



Участие библиотек и информационных служб в англо-российском сотрудничестве

Welcome to the first issue of UK Library News

UK Library News is ILIAC UK Ltd's newsletter for Russian librarians and information specialists. We plan to provide reports on key issues relating to libraries and information services in the United Kingdom and developments in the UK library and information profession.

The initial distribution is to Russian colleagues whom I have met at conferences or on visits to Russia. I hope that you will remain a subscriber to this free email newsletter and invite your colleagues also to subscribe. We plan to publish the newsletter on a monthly basis.

At the present time the content is in English but we would like to also publish it in Russian. To do this we need assistance with translation. We can provide an English-Russian machine translation but the result is not of sufficiently high quality for publication. We would like to recruit a team of volunteers who would be willing to assist in producing a Russian language version. If you are able to assist in some small way then please register your interest at <http://www.iliacuk.co.uk/registration.phtml>

We will publish a brief summary of the items in UK Library News on the ILIAC UK Blog. If you would like further information or would like to question or comment on any item then please do so on the blog at <http://iliacuk.wordpress.com/>

We would also like to publish "Russian Library News" to a UK audience. We will be pleased to receive information on new developments, new technology and services in Russian libraries and information relating to changes affecting libraries and information services as a result of new government initiatives, etc.

Some problems facing UK Public Libraries

The present world financial crisis is already affecting current UK library budgets and libraries face further cuts in their budgets in the coming years.

How do libraries respond? Public libraries in the UK are financed by the local government administration at either a county or district level. It is a statutory service which the local authorities must provide by law. Unfortunately, the law, which dates from 1964, only requires the local authority to provide a “comprehensive and efficient service” without defining what is meant by “comprehensive” or “efficient”. The Minister in the government department responsible for libraries (DCMS – Department of Culture, Media and Sport) has the power to order an enquiry into any authority which fails to provide such a service. This power has never been exercised until this year when an enquiry was ordered into the proposed closure of 11 libraries by Wirral Borough Council (WBC), a local authority in north-west England. WBC argued that it was more efficient to deliver the library service through fewer centres.

Opponents of the closures argued that the services were an essential part of the local community; the buildings were often shared with other services; and that for many people it would not be possible to visit an alternative library because of the cost or lack of transport.

After the enquiry WBC withdrew its proposal to close the libraries and so avoided any direction from the DCMS. It is believed that at least 20 other authorities were waiting the outcome of the enquiry before making their own proposals to close libraries in order to save money. The results of the inquiry will contribute to a much delayed new Government policy document which is likely to be published in December. Another key input will be the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Libraries discussed in APPG article.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (AAPG) report on Library Governance and Leadership

One of the features of the UK Parliamentary system is the formation of All-Party Groups in various subject areas. Membership is drawn from Members of both Houses of Parliament. Interested individuals and organisations can also attend the regular meetings of the Groups. From time to time an MP may get support from other MPs to form a Committee of Inquiry into a particular topic. The small Committees will include members from all political parties and may include members from the House of Lords.

The AAPG on Libraries, Literacy and Information Management has just reported the results of its “Inquiry into the Governance and Leadership of the Public Library Service in England”

www.cilip.org.uk/sitecollectiondocuments/PDFs/policyadvocacy/appgfinalreport.pdf

The key recommendations of the report are that:

- Government funding and functional responsibility for public libraries should be brought together within a single government department
- Local authorities should continue to be responsible and carry accountability for the provision of public library services in their area
- The application of the Public Libraries Act 1964 should be clarified by a clear definition of the minimum level of service to be expected by customers
- A Library Development Agency for England should be established

The report will be considered by the Government as part of its much delayed "Modernisation Review of Public Libraries".

More information on the workings of the UK Parliament is available at www.parliament.uk

Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) in UK Libraries

The use of RFID in UK libraries, especially in public and university libraries, has expanded greatly in the last 4 to 5 years. The main benefit so far has been to extend self-service operation for the lending and return of library stock. Staff released from these duties have been used to improve relations with library customers by providing a greater level of personal assistance. Some libraries have achieved over 90% of their lending transactions being self-service. In university libraries, through self-service, there has been an increase in opening hours with many increasing to 24/7 operation with only security staff on duty outside normal working hours. In many libraries access security systems are also RFID operated although many have retained HF systems.

The new international standard ISO 28560-2 has been adopted by all UK suppliers of RFID technology. This standardises the data that is included in the RFID tag and all the suppliers have agreed to offer upgrades to this new standard. The suppliers have come together to form the UK RFID Suppliers Alliance to encourage further developments based on the standard.

In addition to self-service, some libraries have installed automatic sorting machines for sorting returned books into their shelving sequence; some are using hand-held wands to perform stock-checking on the shelves; there are a few who are experimenting with 'smart shelves' which can be automatically interrogated to locate individual items.

CILIP's 5th Annual "RFID in Libraries Conference" has just been held in London and speakers have forecast significant growth in RFID use in libraries despite the

recession. The introduction of the new standard and the formation of the suppliers Alliance is giving an impetus to RFID adoption. The Alliance is composed of the following companies: 2CQR, 3M, Axiell, Bibliotheca, D-Tech, Intellident, and Plescon Security Products.

A copy of a paper given at the 2005 LIBCOM Conference is available

<http://www.iliacuk.co.uk/documents/TheuseofRFID.pdf>

Public Library Buildings Awards 2009

The winners of the 2009 Public Library Buildings Awards were announced at the CILIP Public Libraries Group conference in October. The awards are an initiative of The Public Libraries Group (PLG) of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council). The awards recognise the best libraries which opened to the public in the last two years throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The awards focus on library building design, good practice, overall management and public usage.

Winchester Discovery Centre was the winner of the 'Architecture Meets Practicality' category; Pollock Library & Learning Centre in Glasgow won in the 'Partnership' category; Newcastle's new City Library won the 'Innovation' category. Newcastle also won the Mary Finch Accessibility Award and the Delegates Choice Award, voted for by librarians and councilor attending the conference. Video clips of the library buildings can be viewed at www.cilip.org.uk/plg/awards.

Many libraries in the UK, especially academic and public libraries are undergoing major changes to meet new requirements for best utilization of the library space. Libraries of all types are becoming more and more learning centres based on electronic resources with a reduced emphasis on physical resources such as books and journals. A database of the design of library buildings can be found at www.designinglibraries.org.uk

[Winchester Discovery centre](#)



ONLINE Information 2009, London, 1-3 December

The ONLINE Information Conference and Exhibition will be held at Olympia in London, 1-3 December. Some of you will be visiting the exhibition and we hope that there might be an opportunity to meet as many of you as possible. Ruth Hilbourne and I will be there on Tuesday 1st December. Contact us through either the CILIP or the UKeIG stands. If you would like to arrange a meeting in advance either on the Tuesday or some other time then send an email to nwbriggs@iliacuk.co.uk. We would very much like to meet you.

We will report on ONLINE in our next newsletter.

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