

Benchmarking project success

The inaugural meeting of the Matariki Network of Universities Library benchmarking project has been heralded as a success

Six Librarians from across five of the Network partner institutions met during the Research and the Humanities Conference at Dartmouth College during September 2013. Pete Maggs, Deputy Librarian, Durham University, reported after the conference that he was amazed at how much the project group achieved in just a few days.

The conference included a stream of academic leaders from the Humanities and another stream of library directors from across the Network. Conference host Colleen Boggs, Director, Leslie Center for the Humanities, commented that “the success of the benchmarking project provided others attending the conference with encouragement that real benefits can be achieved through participating in the Network.”

The library benchmarking meeting enabled each partner to discuss the project administration, to hear how others had applied what they learnt from the first survey cycle and to participate in planning the future direction of the project.

Time was allocated for each partner to share the range of assessment activities employed in their Libraries. In recognition of the value in this, each institution has been invited to post their assessment reports to the collaborative workspace. In addition, it was agreed that further surveys will include questions that allow for sharing more information about assessment activities.

A full report on the conference outcomes has been distributed amongst the delegates and is available on the projects’ collaborative workspace.

*The student
experience
identified as the
next survey topic*

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The benchmarking project group has agreed to proceed with the next survey round and to move to a new area of inquiry.

It was proposed that the next topic considers: what we do to support the student experience. This area of inquiry will help to extend the range of information shared across each Library, and allow for more staff from within each Library to be involved in the project. Overall, this will increase the potential for learning from collaborating across the Network.

Otago will continue to lead the project with other partners agreeing to make a greater commitment to providing input into its development.



Delegates visiting the Dartmouth Outing Club during the Research and the Humanities Conference, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, U.S.A. September 2013

Standing from left to right: Professor Seth Kunin, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Arts and Humanities, Durham University; Michele Chittenden, LRS Librarian, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, Queen's University; Martha Whitehead, University Librarian, Queen's University; Associate Professor Takashi Shogimen, Associate Dean Research, Division of Humanities, University of Otago; Eliz Kirk, Associate Librarian for Information Resources, Dartmouth College; Professor Dr. Jürgen Leonhardt, Dean of Faculty Humanities, Universität Tübingen; Pia Bodå Senior Librarian, Coordinator, Uppsala Universitet; Peter Maggs, Deputy Librarian, Durham University; John Cocklin, Librarian for Economics and Social Sciences Data, Dartmouth College; Howard Amos, University Librarian, University of Otago; Professor Bjorn Melander, Dean of Faculty of Languages, Uppsala Universitet; Dr. Mattias Bolkéus Blom, Faculty Director of Research and Research Studies, Uppsala Universitet; Lars Burman, Library Director & Professor of Literature, Uppsala University.

Seated from left to right: Simon Hart, Policy, Planning and Evaluation Librarian, University of Otago; Jeff Horrell, Dean of Libraries and Librarian of the College, Dartmouth College; Dr. Colleen Boggs, Director, Leslie Center for the Humanities, Dartmouth College; Marianne Döerr, Head of Tübingen University Library, Universität Tübingen.

The Greenhouse

An In-house Staff Development Project at Uppsala University Library, Sweden

The Greenhouse project is primarily a staff and organizational development project to support the goals of Uppsala University Library.

The aim of the Greenhouse project is to make the library and library professionals more visible in the library world through a more active participation in the library debate, by publishing articles in journals/publications and by making presentations at national and international conferences.

The Greenhouse project had started by the end of 2011 with a project group and a project leader, Karin Byström (karin.bystrom@ub.uu.se). The result of the first year's work was the planning and implementation of a six months staff development program which began early in 2013. Eight professionals applied for participation in the program. The participants all brought with them an idea

or a subject that they wanted to develop and present or publish.

To achieve the goals the participants attended lectures and seminars conducted by professionals in the library and by discussions within the group of participants and the project group. They also participated in a two day university course on how to speak and present before an audience. All together the program consisted of 60 hours per person (4 hours per week) carried out during working hours.

The Greenhouse project has been evaluated and has been considered to be a successful project. The participants have achieved self confidence, inspiration and new skills in making presentations. They are ready to participate in national and international conferences and to market the library. Other positive aspects were the networking

Quality matters



During the inaugural Benchmarking meeting delegates benefited from sharing details of assessment activities undertaken by each Library. In recognition of the value of learning about continuous improvement activities, and in order to broaden awareness across the Network, the partners agreed to provide more input into this newsletter with a particular focus on quality matters.

This newsletter includes a contribution from Pia Bodå from Uppsala University Library on The Greenhouse, a Library staff development project.

possibilities within the group, contact with experts within the library and shared knowledge about projects and work at the library. The Greenhouse project will continue with a new group of participants in 2014.

by Pia Bodå (pia.boda@ub.uu.se)
Senior Librarian, Coordinator,
Uppsala University Library

Otago to host first Matariki Humanities Colloquium

The Research and the Humanities Conference led to a plan for holding a series of colloquia that will enable scholars and librarians to share insights about the current state of their specific fields in an international setting, to make connections with other specialists in their fields, and to examine the resources and best practices at other Matariki Network institutions.

The first Matariki Humanities Colloquium will be held on 8-10 December 2014 at the University of Otago and will be hosted by the Division of Humanities in association with the Library.

The Colloquium will include two streams: one is an academic stream where each scholar will present a paper on the discipline of premodern studies, and a library stream that will focus on librarians support for the Humanities and contain a

practical component, with the sharing of resources, expertise and experiences.

It is proposed that three academics will represent each Matariki Network institution; with each academic presenting a paper in the academic stream on premodern studies as a discipline.

The library stream will include library managers and those involved with managing special collections and heritage resources from across the Matariki Network institutions.

A full colloquium programme including meetings to share practice, and events that will showcase the resources and activities at Otago, will be distributed in the New Year.

The series of colloquia will be informed by and contribute to the Libraries Benchmarking Project.

Contacts update



The Queens University contact is now Michele Chittenden, email: chittend@queensu.ca.

Michele has played an active role in the project by contributing to Queen's response in the first survey round and through participating in the benchmarking meeting at the Research and the Humanities conference. The project team acknowledges the significant contribution provided by the previous contact, Laurie Scott, during the first stages of the project.

This newsletter was compiled by the Matariki Network of Universities Library Benchmarking project team, with a special contribution from Pia Bodå from Uppsala University Library
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