

## Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of 2011 and what will hopefully be an interesting, informative and inspiring read which once again highlights some of the valuable research that goes on within our profession.

The first paper in this issue is a summary of a report commissioned by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals' (CILIP) Library and Information Research Group (LIRG). Christine Rooney-Browne was asked to produce a comprehensive review of existing quantitative and qualitative evaluation methodologies for demonstrating the value of public libraries in the United Kingdom (UK). Although this invited paper is a summary of that report, it is probably one of the longer papers we have had in LIR, the reason for this is that there is so much to tell! Christine has pulled out the major themes and discoveries of the original report to provide readers with an excellent review of evaluation methodologies used within the public library sector and beyond. As Christine discovered, there was not as much published evidence into public library evaluation as was originally hoped therefore the remit was extended to look at examples of best practice from other sectors. This paper offers valuable insight into potential approaches for public libraries to evaluate their service provision.

Allyson Washburn and Sheila Bibb present a research paper which reports on the use of undergraduate students enrolled on an Applied Anthropology course as researchers for a library use study at Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library. The paper provides evidence to support the theory that using students to conduct an ethnographic investigation has produced significantly enriched data collection. The actual investigation was focussed on the use of library space but by using students on this particular course, the library gained valuable insight into student views and the student/researchers were offered an authentic learning experience.

Marian Knopp provides an interesting research article discussing her investigation of the information needs, preferences and behaviour of home cooks. This investigation suggests ways in which libraries can offer services to this user group in ways most appropriate to their preferences.

As Miggie said in the last issue, we welcome Pauline Rafferty of Aberystwyth as Book Review Editor, she brings us four book reviews, two in the health information sector, Ennis and Michell's '*Nicole. The Accidental Health Sciences Librarian*' and Robinson's '*Understanding healthcare information.*' Mackey and Jacob's '*Collaborative Information Literacy Assessments: Strategies for Evaluating Teaching and Learning*' explores assessment strategies designed by faculty-librarian partnerships in the United States, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Heinstrom's '*From Fear to Flow: Personality and information interaction*' a survey of how personality dimensions affect people's interactions with information search and use.

As always, if reading one of the papers in this issue, inspires you to undertake your own research project or write up a project that you have already completed then please do consider submitting your work to *Library and Information Research*.

Alison Jane Pickard

**Reference:**

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