Communication to the ITP CE Group from the ITP Library Managers' Group

Following the recent, successful ITP Library Managers' Group annual meeting at Otago Polytechnic, 27-29 June, Dunedin, the 15 ITPs represented would like to summarise the outcomes of the meeting for the information of the ITP CE's Group.

Summary of sessions

A primary focus of the meeting was collaboration – amongst libraries and also commercial suppliers – and discussion on strategic planning and evaluation. The usual two and a half days agenda was shortened to two days and vendor presentations restricted to discussions outside the formal schedule. ProQuest and EBSCO were presented with a set of questions prior to the conference and asked to address these rather than present a product demonstration. The questions related to their efforts in collaborating with other commercial suppliers to the benefit of their library customers.

A presentation by the newly-appointed National Librarian, Bill Macnaught, was of interest. Bill spoke of the way ahead for the library profession in New Zealand, some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. In particular, he mentioned budget cuts, the restructuring of the Alexander Turnbull Library. On a more general note he looked at the National Library helping connect NZ to the rest of the world's knowledge, moving beyond Google to sharing deep knowledge held in libraries; the ultrafast broadband rollout to schools and repositioning the school library service; centralised procurement; combining innovation with heritage; and leading the move to promote the value of libraries in a knowledge economy. Amongst the feedback given to the National Librarian by the ITP library managers was our interest in a holistic approach to development of the library sector. In particular, there we expressed real interest in a further conversation about working together in developing the school library sector. By this we meant the transitioning between secondary schools and tertiary particularly with the governments focus on youth guarantee and the dual enrolments that are happening at the moment.

The forum worked on evidence-based library management covered the process of incorporating research into library practice, generating evidence and the applying to the practice. The 3 questions specifically addressed were:
1. What research has your library created?
2. How have you applied your research evidence? Did it improve your professional judgement?
3. How do you ensure that your research is available as part of your evidence base?

A complementary session on Evaluation looked at the various products available to conduct assessments of library services – Lib-Value, AUSSE, LibQUAL+. Mention was made of a recent thesis by a former ITP Library Manager on qualitative versus quantitative data and the benefits of these approaches. The difficulty of gathering meaningful evidence was highlighted. As an example of the usefulness of evidence gathering – the new Robertson Library at Otago Polytechnic is the result of documented student complaints and feedback kept by the Institute Librarian over the years and used to inform design and function.

A session was held on the contribution of the library to student success, another session on mobile devices and augmented reality within libraries.

Documents relating to the ITP library sector are held on our wiki
http://wikieducator.org/Institutes_of_Technology_and_Polytechnics_Library_Managers_Forum

This site is used to store our various documents and discussion forums.

The Executive Committee changed for 2011/2012 with Jane Arlidge (NorthTec) replacing Wintec as Chair and Peter Hughes (Unitec and 2012 host) constituting the new Executive Committee.

New representatives were elected for the various bodies and committees that have an ITP representative – Te Puna Strategic Advisory Committee, Open Polytechnic of NZ Information & Library Studies Advisory Committee, EPIC (Strategic Advisory Forum representative remains for another year).

ITP Library Forum 2011 – Otago Polytechnic

Monday 27 June
11.45am Meet at The Robertson Library (135 Union Street East)
12 Noon Mihi – The Robertson library
12.30pm *Lunch and welcome from Robin Day, Deputy CEO Otago Polytechnic – Council Room*
1.15pm Sector overview, updates and report backs (Chair: Cate & Jane)
3.45pm *Afternoon tea (sponsored by Alexander Press)*
4.00pm Proquest – questions and demonstration (Chair: Mary)
Dinner at 7.30pm for 8pm at Scotia Restaurant sponsored by Proquest

Tuesday 28 June – Council Room
9am National Librarian
10am Mobile Devices – Sarah-Jane (Chair: Angela)
10.45am *Morning tea (sponsored by exLibris)*
11am Evidence based library management – Jane and Mary
12 Noon Highlights from conferences attended (Chair: Daphne)
12.15pm *Lunch – The Robertson Library (sponsored by RMIT)*
1.15pm Strategic Planning Panel - Heather, Chris, Jane (Chair: Diane)
2.15pm Student success; convergence of services – group discussion (Chair: Joanna)
3.00pm *Afternoon tea*
3.30pm Tour of the Robertson Library
4.00pm EBSCO – questions and demonstration (Chair: Sarah-Jane)
Dinner at 7.30pm at Luna sponsored by EBSCO

Wednesday 29 June – Council Room
9am Collaboration (dealing with commercial parties) – group discussion (Chair: Sarah-Jane)
9.45am Makeup of Executive (Chair: Cate)
10am *Morning tea at the Robertson Library (sponsored by Elsevier)*
10.30am Evaluation; return on investment – Peter (Chair: Kevin)
11.30am Statistics - discussion (Chair: Kevin)
12 Noon Close of Forum