UKSG

CONNECTING THE
KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

2020
in review

Contents

About UKSG

UKSG is a professional interest group for the information resources community. A world in which all parties involved in scholarly communications understand each other's goals and challenges, and therefore can work together to improve the flow of knowledge and the information experience of scholars and researchers.

Our vision is to use our breadth of knowledge and influence to:

- advance education in the art and science of librarianship and data recall with specific focus on the management and classification of serials and similar periodicals in the UK and internationally
- facilitate community integration, networking, discussion and exchange of ideas
- improve members' knowledge of the scholarly information sector and support skills development
- stimulate research and collaborative initiatives, encourage innovation and promote standards for industry-wide good practice
- disseminate news, information and publications, and raise awareness of services that support the scholarly information sector.

We have more than 430 organisational and individual members from the global scholarly information community. Our 2020 membership represents over 20 countries with most members coming from the UK, USA and western Europe.

Values

We aim to foster:

- cross-community involvement and equality
- analysis rather than advocacy
- objective facilitation.

Member Benefits

Benefits include:

- annual conference with discounted rates for members
- discounted seminar rates for members
- active free webinar programme and free entry to UKSG Forum
- free student workshops and free UKSG membership for students
- fortnightly UKSG *eNews*
- opportunities to get involved through committee and subcommittees
- awards and bursaries to help members attend UKSG events
- access to *Insights*, the UKSG journal, made possible through member support.

Comment from our Chair

Andrew Barker

2020 has been an interesting year at UKSG. In March we took the difficult decision to cancel our annual conference ahead of the government declaring a pandemic, which had a terrible effect on our finances (read more in our Annual Report and Accounts at: https://www.uksg.org/agm).

For 2020 we have again seen record attendances at our seminars and webinars especially with the move online. Our November conference saw the highest number of delegates ever with over 400 registered. Our webinar programme, under the stewardship of Sarah Pittaway, University of Worcester, has been regularly producing topical and well-attended events (watch on catch up at: https://www.uksg.org/webinars).

In total, over 6,000 people registered to attend one or more of our events in 2020. We spent much of the year looking at our governance and the work of the committee and trustees, and following an EGM in January 2020, the new articles of association were adopted. Hence, since the AGM in 2020, we have a smaller Board of Trustees than the previous Main Committee, in addition to the four sub-committees - *Insights*, Education, Outreach and Engagement and one focussing on the annual conference.

Insights is continuing to benefit from the decision to move to continuous publication, with submissions from 16 countries and 28 publications. Our thanks go to the dedicated editors, Lorraine Estelle, Project Counter and Steve Sharp, Sheffield Hallam for all their efforts.

Thanks too go to our intrepid *eNews* reporters, Helle Lauridsen of Lyngsoe Systems and Josh Sendall of Lancaster University. If you fancy writing an editorial for an upcoming issue, or have an item to include in the news section, please email: pr@uksg.org.

Finally, thank you, our members, for your extraordinary support in 2020 – with your donations, rolling over payments to 2021 or simply taking the time to contact us with your kind words. They meant a lot at what were occasionally difficult times.

Andrew Barker, Chair, UKSG
Director of Library Services,
Lancaster University

Groups and Subcommittees

Research and Innovation Group

Facilitating research and innovation is a key theme and activity area for UKSG and UKSG has often been at the heart of collaborative research initiatives which have developed solutions to industry-wide issues and promoted standards for best practice.

In 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we suspended activity and expenditure and are reviewing options for 2021 and beyond.

Outreach and Engagement

Our Outreach and Engagement subcommittee is now in its third year and delivering tangible benefits, concentrating on looking after UKSG members and their interests, to ensure UKSG raises awareness of its activities and member benefits.

It is focusing on expanding promotion of the Students and Early Career Professionals Award for attendance at UKSG, the Merriman Award which offers expenses paid attendance to UKSG and NASIG, expansion of the student roadshows to embed UKSG's work in the curriculum of library and publishing courses through a series of workshops and webinars, and the development of a communications plan to better promote UKSG activities to members.

It is also working on recruiting UKSG Champions in member organisations. The 16-strong group is representative of the UKSG community with members from the publishing community, libraries and intermediaries.

Headline Events

Annual Conference

We took the very difficult decision to cancel the in-person annual conference scheduled for 30th March - 1st April, due to the risks associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic. There was insufficient time to organise a virtual alternative however we were able to continue to offer a full programme of webinars and seminars, and to run the One-Day Conference as a virtual two-day event. We had a record number of delegates, over 400.

One-Day Conference
11-12 November, Online

UKSG's tenth annual One-Day Conference focused on the topic of *'From Transition to Transformation: Providing Scholarly Content and Services in Tumultuous Times'*.

This year due to the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic we ran the event across two-days, online, and received excellent feedback on the content and delivery.

Events and Webinars

Events

Our events range from introductory level seminars for those new to the information community to intermediate and advanced seminars and workshops on specific themes for professional development. They are central to UKSG's objectives of encouraging professional awareness and realising public benefit by providing a programme of affordable seminars and workshops. In normal times events are run around the country, in London and regional centres.

In 2020 the committee invested time in adapting and redesigning current seminars for an online environment and was a significant change from the way we have delivered previous seminars. The seminars proved popular during 2020 with an increased number of registrations over the previous year.

View the upcoming seminar list at:
www.uksg.org/form/register-your-interest-2021

> " I was impressed
> that there were so
> many speakers.
> I came away
> feeling inspired. "

Webinars

UKSG's webinars continue to attract registrants from both the UK and overseas, run on a range of professional topics and ranging from practical and information-delivering sessions to opinion pieces and sessions on the latest topics. We ran nine webinars during 2020.

You can attend the webinars live or listen to them at your leisure.

View the past and upcoming webinar schedule at:
https://www.uksg.org/webinars

Publications

Insights

Our peer-reviewed journal, *Insights*, disseminates news, information and publications and raises awareness of services that support the scholarly information sector through a mix of research articles, case studies, commentary, opinion pieces and reviews, as well as profiles on people in the global knowledge community. It is a '*diamond*' open access journal which does not charge fees to authors and is free to read, subsidised in part by member fees.

Editors: Lorraine Estelle, COUNTER; Steve Sharp, Sheffield Hallam University They are now in their tenth year as joint editors.

2020 marked the third year of continuous publication and the impact of COVID-19 necessitated some changes — a reduction in number of articles published from 32 in 2019 to 28 this year to allow the journal to continue publishing without a paywall to authors or readers. The change was due to financial implications of the cancellation of the annual conference.

The articles continued to be well received with good usage, social media comments and citations. The number of unsolicited contributions also increased, another indication of the journal's increasing success.

To find out more about how you can contribute to *Insights*, visit this page: http://insights.uksg.org/about/submissions or register to be a reviewer: http://insights.uksg.org/author/register/reviewer

UKSG *eNews*

The UKSG *eNews* member newsletter continues its two weekly publication cycle, with no COVID-related interruptions, providing up-to-the-minute news on current issues and developments within the global knowledge community. More than 2,400 member contacts receive the newsletter.

Editors: Helle Lauridsen and Josh Sendall

To contribute an editorial for UKSG *eNews* (around 1,000 words), please email: pr@uksg.org

To find out more, please visit: https://www.uksg.org/publications/enews

Financials and Governance

Future Plans

The Board of Trustees plans to start developing a new UKSG Strategic Plan during 2021, building on three years' work on restructuring UKSG staffing and its 2019/20 governance review.

Key new developments planned for 2021 focus on UKSG's aim to improve members' knowledge of the scholarly information sector and support skills development.

The Education and Events Subcommittee aims to:
- run five one-day seminars online/in-person
- continue to actively review the viability of events to closely fit the interests and requirements of potential delegates (and to mitigate risk to UKSG)

The *Insights* Editorial Board plans to:
- publish a special collection on metadata (originally planned for 2020)
- finalise a revised set of author guidelines including assistance for authors whose first language is not English

The Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee plans include:
- create a registry of volunteer speakers to attend student roadshows and other UKSG events
- revamp student roadshows and explore the potential of using webinars to connect with international library schools

Financial Review

In common with many organisations, UKSG has been hard hit by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In mid-March 2020 the decision was made to cancel the 2020 Annual Conference, our major source of income (representing 84% of income in 2019).

UKSG was able to mitigate the financial impact by offering roll-over and donation options for delegates, sponsors and exhibitors; improved performance in other areas such as the November 2020 Conference (usually an in-person one-day event, run virtually over two days in 2020); receipt of a grant of £25,000 from the local council; and a Bounce Back Loan of £50,000 interest free until May 2021.

These measures, combined with astute financial management, in particular by the Executive Director, helped reduce the deficit.

Awards

UKSG/NASIG John Merriman Award

Now in its tenth year, in 2020 this was awarded to two professionals in non-managerial positions relating to the management of e-resources.

The award typically allows them to visit the UKSG Annual Conference and that of our sister organisation, NASIG, in the US. Due to the COVID pandemic, the award was rolled over to 2021 and the winners also attended the 2021 conferences online. This initiative complements UKSG's aim to facilitate community integration, networking, discussion and exchange of ideas.

We are grateful to Taylor & Francis for their continued support of this Award.

" *This course provided a really excellent, entry-level overview of a rapidly evolving area covering the perspectives of publishers, universities and funders. I was impressed that there were so many speakers. I came away feeling inspired.* "

Delegate feedback from *'Introduction to open access publications lifecycle and compliance'* seminar, February 2020.

How to get Involved

Get Involved as a Member

Join UKSG to gain full access to all of the benefits and be eligible to take part in our committees and other working parties:

- stand for election to the Board of Trustees
- self-nominate to join our subcommittees:

  - Education and Events
  - *Insights* Editorial Board
  - Outreach and Engagement
  - Conference Review

- vote at our Annual General Meeting
- make connections and cement relationships with practitioners, researchers and others in the information and scholarly community
- keep up with the latest tools and technologies
- attend our annual conference, the UKSG Forum, seminars and webinars to develop your professional knowledge and skills
- grow your confidence, influencing and interpersonal skills through participation in our subcommittees, groups or committee
- read UKSG *eNews* and our journal *Insights* to keep up with news and leading ideas in the knowledge community across the world.

Join UKSG as an Individual or Organisation

- fees are waived for student members
- fees for individuals and sole trader businesses are £53
- fees for libraries and other organisational members range from £108 to £238 per annum.

Find out more at:
https://www.uksg.org/join

" Grow your confidence, influencing and interpersonal skills through participation in our subcommittees. "

CONNECTING THE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Contact us

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Oxon OX29 7DX

E: info@uksg.org
Twitter: @UKSG
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/uksg
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/UKSG-308492529175975/

Charity Number: 1093946
Company Number: 4145775

The full text of the annual report can be obtained from https://www.uksg.org/agm

UKSG is a founder member and on the steering committee for C4Disc: Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communication, and 'Think.Check.Submit.' where we actively develop and promote their outreach and education programmes.