UKSG

CONNECTING THE
KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

2019
in review

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About UKSG

UKSG is a professional interest group for the information resources community. Operating in a fast changing environment, we are uniquely positioned to connect the knowledge community and encourage the exchange of ideas on scholarly communication.

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

- 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 460 organisational and individual members from the global scholarly information community. Our 2019 membership represents a range of countries with most members coming from the UK, USA and western Europe.

Values

We aim to foster:

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

Member Benefits

- in-person annual conference with discounted rates for members
- discounted seminar rates for members
- active free webinar programme and free entry to the 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 and publishing in *Insights*, the UKSG journal, made possible through member support.

Comment from our Chair

Andrew Barker

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

2019 has been an interesting year at UKSG. We have seen record attendances at our seminars and webinars, and had solid attendance at the Annual Conference in Telford, despite concerns about Brexit deadlines! Sarah Pittaway, University of Worcester, joined us as our webinar Officer in 2019, and will be rolling out a new series of Webinars in 2020.

We spent much of the year looking at our governance and the work of the committee and trustees, and following an Extraordinary General Meeting in January 2020, the new articles of association were adopted. This will mean a smaller Board of Trustees than the previous Main Committee and a new subcommittee focused on the annual conference – our main source of revenue (and costs!) in the year. We are also founder members and on the steering committee for C4Disc– Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communication and 'Think. Check. Submit' where we actively promote their education programme aimed at helping researchers find the best outlets for their work.

We rolled out our new bursaries in 2019 – to enable a lucky candidate to attend the conference of their choice, expenses paid (Amy Stubbing from the University of Westminster chose ALA and wrote extensively about it on our website); and sponsoring four community projects to get them off the ground (see the website for details) and we continued investing in *Insights*, our APC-free open access journal.

Insights has now completed its second year of continuous publication, with 32 articles published during 2019 on a wide range of topics from authors across the sector. Moving to continuous publication has enabled a more strategic approach, including the publication in February 2019 of our first Special Collection on the subject of Gold Open Access Post Finch. The highlight of the collection was a research article by Rob Johnson on the topic of Plan S and the future of scholarly communications, which, at the time of writing, has already been downloaded over 2,500 times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support, to the staff and volunteers who make UKSG what it is, and to all the delegates who feedback about our events ensuring we keep them up-to-date.

Groups and Subcommittees

Research and Innovation Group

Facilitating research and innovation is a key theme and activity area for UKSG and we have a long history of being involved in developing collaborative research initiatives to develop solutions to industry-wide issues. In 2018 we re-launched our Research and Innovation Group and this year continue that work through a smaller and more agile group which aims to:

- stimulate research and collaboration initiatives
- encourage innovation
- promote standards for best practice
- instigate projects to research or develop new solutions.

The research undertaken should facilitate an efficient information chain and a better information experience.

More details about these key areas and how you can engage with our plans are available on the Research and Innovation pages of the UKSG website.

Outreach and Engagement

Our Outreach and Engagement subcommittee is also now in its second year, continuing to concentrate on looking after UKSG members and their interests; to ensure UKSG raises awareness of its activities and member benefits, and to deliver tangible benefits. It is focusing on expanding promotions of the Students and Early Career Professionals Award for attendance at the UKSG Annual Conference, the Merriman Award which offers expenses paid attendance to the Conference 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 mapping of UKSG membership to better understand their needs.

The 15-strong group is representative of the UKSG community with members from the publishing community, libraries and intermediaries. They are also working on an elevator pitch to help explain the important work the organisation carries out, and recruiting UKSG champions who can disseminate information on UKSG events and opportunities and provide feedback on UKSG from their colleagues.

Headline Events

Annual Conference 8 -10 April, Telford

UKSG's 42nd annual conference was again a great success, in 2019 held in Telford, a new venue for UKSG.

Delegates represented 26 countries and over 372 organisations. The event provides a unique opportunity to hear different perspectives and to meet representatives from all sectors of the scholarly information community, fulfilling UKSG's core mission to facilitate networking and the exchange of ideas.

To encourage participation and aligned with our charitable remit, our conference awards allow students and early career professionals to attend with all expenses paid.

Ahead of the event we received 126 suggestions on topics and speakers for the programme. 84% of the delegates rated the conference as Excellent or Very Good.

Around 40% of delegates in 2019 were first timers.

> *"Interesting and thought provoking as always."*

One-Day Conference 13 November, London

UKSG's ninth annual One-Day Conference focused on the topic of *'Shifting Power Centres in Scholarly Communications'* and was held in conjunction with ALPSP.

Around 1,000 delegates attended the two conferences.

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.

We actively capture and reflect on feedback from all our events and use it to inform future decisions around course development and planning. Survey data shows that satisfaction is consistently high and is meeting member needs.

We ran five one-day seminars in 2019, attended by 175 delegates and held in Manchester and London. The events continue to prove popular and delegate numbers rose in 2019 due to a refresh of their content and the processes for marketing them.

View the upcoming seminar list at:
www.uksg.org/form/register-your-interest-2020

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.

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

> *"The presenters were excellent. They were able to explain some quite technical concepts in a very accessible way."*

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.

Editors: Lorraine Estelle, COUNTER; Steve Sharp, Sheffield Hallam University

2019 marked the second year of continuous publication, enabling a more strategic approach including the publication of our first Special Collection on the subject of Gold Open Access Post Finch. 32 articles were published during 2019.

The *Insights* editorial board has a good cross section of members from the UK and overseas, universities, publishers, and other bodies such as Jisc and Copyright Clearance Center. We have recently added an early career librarian and student member to ensure representation from these important groups.

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

UK *eNews*

The UKSG *eNews* member newsletter continues its two weekly publication cycle, providing up-to-the-minute news on current issues and developments within the global knowledge community. Distributed more than 2,100 member contacts, the contents include an editorial, UKSG news, industry news and company news.

Editors: Helle Lauridsen and Leo Appleton

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

Governance

In 2019 we embarked on a programme of greater involvement and inclusion of a wider spread of our community, and of more people within current member organisations. This has already resulted in additional members from under-represented areas joining the *Insights* editorial board. We continued our free webinar series to encourage participation from people who cannot access funding for training and from people in the UK and overseas who may be unable to attend events in person.

In 2020 we will be carrying out gap analysis to encourage new memberships amongst organisations that are not UKSG members but do attend UKSG events and webinars.

> *"We continued our free webinar series to encourage participation from people who cannot access funding for training and from people in the UK and overseas."*

Financials

The financial plan for 2019 was for continued prudence and cost control. We had a very clear goal of returning a surplus and beginning to replenish our cash reserves, and to do that we had pledged to consolidate our activities and focus on the basics.

The Annual Conference remains our largest income generator and also our largest area of risk, and in 2019 we visited Telford for the first time.

This had been booked and planned many years in advance and worked well for us.

Similarly, the One Day Conference broke new ground in 2019 as it was run jointly with ALPSP.

Adam Gardner steps down from the position of Treasurer this year happy that UKSG has been restored to a position of financial stability. This has been achieved by tremendous hard work by the permanent staff, and puts UKSG in a strong position to grow and serve its members in the future.

Awards

In 2019 UKSG presented a variety of awards:

Sponsored Conference Award

Candidates had to write a submission stating how attending their chosen conference would have a positive impact on their career. The 2019 winner, Amy Stubbings, attended the ALA conference in June 2019 and has subsequently been announced as President-elect for SLA Europe (Special Library Association).

Innovations Award

During 2019/20 we offered five awards totalling £4,000 in conjunction with the Society of Young Publishers and the New Librarians Professional Network. The awards enable new professionals to develop ideas and proposals which will benefit the sector more widely.
The winners were:
Publisher - General Award: Tony Xu, STEM Fellowship for the promotion and dissemination of *"Rabbit Hole of Knowledge"*, a tool to lower the barrier of entry into academic literature.

Publisher - Diversity Awards: Emily Bird, Taylor & Francis for developing a scheme whereby young people from traditionally under-represented groups are invited to learn about the sector, inviting all academic publishers to participate.

Sotiria Kal, UCL Publishing Graduate for her proposal to track and investigate the career trajectories of BAME people entering BAME-only internship schemes, writing prizes and networks revolving around BAME in publishing.

Librarian - General Award: Hannah Boroudjou and Claire Delahunty, London School of Economics for their proposal to establish a career development-focused network for early career librarians in London and the South East of England.

Librarian - Diversity Award: Jennifer Bayjoo, University of Salford & DILON (Diversity of Libraries of the North) to develop an engagement plan with library schools to support a two-stage process of engagement, reaching out to emerging BAME library workers and seeking to educate the library student community, plus working with DILON to develop packs about ethnic diversity in the profession.

UKSG/NASIG John Merriman Award

Now in its ninth year, in 2019 this was awarded to two professionals in non-managerial positions relating to the management of e-resources.

The award allowed them to visit the UKSG Annual Conference and that of our sister organisation, NASIG, in the US.

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 on the main committee
- self-nominate to join our subcommittees:
  - Education and Events
  - *Insights* Editorial Board
  - Outreach and Engagement
  - Research and Innovation
- 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 £51.50
- fees for libraries and other organisational members range from £105 to £232 per annum.

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

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

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KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Contact us

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