

## How to get the best out of UKSG 2016

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Earlier this year *UKSG eNews* sent out a call to experienced conference participants to share their 'best practice' for getting the most out of the three extremely packed days of the annual conference.

Elizabeth McHugh from University of the Highlands and Islands says:

“My advice would be: make sure you've slept well beforehand; don't try and talk to all the suppliers - focus on the folks you really need to talk to and then target the others if you have time; have fun!

If you have to go back to work the following day after the conference, be kind to yourself.”

Laura J Wilkinson, University of Sunderland Library Services, recommends the following:

“Carry a bottle of water and maybe some sweets/nuts - the conference is intense and you will need to concentrate for long periods. A little snack can help revive you if you're flagging.

Take opportunities to exercise - move about during the breaks; and if you are able to, use the stairs instead of the lift (for example). You will be sitting for long periods and keeping moving will help your circulation and posture.

Note-taking kit, analogue or digital - help your concentration and recall by making notes during the talks.

Don't forget to take your business cards with you, and remember to give them to people.”

Be selective in what you carry with you at the conference, as your bag will feel heavier as the day goes on!

Study the programme in advance and identify the sessions you must/should/could attend. This will help you prioritise when you're there, and allows you to plan some downtime in which you can meet up with friends/work contacts, explore the exhibition hall when it's quieter, catch up on emails, or just have a break.

Say hello to people - you don't need to chat for hours, but take advantage of the number and variety of people who attend the UKSG conference by making some new

acquaintances. Waiting in the queue for lunch is a good chance for informal introductions.”

Charlie Rapple, Kudos, adds:

“I would struggle to come up with something more than already said! Don't forget your dancing shoes (and your painkillers). Promise yourself you'll introduce yourself fairly randomly to at least one stranger. Check out Twitter for the backchannel discussions and Tweet ups.”

And finally, Maria Campbell encourages delegates to use all possible ways to share and access UKSG conference material:

“Use the hashtag #UKSG16.

Download the free [UKSG Events app](#) before you travel and use it for schedules, alerts, notes, messages and more.

Catch up on missed sessions with IET.tv recordings – via the [UKSG homepage](#) or on [IET.tv](#).

Review slides from the breakout sessions on [SlideShare](#).”



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