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Conference Corner

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Chan, L. et al 2002. *Budapest Open Access Initiative*. New York: Open Society Institute. Available at: <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml> [Retrieved 22 January 2007].

'The road to information literacy' IFLA Satellite meeting Finland 2012

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This year's IFLA Satellite meeting, 'The road to information literacy: librarians as facilitators of learning', took place in Tampere, Finland (<http://iflasatellit tampere2012.wordpress.com/>). It provided a great opportunity for information literacy (IL) practitioners from all around the world, including Finland, Norway, the United States, South Africa, Uganda, Namibia, Australia and Singapore, to gather and share the latest innovations and practices.

The opening keynote was given by Kirsti Lonka, Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Helsinki (<http://kirstilonka.fi/>). Kirsti who spoke on 'Engaging learning environments for the future' and the value of physical spaces (and libraries) to support learning. She made an interesting point that technology may be part of our social and knowledge practices but classrooms largely remain the same: 'Blended learning environments combine physical, virtual, social, mobile and mental spaces of learning.' Kirsti also talked about the Kaisa House, the new home of the University of Helsinki Library (<http://www.helsinki.fi/library/>). The second keynote speaker was Carol Kuhlthau (<http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/~kuhlthau/>), who is Professor of Information Science at Rutgers University and has written widely in the field of information seeking behaviour.

Papers covered a range of issues that we are all working to address. Vicki McDonald (Queensland University of Technology) presented a valuable session on 'Seamless delivery of learning support services'.



Above: Maria Bell, Katy Wrathall and Jane Secker with Moomintroll

She spoke about joining up IL with academic skills and the importance of collaboration between services, something of especial interest to LSE and York St. John University. Courtney Bruch and Carroll Wilkinson from West Virginia University and Front Range Community College (Colorado) gave a presentation on 'Organisational culture, change agency and emotional intelligence: research findings for fostering librarian ownership of IL programs'. Sharon Favaro from Seton Hall University (New Jersey) spoke about 'Teaching IL to first year students through knowledge management tools', and there were numerous overlaps between her findings and our work at LSE. An excellent session from Greta Friggens & Lisa White of Portsmouth University explained how developing an IL framework for library staff also enabled them to better support students. Eeva Koponen and Mirja Laitinen of the

University of Jyväskylä, Finland, described their work in further integrating IL in courses and quality assurance measures in place.

UK presenters of workshop and posters included: Judith Stewart and Sandra Clark (UWE Library Services); Andrew Whitworth (University of Manchester); Laura Wilkinson (University of Oxford) with her poster presentation on 23ThingsOxford (poster available at <http://darkarchive.wordpress.com/2012/08/15/23-things-oxford-a-poster-at-iflainfolit/>); Matthew Borg and Angie Donoghue (Sheffield Hallam University); Louise Doolan (British Library); Greta Friggens and Lisa White (University of Portsmouth); and us, Maria Bell, Jane Secker (LSE) and Katy Wrathall (York St John University).

The presentations can be viewed on the conference website at <http://iflasatellit tampere2012.wordpress.com/programme/>, and a selection of the papers along

with case studies and good practice guides have been published by IFLA in *The road to information literacy: librarians as facilitators of learning* (London and Boston: De Gruyter Saur, 2012. Edited by Roisin Gwyer, Ruth Stubbings and Graham Walton. See <http://www.ifla.org/news/new-publication-the-road-to-information-literacy-librarians-as-facilitators-of-learning>).

The conference very much highlighted that we are all facing similar issues wherever we are. We are all seeking new ways to engage students while also exploring strategies to deliver learning support services seamlessly. As ever, conferences bring us together and demonstrate how much we can learn from each other.

Tampere was a fabulous city on the banks of two lakes, with a rich industrial heritage and many former factories and mills. Known as the Manchester of Finland, it was great to have an evening reception in the town hall and see some of the city on an afternoon tour. It is also home of the Moomins and the Moomin Museum, for those of you old enough to remember the strange hippo-like creatures created by Tove Jansson. We can also highly recommend the shopping at Helsinki Airport, which tempted us with many Moomin and Angry Bird souvenirs!



Above: Tampere, Finland: the city still bears the signs of its industrial past.