



## UKSG in 2018

*UKSG eNews 413*

19 Jan 2018

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We have seen a lot of change as an organisation over the last year – with new staff being hired, 'old' hands moving on to pastures new and an unexpected role for me, stepping in to the executive director role following Sarah Bull's departure.

I have been involved as a volunteer at UKSG for more years than I care to mention – starting out on the marketing committee under Paul Harwood (then MD of Swets) near the beginning of my career, and being elected to the Main Committee a few years later. I have always valued the sense of community and support that the organisation has provided me and its other members, regardless of where they are in their career. Providing various platforms for communicating across our varied organisations has always been central to our mission, and feedback from the various member surveys we have undertaken suggests we are still delivering this.

The Annual Conference is obviously critical to this (and to our income), and delegate numbers are holding up at just over 900 each year, with the exhibition routinely selling out on the day it is open for bookings. The Forum continues to be a success, with over 300 delegates attending and taking part. There is more detail on our One-Day Conference and Forum in the report below, but following a lower than expected turn out in 2017 for the One-Day Conference we are reviewing the strategy behind this key event in our calendar to see how we can better reach out to the library directors and senior publishers who we would also like as delegates.

Our outreach to the FE community is continuing to gather speed, with an increase in both the number of members of UKSG and delegates at our free to attend November event.

We are making changes to *Insights* too, with a newly restructured editorial board and a difference in the way we publish the articles to make us more timely and efficient: there is more detail in the UKSG News section.

In 2018, we are introducing a new committee – Outreach and Engagement, led by Yann Amouroux (Bioscientifica) – which will look at ways of engaging with the individuals within our member institutions.

All of our main- and sub-committee work relies on the tremendous efforts of our volunteers – if you are interested in either joining a committee, writing for us or working on a specific time limited project, please do get in touch!

In addition to our own in-house activities, we continue to support practical examples of innovation, best practice and standards in our community:

- supporting academics and scholarly communications through the Think.Check.Submit

- campaign which provides guidance to scholars on submitting articles to trusted journals
- funding for the now completed Release 5 of the COUNTER Code of Practice, which will help users of the Code of Practice to navigate the Code to support effective implementation by publishers and ease of use by librarians
- providing free seminars and webinars for members
- serving our international audience – webinars continue to be popular and serve our international audience well with over 2,100 registrations from over 17 countries during 2017. On average 94% of those surveyed would recommend the webinar to a colleague
- helping members to gain the confidence and insight to put themselves forward for committee positions and other rewarding volunteering opportunities, including writing for *Insights* and *UKSG eNews*

## Looking ahead to 2018

In addition to supporting these activities and our volunteers, my priorities for my tenure as Executive Director are:

- Finances – a smaller number of delegates for our seminars and One-Day Conference with higher than anticipated costs across the board saw 2017 end with a deficit (although the reserves remain very healthy). We are looking at balancing the books again in 2018.
- IT – we are working on a new solution to the upgrade of our website as our iteration of Drupal will no longer be supported after February 2019, and at the same time we will move *UKSG eNews* to a new platform. This is no small undertaking and affects all parts of our operations. In addition, with more staff now based in an office location, we need to look at a more networked IT infrastructure.
- HR – with new permanent staff we need to introduce more formal procedures such as objectives, appraisals, finance processes etc from January 2018.
- Engagement – we offer a host of opportunities for learning and networking and we are keen to make sure all individuals within member institutions can take advantage of them – whether through reading *UKSG eNews* or *Insights*, attending one of our seminars or watching one of our regular free webinars. Articulating this offering will now be the responsibility of our new Outreach and Engagement Committee. I look forward to working with them to get the message out that UKSG is for everyone!

Finally, I would like to record my deep gratitude to Karen Sadler who has left UKSG after 17 years of supporting our events programme and, not least, managing the Annual Conference registration where hundreds of people turn up and register within a very short period of time. I will miss her!

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me – [bev@uksg.org](mailto:bev@uksg.org).



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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