



New perspectives

UKSG eNews 410

01 Dec 2017

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UKSG held its annual One-Day Conference and Forum at the Grange Tower Bridge Hotel in London on 15th and 16th November and, as usual, both events were very well received and supported by the many delegates attending them. Following tradition, we asked our student delegates to send us their reflections on the events as a means of capturing some of the highlights, which we present to you now in this editorial.

UKSG One-Day Conference: Shrinking horizons? Scholarly communication in an anti-globalisation environment

The UKSG One-Day Conference is intended to complement the UKSG Annual Conference by providing a more intimate opportunity for strategic discussion among members of the information community on a hot topic of wide interest. This year's focus was on exploring how the world of scholarly communication is changing in response to the huge political upheaval of our time. The Conference very successfully managed to capture the essence and debate around the changing face of scholarly communication and research dissemination. Open access and open science were clearly key sub-themes within the Conference and all of our student delegates took some very important messages away with them.

Reflecting on the Conference, Akshika Agarwal suggested that Paul Ayriss's paper on the role of libraries within the open science debate resonated most deeply. Paul effectively explained how open science, the movement to make scientific research accessible at all levels of an enquiring society, is not a threat but an opportunity to build bridges with society and achieve outreach in newer ways. It not only promotes data and research at every level, but also brings inclusivity into a technologically diverse society.

Akshika also particularly enjoyed Paul's coverage of the concept of 'Citizen Science' in which he referenced Ian Chubb, former Chief Scientist of Australia. As science is no longer understood as belonging only to scientists, but to its citizens, it transcends a closed community and becomes a universal commodity.

Another popular presentation was that of Robert Kiley from the Wellcome Trust. Students Terry Bassett and Christine Tomioka both reflected on what they had learnt from Robert as he provided an easy to understand overview of open access before presenting his own vision for the Wellcome Centre.

"His introduction to OA was comprehensive but concise and he then proceeded to completely expand my understanding beyond anything I had imagined – another bit of my mind blown." (Terry

Bassett, University of Sheffield)

Similarly, Christine enjoyed hearing about the Wellcome Open Research platform, as well as Robert's acknowledgement that we are in a period of transition where both academic institutions and publishers are moving towards openness. Inspired by all that she heard, Christine suggested that "It's too soon for me to have OA inscribed on my heart . . . But I will consider a small ankle tattoo."

For Sotiria Kalpachtsi it was Ant Bagshaw's talk on current higher education policies which impressed the most. The discussion touched upon the relation of politics and fee rates and various issues of inclusivity within UK HE. From a publishing point of view, Ant offered insights for a better understanding of university policies and the wider context of how important it is for universities to have clear goals and communication.

UKSG Forum: Collaboration and adapting to change

Now in its fifth year, the UKSG Forum offers short presentations and exhibition viewing with networking opportunities. The 2017 programme comprised four sessions of lightning talks encompassing various aspects of the overarching theme of collaboration and adapting to change.

It became apparent throughout the Forum that collaboration, in all its forms, is a crucial component of being able to adapt to change. Working together allows us to strive for innovation and greater accessibility. With the Forum theme in mind, one of the presentations that particularly stood out for Anne Binsfeld, was Eelco Ferwerda's, entitled 'Landscape study on open access monographs'. Eelco, director of OAPEN, talked about policies, funding and university press publishing in eight different European countries, comparing how well the different countries do and in which areas improvements need to be made. With impressive figures taken from the recently published [Springer report](#), the speaker was able to highlight how much academic publishing could and does benefit from OA in terms of usage, citations and mentions. Eelco revealed how OA publications are used far more than closed monographs and finished by discussing areas in which OA needs to do better, such as discoverability, mandates and clear communication about its benefits to scholars.

Another student delegate, Keeley Durnell, reflecting upon her first UKSG Forum, suggested that she was especially impressed with Alison McNab's lightning talk 'The Game of Open Access: making mandates more memorable'. Keeley felt that Alison had really encapsulated the theme of 'Collaboration and adapting to change' in her discussion of teaching researchers and academics about open access at the University of Huddersfield. Alison explained her department's use of the open access board game, which allows the often difficult and contentious subject to be discussed in a fun and whimsical format. Alison explained that she is better able to engage researchers with the realities of the process through this method and reported great success within the university with the board game.

Collaboration and change really resonated throughout all the presentations at the Forum. From student delegate Hannah Hickman's observations, one session that really encapsulated the theme was on the British Library and Royal College of Surgeons storage project, delivered by Thalia Knight (RCS) and Richard Ebdon (BL). Storage is something libraries have struggled with since they began but while digitisation can open up access to unique collections on an unprecedented scale, the question of how best to care for the physical items still remains and the RCS recently realised they needed to change their storage strategies. The British Library's Boston Spa site offered a different way of approaching this, with access to purpose built storage buildings, experts in handling rare materials and regular transport links to London. The collaboration between the two organisations has now enabled the RCS special collections to be safely preserved, whilst maintaining access to them at the same time.

The One-Day Conference and the Forum present great opportunities for our student delegates to witness various sectors of the scholarly communications industry in action and to contextualise the real life practice which they learn about in their respective library and information and publishing

studies.

UKSG is very pleased to be able to support our up and coming professionals, who take a lot from the opportunity in return:

“Thank you for letting me attend the Conference yesterday. It was very inspiring and gave me perspectives on the industry that are hard to get from studying it at university.”

(Christine Tomioka, Anglia Ruskin University)

“Thank you for hosting us at the Conference and Forum. It was a very memorable experience and a great introduction to some of the issues that I’ll no doubt be encountering in my career.”

(Terry Bassett, University of Sheffield)

You can access the [One-Day Conference recordings](#) online and a [photo gallery of highlights from the Forum](#).

This editorial has been compiled from the reflections of Christine Tomioka, Akshika Agarwal, Anne Binsfeld, Sotiria Kalpachtsi, Terry Bassett, Hannah Hickman and Keeley Durnell.



This UKSG Editorial is taken from the industry newsletter *UKSG eNews*, published every two weeks exclusively for UKSG members. The newsletter provides up-to-the-minute news of current issues and developments within the global knowledge community.

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