



NEWS & EVENTS

Scottish Information Network: 7th November Event - 'Intelligent retrieval - search technology brought to life'. Professor Ewen Klein of the University of Edinburgh School of Informatics will be talking to the Scottish Information Network about his pioneering work to develop **advanced text mining technologies**. Also speaking will be Chris Shaw, Global Practice Director, Factiva Insight. Chris's responsibilities include business development, client strategy and product development. This event is kindly sponsored by Factiva <http://www.factiva.com/>. For more information about this event, please contact Steve Borley <mailto:steve.borley@rbs.co.uk>. To join the **Scottish Information Network** (free and inclusive), please contact John Coll j.coll@nls.uk.

The **last Tuesday of every month** must be in the diary of every literati. The **City of Literature** hosts a **salon at the Traverse Bar** for anyone interested, involved, enthused about literature. A rare chance to meet a great variety of people with a common interest on neutral ground. Contact Anna Burkey 0131 229 9498 anna@cityofliterature.com. Also contact Anna to make sure you are on the mailing list for the City of Literature's monthly e-bulletin.

Please add to the value of the **Edinburgh Libraries Guide** <http://www.elisa.lib.ed.ac.uk/elg.htm> by making sure that the entry for your organisation is up to date. Contact Sally Macpherson sally.macpherson@edinburgh.gov.uk to notify any alterations necessary.

New post – exciting initiative

Alison Stoddart reports, "I have recently taken up the newly created post of **Library Heritage Projects Officer** based in the Central Library on George IV Bridge. The creation of this new post is the first step in an exciting initiative to develop public access to the unique heritage collections housed in the Central Library. My particular emphasis will be on the preservation and digitisation of these collections. This will allow items of national and international importance to be made available to a world wide audience through the Internet."

Alison Stoddart: Tel 0131 242 8032

alison.stoddart@edinburgh.gov.uk

Notice

Scottish Language Dictionaries' domain name has been changed to: www.scotsdictionaries.org.uk. E-mail accounts also change to the following format:

firstname.lastname@scotsdictionaries.org.uk

RAISING THE PROFILE

Outlook Project

Outlook is an adult education project and part of the City of Edinburgh Council's Community Learning & Development Service. The project enables adults who use mental health services in Edinburgh to take up a variety of educational opportunities through offering individual guidance, information and support. Outlook also offers a range of free, short adult education courses providing space for people to regain the confidence and skills they need to access wider options. Four terms of courses are offered per year with a varied programme ranging from computing and art to photography and outdoor activities. All of our services are free of charge. Although only 5 members of staff (3 part-time!) we are proud to be able to offer a city-wide service and to welcome all students.



As Information & Admin. Worker my main role is as the initial contact for new students (we had almost 200 new students last year) offering first line guidance and information on our service. As part of the full guidance service offered by our adult education workers I research individual student's requests for information, whether it is college courses, adult education classes or information on a personal interest. I also respond to information requests from people working in a range of agencies e.g. occupational therapists, community psychiatric nurses, support workers and carers.

I am also responsible for organising our regular Open Information Afternoons both at our main office and other venues. These informal events offer an opportunity for anyone interested to come along and find out more about Outlook. We have a wide range of information available for people to take away with them on local health and mental projects, as well as, educational, training and voluntary opportunities.

The Outlook Project is based at Springwell House, Ardmillan Terrace, Edinburgh, EH11 2JL. If you would like more information about Outlook please phone me, on 0131 537 7571 or e-mail outlook@ceceducation.fsnet.co.uk



Jackie Barber, Outlook Project



RAISING THE PROFILE Library of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh



The **Library of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh** is a 'site service' shared by staff & students of the **ATC** [Astronomy Technology Centre], the **IfA** [Institute for Astronomy] of the **University of Edinburgh**, and the **Visitor Centre**. **PPARC**, [Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council] a government body, provides overall funding for the site.

ROE library is a member of the **Scottish Endeavor Consortium** and, through agreement with Edinburgh University; our **Voyager** library management system accesses EU hardware and includes module support and training.

The ATC build state-of-the art instruments for telescopes, the IfA carry out research into cosmology and the structure of the universe, whilst the Visitor Centre concentrates on education outreach programmes.

As librarian I try to meet everyone's information needs with access, via library subscriptions, to electronic publications, abstract services and databases and, printed material. I manage [somehow] the collection - from acquisitions, retaining a comprehensive collection of astronomical literature within the tight budget - to the logistics of moving books around ever-decreasing shelf-space whilst defining library policy: simple with fewer rules.

One of my lesser roles [although the one I enjoy the most] is as curator to the Crawford Collection. Representing a broad history of astronomy spanning the 13th - 19th centuries, it was gifted to the nation by Lord Crawford in the 1880s and is the reason the Observatory was built. My last role is as archivist to the ROE Archives containing documents and correspondence dating back to 1764.

The complete autonomy I have in being a solo librarian instils a [misplaced?] sense of power and I try not to let negative feelings of isolation get in the way of it. I see the library as vital, integral, and frankly indispensable to the organisation [not that I'm biased] and hope to cultivate this dictum into the future.



K. Moran, Librarian, Royal Observatory Edinburgh

ELISA WORKING GROUPS

The **Staff Development & Training Group** are supporting two gatherings for Chartership candidates on **26th and 27th October**. The aim of the sessions is to find out what people undergoing Chartership need in terms of support from libraries. By identifying the needs, libraries can then examine what can be achieved through collaboration and co-operation under the auspices of ELISA. These gatherings will also provide a useful networking opportunity for people working in similar conditions. Anyone interested in any angle of Chartership, as a candidate, mentor, assessor, is encouraged to get in touch. wendy.ball@edinburgh.gov.uk Shared experience is a building block for progress.

The **Web Group** and the **Communications Group** are planning a joint meeting at the end of November to focus on the development of the ELISA website.

The **e-Content Group** met on 6th October and Richard Clegg, Operations Manager of SCRAN attended the meeting. This was a very productive meeting. The Group are now working on a business plan for the Edinburgh Digitised Material Portal.

The **Access Group** are forging ahead with the Edinburgh Libraries Passport project. At the last meeting, it was decided to form a small working party to develop ideas for an event next year that will promote all libraries and information services in Edinburgh. The aim of this will be to raise awareness of exactly what resources are locally available in terms of stock, access and, most importantly, expertise.

If you are interested in any aspect of the work of the Working Groups, please get in touch. Involvement at any level and to any degree is most welcome. To find out more e-mail the following:

Access: wendy.ball@edinburgh.gov.uk

Communications: librarian1@spl.org.uk

e-Content: A.Redpath@napier.ac.uk

Staff Development: g.a.mcdonald@hw.ac.uk

Web: sally.kerr@edinburgh.gov.uk

NEWS FROM THE CABIN

I escaped cabin fever recently with two interesting forays into the outside world. One to the National Library of Scotland to meet John Coll, Membership Secretary of Scottish Information Network. Active, free and inclusive, make the network an important resource to check out: <http://www.scotifonet.com/contact.htm>. I also ventured to the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) to meet Shona Skakle, Team leader for Enquiry Handling. Shona kindly gave of her time to explain the structuring of SPICe and the various roles they fulfil. It was particularly interesting to hear about the imperative of presenting impartial information to clients and the operation of a library and information service in a political environment that is constantly changing.



Wendy

