



CONNECTING THE  
KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

# 2015 *in* REVIEW



# *Contents*

About UKSG	3
Membership Survey 2015	4
Annual Conference	5
Other Headline Events	6
Membership Initiatives	7
Educational Events	8
Publications	9
Plans for the Future	10
Financials and Governance	11
How to Join UKSG	12

---

# About UKSG

UKSG is a professional interest group for the knowledge community, working to bring together all parties in the processes of scholarly communication.

Founded in 1977, our vision is to use our breadth of knowledge and influence to facilitate an efficient information chain, a better information experience for scholars, and a world where all members of the scholarly and professional information supply chain understand each other.

“Our vision is to use our breadth of knowledge and influence to facilitate an efficient information chain.”



## We accomplish these aims through:

- Our annual conference
- In-person seminars
- Webinars
- Training events
- Student workshops
- Our journal, *Insights*, and newsletter, *UKSG eNews*
- Our research initiatives and collaborative projects
- Awards and bursaries

# Membership Survey 2015

In November 2015 we asked our members what they think of UKSG, so that we can better plan our activities and services.

Around 380 members completed the survey, representing 80% of our membership.

## Context

The scholarly publishing community is evolving as members' interests and needs change and it's essential that at UKSG we keep abreast of these developments. There are new opportunities for us to provide practical support in areas such as understanding and facilitating the wider lifecycle of research, or managing and implementing Open Access effectively.

## Headline Findings

- There's a clear need for an organisation with UKSG's mission
- Our cross-community role is valued, and we do a good job in connecting different member types
- We're seen as professional, well-organised and friendly
- You want us to continue to focus on the practical implementations of strategic change, and to think more broadly about the audiences we try to support in this respect.

## Points for Improvement

- We could be bolder
- We need to involve academics and students more
- We must continue to find new ways to support our international members
- We need to help more members gain the insight and confidence to put themselves forward for committee positions.

# Annual Conference

**30 March - 1 April**

Our annual conference continues to be a popular and well-attended event.

The 2015 conference, our 38th, took place at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow. A total of 954 delegates attended from 24 countries, from China to Denmark, UK and Zimbabwe, supported by just over 100 exhibitors.

“**Best conference app I’ve used so far.**”

## UKSG Events App

Our events app proved effective and popular at the 2015 annual conference following its introduction at the 2014 Forum.

The app allows delegates to connect with other attendees, make arrangements to meet, look up times and details of talks to identify which to attend, and generally make sure they get the most from the event.

Over half of the delegates downloaded the app and features such as the mapping proved very popular. We also used Twitter feeds and live-streamed video presentations to enhance the delegate experience – and to make conference presentations available to those who could not attend.

### Key themes:

- Content types: from serials and e-resources to data and videos
- Library / discovery technologies
- User behaviour
- Metrics and assessment
- Publishing models including Open Access
- Professional development

Materials including plenary presentations and lightning talks, slides from breakout sessions, our UKSGLive blog, photographs, and a Storify collection of social media posts can be found at:

**[www.uksg.org/event/conference15](http://www.uksg.org/event/conference15)**

### What proved most popular?

- Networking
- Gaining new ideas from plenary and breakout sessions

“**94% of delegates rated the conference as excellent or very good.**”

# Other Headline Events

## One-Day Conference

17 November

*E-books for today and tomorrow: what is the role of the 'long form' in teaching, learning and research?*

The day included thought-provoking presentations. Two discussion panels, one consisting of students and the other academic authors, provided lively debates.



120

“The format for the day was spot on - much better than longer presentations.”

## Third Annual UKSG Forum

18 November

*Design, simplicity and user experience.*

Our third annual Forum and Exhibition followed the day after our One-Day Conference in London. Short talks on the theme allowed more time than previously for delegates and exhibitors to network and we received positive feedback on the new format.

This year we introduced a Passport to the Forum, to encourage delegates to visit as many sponsor exhibition stands as possible to collect stickers and thereby gain entry to a prize draw.

The event was well-supported with 350 attendees, and fulfilled our aim of providing an autumn networking event, free to UKSG members, around six months after our annual conference.



350

“All the talks were excellent and the short timeframe encouraged the speakers to really focus on what they wanted to communicate.”

The recordings from all the One-Day Conference sessions and some Forum sessions are available at: <https://tv.theiet.org/index.html?channel=uksg>  
Courtesy of IET.tv – The Institution of Engineering and Technology's video production service.

# Membership Initiatives

## Online Voting

Twelve people stood for election to the committee in 2015-16. To increase participation in voting, we introduced a secure electronic system 'Simply Voting' which has roughly trebled our participation from around 10% to around 30% of members

## Member Skills Development

Our Education Subcommittee is the main driver for us fulfilling our objectives of encouraging professional awareness and realising public benefit through providing a programme of affordable seminars and workshops.

## Coaching for Speakers

Feedback from the Training Needs Analysis survey showed that members would be happy to talk at seminars and workshops if some coaching was provided.

In December 2014 we ran our first training session focused on addressing this need: a pilot workshop called *"Make yourself heard! Confident public speaking for the new and not so new speaker"*.

Feedback from our evaluation of the event was overwhelmingly positive and we'll be running the course again in 2016.

## Student Workshops

In order to support people studying for a qualification in Library and Information Studies, we run no-cost workshops.

Typically these are run by a library practitioner co-presenting with an academic tutor so that the session can cover both day-to-day work and broader themes, such as Open Access and changing models of scholarly communication.



“Exploring the psychology of people’s fear around public speaking and coming up with practical ways to quieten the inner critic was really helpful.”

# Educational Events

Our Education Subcommittee organises regular seminars and webinars.

## Seminars

Seminars range from introductory-level events designed for those new to the information community, to intermediate and advanced seminars and workshops on specific themes relevant to members' professional development needs.

A total of 263 delegates attended our seminars in 2015.



Seminars included:

- Introduction to Journals and E-Resources Today: Birmingham
- Practical Project Management: London
- E-Resources Technical Update: York

“The presenters were excellent. They were able to explain some quite technical concepts in a very accessible way.”

## Webinars

With around 25% of our membership based outside the UK, it's important to ensure we also meet their training needs.

Our 2015 Training Needs Survey showed that our webinars continue to be attractive and are considered helpful and cost-effective to members overseas as well as in the UK.

As well as removing travel costs, registrants can listen to the webinars live, or watch the recordings at a time that best suits them.

We received 3,505 registrations for the 2015 webinars.

Webinars included:

- Getting the Rights Right – When Policies Collide!
- Altmetrics for Librarians: a Publisher Dashboard, a University Use Case
- Introduction to Text-Mining Research Papers



# Publications

## Insights

Our thrice-yearly journal, *Insights*, offers a mix of research articles, case studies and opinion pieces, as well as people and profiles.

We moved the journal to an Open Access model in March 2014 and in March 2015 made another significant step forwards in moving to the Ubiquity Press platform, a University College London spin-off company.

The platform move means we've joined other Open Access peer-reviewed academic journals, books and data and raised the visibility of *Insights* through being part of the Ubiquity Press community. It also offers a more web-friendly platform and has allowed us to make our content more discoverable through features such as 'latest articles' and 'popular articles'.

## Achievements in 2015

- Move to Ubiquity Press platform  
<http://insights.uksg.org/>
- Dissemination of articles to UKSG members and to the wider community in the UK and beyond
- Content continues to feature authors from all sectors of the UKSG audience.

Sample articles:

- Scholarly publishing in South Africa  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1629/uksg.253>
- The academic book of the future  
<http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.258>
- Library support for Open Access publishing: a needs analysis  
<http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.256>

## UKSG eNews

Our e-newsletter is published every two weeks and sent exclusively to UKSG members. The issues include an editorial, UKSG news, industry news and company news. We also include product and library news as well as the latest on journals, resources, and people.

- Co-editor Andrew Barker, of University of Liverpool, stepped down after two years
  - Leo Appleton of University of the Arts, London, replaces Andrew
  - Helle Lauridsen continues as co-editor.

# Plans for the Future

Our recent member survey highlighted a continued need for an organisation which connects the scholarly community and perhaps extends the remit into other groups such as students, academics and research funders. We feel that UKSG is well positioned to do this, with our sound financial position, highly regarded publications, excellent reputation for running successful events, a pool of talented and hard-working volunteers and a wide network of professional contacts.

## Annual Conference

This year's annual conference will be held at the Bournemouth International Centre from 11-13 April. The 2017 conference will be held in Harrogate and our 2018 event in Glasgow.

## Education Subcommittee Plans

In 2016 we'll:

- Further develop our webinar series
- Re-run our Training Needs Survey
- Continue to revise seminar programmes in line with feedback
- Continue to review locations to ensure they meet our members' needs.

We're discussing:

- A revised seminar on usage statistics for decision making
- A marketing seminar for librarians
- Another presentation skills training session for new speakers
- A UKSG student workshop for publishing students.

## Publications Subcommittee Plans

In 2016 we'll run a thorough review of *UKSG eNews*, including the platform, and the style and frequency of the publication, in order to find out whether the newsletter is still meeting the needs of our members.



# *Financials and Governance*

A Board of Trustees governs UKSG and we have a subcommittee for Education and a subcommittee for Publications. We put our subcommittee on Research and Innovation on hold in September 2015 while we assess how to best support members' needs in this area.

We continue to maintain a healthy financial position, based on membership revenue and the success of a number of events. This allows us to invest wisely and responsibly to ensure continued success in the future, in areas from staffing to research.

**“We continue to maintain a healthy financial position, based on membership revenue and the success of a number of events.”**



## How to obtain our full Annual Report 2015

The full text of the annual report can be obtained from  
[www.uksg.org/agm](http://www.uksg.org/agm)

# How to Join UKSG

## How to Become a Trustee

We welcome people with knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment to the future of scholarly communications to become involved with UKSG, with backgrounds in our main stakeholder groups of libraries, publishers and intermediaries.

Each year all members of UKSG are invited to submit one candidate (or nominate themselves) to stand for election to the Board of Trustees. Board members may also suggest candidates and may make a direct approach to someone they consider will bring particularly valuable knowledge or expertise to the board.

We encourage all UKSG members to cast their votes (one authorised voter per membership) to elect Board members via the online Simply Voting system.

New trustees are offered informal mentoring from an existing Board member, supported by formal induction guidelines to help new trustees quickly get up to speed with our proactive culture and to be able to make a positive contribution to our work quickly and effectively.

As well as attending Board meetings, we encourage our trustees to become involved in at least one of our main activities, such as sitting on a subcommittee or being involved in the planning of our headline events.

## Join UKSG

Membership is open to individuals and organisations. Annual fees range from zero for students to £220 for publishers/vendors/service providers with over 100 staff.

## Membership Benefits

- *UKSG eNews*, our fortnightly newsletter exclusively for members
- Free delegate places at our annual Forum
- Discounted rates for our annual conference and educational events such as our One-Day Conference, seminars, webinars, courses and student workshops.

“We welcome people with knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment to the future of scholarly communications to become involved with UKSG.”

## Contact Us

UKSG, PO Box 5594  
Newbury, RG20 0YD UK

Contact: Alison Whitehorn, Business Manager  
Tel: 01635 254292  
Email: [Alison@uksg.org](mailto:Alison@uksg.org)

Charity number: 1093946  
Company number: 4145775