Dr John Crawford
Chair, The Right Information: Information Skills for a 21st Century Scotland,
Dubrovnik 20-23 October 2014
Information skills for a 21st century Scotland

Crivvens! Help ma Boab! Whit's this information literacy?

Launched 11th June 2012 @ CILIPS Annual Conference in Dundee

New online information literacy community of practice: Information Skills for a 21st century Scotland.

More than a website ...

Hosted by Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC)

An online information literacy community of practice
And he’s back!
Aims and activities of the community of practice

- Developing core information literacy skills in further education
- Assessing the impact of information literacy training
- Advocacy for information literacy
- Instructing teachers in information literacy
- Information literacy as an employability skill
- Information literacy toolkits for young people
- Teaching information literacy skills in public libraries
- Links between schools and public libraries
- Use of electronic information literacy resources in public libraries
- Online training packages in higher education
- Workplace information literacy skills
Activities

- A low cost successor to the Scottish Information Literacy Project
- Founded in 2012
- Communication by blogging, email and twitter
- Face to face meetings twice a year
- Brings together a diverse range of library sectors and representatives from education and skills bodies
- Works with all relevant bodies
- Presentations, articles, blogging, advocacy, training packages
Players and partners

- Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC), Scotland’s information policy making body
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) the professional body in Scotland
- Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) the umbrella body for 1700 Scottish charities
Some achievements of members

- Scottish Government Information Service - 10 things – online social media training package
- Dundee College’s skills for learning, life and work course – employability and IL skills training
- Young Scot website
- Project Blaster - is an online information literacy resource aimed at 10-11 year olds
- SMILE – a HE IL resource
Presentations to fellow professionals
Input to Royal Society of Edinburgh report
Advising SLIC and CILIPS
Cross Party Group on Digital Participation
Meeting with Scottish Government Civil servants
Meeting with Director of Digital Participation Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
Planning a cross sectoral conference
The report ‘vision’ states:

‘That everyone in Scotland has the information and digital skills required to participate in the digital arena and prosper from digital opportunities.

That sustainable online and peer support for continuing learning and development of information and digital skills throughout all stages of life is in place.

That information and digital skills are embedded across the curriculum and from pre-school to tertiary.’
Spread the benefits: public libraries

- The role of public libraries in the digital inclusion agenda is recognised:
- ‘As a valuable resource in the drive to full digital inclusion, libraries must be supported to maintain and increase their capacity to provide public access to the online world’
All Education Faculties within Scottish universities should include components of information literacy, digital skills and computing science in their programmes of study for all primary and secondary teachers.
The challenge of digital participation

- 22% of the Scottish population are not Internet users (about 1.3 million)
- UK ‘Digital by default’ programme – key services to be delivered online including social security benefits
- Scottish Government ‘digital first’ and a devolved training strategy
- A crisis requiring a response from the information sector and a devolved training agenda
Responding to the challenge

- A training role for public libraries – all 32 public library services have digital champions
- A National Strategy for public libraries in Scotland
- Enter the voluntary sector
- A role for information literacy
- A cross sectoral conference in February 2015 to be followed by other cross sectoral events
- Research into the role of IL in the voluntary sector
Conclusions

- Our objectives have changed over time
- We need to exploit social media more
- Information literacy now much better understood but a problem with some professions
- Advocate at as high a level as possible
- The Referendum – a key factor in information literacy development
- Work cross sectorally and collaboratively
- Perhaps easier to advocate in a small country
Questions?
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