhaps dip into the books themselves.

And of course, if you find another newly published book and would like to review that for *Library and Information Research* then please get in touch. This issue sees the end of an era in our book reviews section. After many years of sterling work, Colin Johnston is retiring from the post of Book Reviews Editor, to be replaced by Pauline Rafferty of Aberystwyth. We are extremely grateful to Colin for all his hard work over the years and we wish him well in his retirement. We greatly look forward to working with Pauline on the Editorial Team.

Miggie Pickton

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