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

Following the recent, successful ITP Library Managers' Group annual meeting at UCOL, 6-8 July, Palmerston North, the 18 ITPs represented would like to summarise the outcomes of the meeting for the information of the ITP CE's Group.

Summary of sessions

An excellent agenda was prepared (available upon request) and sponsored by the major library suppliers and vendors of both print and online products – EBSCO NZ Ltd., ProQuest & Serials Solutions, Clickview, E-Cast, Ex Libris, Elsevier, Standards NZ, Alexander Street Press. Proceedings included updates and reports from ITP library representatives on a range of library and information profession committees, consortia, advisory groups and national project teams. Presentations were given by various members on products they have implemented within their institutions, trials run or contributed, models investigated. These included such diverse topics as the Standards NZ online packages, the records management project, EBL demand-driven ebooks model, Digital NZ and the Maori OPAC. A session on ePortfolios was co-presented by Otago Polytechnic and Wintec.

Vendor presentations covered Clickview and e-Cast products, both of which promote the embedding of foreign and local content digital media into programmes without the need for local hosting. E-cast, operating from Auckland, is linked into KAREN. EBSCO and ProQuest/RefWorks/Serials Solutions gave an overview of products either recently released or planned for release.

Judith Brown, ITP Quality, spent Wednesday morning highlighting the evaluative approach to quality assurance with a particular focus on the question "How well are learners guided and supported?" She stressed the importance of ongoing evaluation around how effective our processes are for identifying learners requiring assistance, how effective support is for such learners and the need to collect evidence to back up our evaluations. The "So what?" and "What then?" form a critical part of evaluation to ensure that data collected, gaps identified, efforts at improving are effective, embedded and sustained. BoPPoly, WelTec and Whitireia contributed with accounts of their experiences this year with both self-assessment and external evaluation and review processes.

The annual statistics the ITP library sector has been collecting for a number of years were discussed (also available upon request). A heart-felt debate on the topic "Libraries Need Librarians" with impassioned arguments resonating throughout the room, rebuttals flying, reputations called into question and several thousand years of history plus three patron saints called upon to support arguments. A draw was the happy outcome. It led into the question of how the ITP sector is managing to recruit new blood into our institutions. This is proving a real challenge for most of us as the profession ages and is not replaced at a comparable rate. The issue of whether the current professional qualifications are meeting the needs of employing libraries was also raised.

Our host, UCOL library manager, took us through the pictorial journey of the new Hub at UCOL, Palmerston North, with its various challenges and the excellent outcome. Once again proving that a well-designed space for students proves its worth from the moment of opening.

Composition of ITP Library Managers' Group Executive

The final day was spent assessing how we can best continue to work together as a group within the ITP sector. A draft Terms of Reference was discussed and minor amendments made. The former four-member regional grouping will cease and be replaced with three executive members - representative from the Metro Group (Wintec), representative from the Super 14 Group (NorthTec), upcoming forum host (Otago) - as described in the attached document. It is anticipated the executive will focus on providing a single co-ordination point for collaborative opportunities, a single communication point and have the power of delegation.

The annual collection of ITP library statistics will continue and a wiki will be set up for the purposes of communication, promoting themes for discussion, identifying critical issues and showcasing highlights at our nineteen institutions.

ITP Library Managers

Background

The ITPNZ Libraries Forum commenced reorganisation after notification from the ITP National Office in February 2009 of withdrawal of support for fora activities. An assessment of the way ahead became critical in June following the indication of withdrawal from ITPNZ by six members at the end of the year. At the 2009 ITPNZ Libraries Forum meeting, 6-8 July at Wintec, attendees from the 16 ITPs present agreed unanimously that the Libraries Forum should continue in some form.

The Forum moved that membership continue with the same composition of 19 ITP library managers and be renamed ITP Library Managers. The current Executive structure of regional representation from the Upper North Island, Mid-North Island, Lower North Island and South Island was to continue with a Convenor being drawn from Executive members. Current Executive members – Wintec, EIT, Weltec, Otago –were to remain in office for the coming year through to July 2010.

The Libraries group has existed in several forms for many years and has had a major impact on library developments in institutes of technology and polytechnics and, it is anticipated, this will continue into the future. The ITPNZ Libraries Forum expressed the belief that it was critical to continue our original aims of fostering and enhancing education in New Zealand.

Purpose of the ITP Library Managers
- Strategic Collaboration/cooperation for efficiency
- Professional Development
- Networking for information and sharing best practice

Terms of Reference (Proposed)

The ITP Library Managers group works to:

- Provide a forum for collaboration and sharing developments relevant to the libraries' role in supporting student success

- Create strong and successful ITP libraries that support the provision of access to information, information literacy, staff and student research and provide positive outcomes for accreditation and review of educational programmes with respect to libraries & information provision

- Advise the ITP sector of issues relating to library and information trends in the tertiary and information sector where appropriate

- Communicate challenges and opportunities presented by new developments in librarianship and information technology

- Provide a structure for working on areas of library cooperation/collaboration e.g. consortium discounts for purchasing electronic resources and related products.

- Ensure that the ITP Library sector participates on Library and Information professional bodies' national advisory committees to provide expert advice in key areas relevant to the sector

- Collate ITP library statistics and communicate on issues of currency or importance

Proposed composition of a new executive team

Three-member team comprising:

> 1 representative from the Metro Group
> 1 representative from the Super 14 Group
> 1 representative who is the upcoming forum host

The term of office will comprise one year, except in extraordinary circumstances and by general agreement of the ITP Library Managers members. Executive members will be elected at the annual forum, except in exceptional circumstances.

Activities of the ITP Library Managers Group

Reporting will take place annually at the ITP Library Managers forum and will be an internal report to the group only.

The formally-agreed to, documented and reported-against Objectives and Action Plan will be replaced by a more informal, elastic arrangement which will focus on issue-based themes and discussions. These will be collated and raised for discussion at the annual forum by the executive. It is anticipated that such issues will include the terms of reference above and matters of general concern, such as:

Representation on national bodies
Sector Statistics
Consortium arrangements
Funding changes to the sector
Implications of government recommendations or directives
Critical issues to the sector

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