
New technologies and new roles

Focus Issue 59

Our recent calls for submissions on specific themes have been very successful, and the technology theme for this issue was no exception. The interpretation of 'technology' ranged from large-scale library systems to uses of mobile technologies, Twitter, text services and social media. Ben Showers and Suzanne Enright provided an overview of the library systems landscape and David Summers collated viewpoints on the implementation of Alma, one of the leading new systems in the current marketplace. There are useful pointers on maximising the use of existing technologies such as RFID and web conferencing and an update on Knowledge Base Plus (KB+) from Huddersfield. Other topics covered in this issue include improving the student experience, a skills programme for research data management, skills development and the creation of a new Harvard referencing guide – all familiar issues addressed by the authors, with some very innovative and practical solutions.

Corrections and clarifications

I accidentally omitted a few articles which had been sent on time for Issue 58 – we have had a very busy time at LJMU and I confess my filing system has been less effective of late. These have now been included in the current issue. I also omitted a diagram from the article by Simon Bains on the new structure at Manchester University – a corrected version has now been made available online. Apologies to all concerned and I hope everything has now been rectified.

NEW EDITOR FOR *Focus*

This is my last issue as Chair of the *Focus* Editorial Board, a role I have very much enjoyed over the past three years. I have been a member of the Board since 2005 and have benefited greatly from meeting people from different parts of the country, both at the board meetings in the SCONUL offices and at the conferences and events I have reported on for *Focus*. When new initiatives have been planned at LJMU, I have usually known where to find someone who has been through the experience already and written about it, which

has been enormously helpful. The role of *Focus* in reporting on fairly short, practical projects and developments helps to build up a really valuable resource of professional knowledge – looking back over the past issues it is clear how much we have improved our buildings, introduced new technologies and enhanced the experience of all our library users.

I would like to thank the current and past members of the Editorial Board and the staff at SCONUL HQ for all their support. Our copy editor Cecilia Bainton and desktop publisher Steve Gardner have probably suffered most from my idiosyncratic and fallible organisation systems – their patience and assistance have saved the day many times and have helped to ensure the quality of the final output remains high. From Issue 60 onwards, Steve Rose from Southampton Solent will take over as Chair of the Editorial Board and will bring a great deal of experience to the role as a former member of the Board and regular contributor. I look forward to seeing how *Focus* evolves in the future and to reading the latest issue from the comfort of a sunny deckchair.

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