BOBCATSSS 2010 @ Parma, Italy
Dates: Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th January, 2010

Bridging the digital divide:
libraries providing access for all?
The ability to conduct ourselves professionally underpins a successful career. Understanding behaviours (ourselves and others); acknowledging the context in which we operate; recognising our skill base and that we constantly develop whether deliberately or accidentally; are key attributes of a ‘professional’.

Our workshop session has been developed to help the next generation of practitioners to learn from our experience and to help them identify and acknowledge the skills that they will bring to the workplace.

The (loose) structure is roughly as follows, but is dependent on the interaction of participants and the direction that this takes.

- Career history to date: Lyndsay and Kathy
  Purpose: to demonstrate the variety of routes; that there is no ‘one’ way; the value of networking; that it is crucial to be flexible and adaptable and to recognise our own skills
- Draw a librarian ©
  Group exercise to portray a librarian using images and not words.
- Review of skills being developed – emphasis on using ‘our’ professional language and on recognising our unique skill base
- Reflective practice exercise ©
  Individual exercise: thinking of something you didn’t know 6 months ago and the difference it has made to you today
- Overview of importance on not working in professional isolation. How crucial networking is to survival effectiveness.

It was lovely to spend time with the BOBCATSSS delegates who chose to join our session at the end of January 2010. We enjoyed it and learnt new things, and we hope that participants found the session useful too.

Following is a brief write-up from the session, including photos.

We would appreciate your feedback on the session so that we can adapt and adjust, ensuring that we make the most of the time we have with students. We would love to hear your views on the workshop, especially now that you have had the time to reflect on the learnings that you gathered. Please visit our Survey Monkey questionnaire at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/univisits.

Thanks for your time.

Best wishes
Kathy and Lyndsay
MSU
Draw a librarian

... results ....
Professional skills

Eg.
- Cataloguing
- Classification
- Thesaurus construction
- Information literacy
- Acquisitions
- Collection management

Reflective practice - Exercise

L What didn’t I know 6 months ago? ie. learned and
D What difference has it made to me? ie. applied

Your reflections:

L I learned how to create a really good working Word document template
D Since then I’m always having more time or doing other things but formatting documents or being angry with my computer

L What is digital divide?
D Now know that it is happening all over the world; thinking about solutions; noticing (very often) that it also effects me (I-phone and so on)

L I bought a new boot because I read one book and found out about waterproof material
D Now I have dry legs

L I didn’t know how to play Texas Hold’em poker
D Now I know, and I lost quite a lot of money

L I didn’t know how to lead the evaluation process of human resources in the “House of Commons” (SIADAP) (evaluation of performance in public administration)
D I can coordinate all the process, after reading all the laws, working (?) “brain-stormings”, group “meetings”. I’m able to involve all the services in this process, they participate and all goes fine!

L I did not know – buying old things through the internet (eg. eBay)
D I buy things that I would not be able through traditional sources: but I need to learn how to sell things

L Buying plane tickets online
D Cheap and independent travel

L The profits of using an audio guide in a museum
D (lean) profit a lot more from visiting a museum
L Learnt how to steer a “slide”!
  D Spared me a lot of pain! – is good for my health

L That in Europe you have 2 type of different electric plug-ins – schoko-plug in and a euro-plug in
  D To take an adaptor for schoko-plug in when I am abroad

L I have a theory bound learning style
  D Not to stress about activist/pragmatist approach

L Creating an event for children on the basis of a picture book
  D Working with children. See public libraries in a different light

L How to solve standard deviation tasks!
  D Now I am better in maths!

L Hot to use photoscape!
  D Now I have much better photos 😊

L I didn’t know what is Information Society
  D I always thing that the Information Society is just about information but I know that is much more

L I didn’t know that it is possible to convince LIS department (new!) head about importance of librarian
  D It has happened 60%

L I never travelled by plane and I thought it takes a very complicated procedure travelling like that
  D After travelling to Edinburgh for 20 pounds return I check every month of so for cheap flights because I love to travel and its something that I want to do my whole life

L How to use Facebook
  D Keep contacts with my cousins; know what my students doing in their future

L I didn’t know that Clint Eastwood had 80 years
  D Oh my God! I always think he is younger because he is so handsome 😊

L I didn’t know that low-cost airlines didn’t allow more that 15kg per person as a luggage
  D Now I am weighing my luggage before travelling

L I didn’t know that’s dangerous for elephants to stay outside in winter because the ears can freeze on their heads!
  D I’m not going in the zoo during wintertime because I can’t see elephants outside

L I decorated my apartment
  D I didn’t know how expensive it is; how difficult to arrange all the word around the house; how beautiful it is to live in a nice and new decorated home
Best wishes for a successful library and information future

Lyndsay Rees-Jones and Kathy Ennis
Senior Advisers, Membership Support Unit, CILIP
March 2009

PS: Don’t forget to complete our short survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/univisits.

Useful links:
www.cilip.org.uk
www.cilip.org.uk/jobs-careers/careers-gateway
msu@cilip.org.uk