_____

Editorial

This issue continues the theme set earlier this year of reviewing the current state of LIS research in Great Britain and Ireland. Papers by Annette Kelly, reflecting on the Public Library Research Programme in the Republic of Ireland, and Helen Osborn, offering an overview of research activity in Northern Ireland, demonstrate that interest in research is rife in our professional community.

There is much common ground between the experiences described north and south of the border. In both cases, public library research activity is driven by the needs of policy and service development; both authors identify a need for more research to be carried out and for a 'research culture' to be established; and both recognise the importance of effective dissemination and application of research findings into practice. These are undoubtedly themes that will strike a chord with LIS professionals in other arenas.

They are of course themes that both the Library and Information Research Group (LIRG) and this its journal wholeheartedly support. As we publish this issue, applications are once again being invited for the annual LIRG research award[1]. The award is open to both experienced and new researchers. Those that have not previously drawn up a research proposal will find Juliet Eve's step by step guide to preparing a research proposal very helpful. As Eve states, not only will such a proposal provide you with the means of persuading somebody to support your research (if not a prospective funder, then simply your managers), it will also help you to 'get your ideas in order' and 'keep you on track as you undertake the work'.

John Crawford and Christine Irving are clearly experts in the field of writing research proposals because over the last five years they have successfully developed a modest community engagement project into a major research agenda, winning support and commitment from project partners and funders in education, public libraries, government agencies and the workplace. The Scottish Information Literacy Project now has a significant national and international profile. Crawford and Irving describe both the project and its outcome – the Scottish National Information Literacy Framework – in their report here.

On a more modest scale, Béatrice Coveney uses a case study of Bath and North East Somerset Library and Information Service to assess whether the public library work environment fosters creativity. Coveney's article derives from research undertaken for her Masters dissertation and the thoroughness with which she describes her methodology is undoubtedly a product of this. For many of us, the undergraduate or postgraduate research project may be our first and last opportunity to undertake 'real' research, or to freely choose research that interests us. The dissertations that result from academic studies are a rich and fertile

_____

[1]

http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/research/activities/awards/researchaward.htm

_____

_____

source of evidence and new ideas. *Library and Information Research* welcomes submissions based on such work – if you have recently graduated, why not get in touch?

We also welcome opinion pieces, such as that of Glenn McGuigan, who reflects on the current scholarly publishing environment and the potential role of libraries as publishers during this period of change. If you would like to join the debate then feel free to add your comment to McGuigan's article[2].

As usual, several interesting book reviews round off this issue of *Library and Information Research*. All four reviews are of books of relevance to a wide range of readers – research methods, institutional repositories, library performance and search technology are the topics covered.

We hope that every reader finds something to interest them in this eclectic issue. As ever, we welcome your comments and feedback.

Miggie Pickton

Louise Cooke

_____

[2] Instructions for adding comments to an article: You will need to register with *Library and Information Research* first. Then navigate to the article, and simply click on 'Add comment' to have your say. To see what others have written, just click 'Cancel' instead of 'Save' on the 'Enter comment' page.

_____