UKSG

CONNECTING THE
KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

2016

in REVIEW

2

Contents

About UKSG

UKSG is a professional interest group for the knowledge community, working to bring together all parties that support scholarly communication.

Celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2017, our vision is to use our breadth of knowledge and influence to facilitate:
- an efficient information chain
- a better information experience for scholars
- a world where all members of the scholarly and professional information supply chain understand each other.

We have more than 450 organisational and individual members who come from the global scholarly information community. Our 2016 membership represents nearly 30 countries with most members coming from the UK, USA and western Europe.

Values

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

"**We continue to support practical examples of innovation, best practice and standards in our community**"

UKSG activities include:

- our annual conference
- in-person seminars
- webinars
- training events
- student workshops
- our journal, *Insights*, and newsletter, *UKSG eNews*
- our research initiatives and collaborative projects
- awards and bursaries

Our New Executive Director

Sarah Bull

In 2016 we made the decision to appoint a full-time Executive Director, a new senior position which reflects UKSG's growth and its strategic positioning within the community. Sarah's remit will include community engagement, volunteer development, partnerships and collaborations, along with operational leadership of UKSG.

Sarah has been involved with UKSG for many years as a volunteer, including as co-chair of the KBART working group from 2009 to 2013. Prior to joining UKSG in September 2016, she was Assistant Director: Collection Management & Development, Library Services at the University of Birmingham.

We will be further expanding our staffing during 2017 with a new Marketing and Membership Manager and an additional administrator position which will enhance the operational capacity of UKSG. To support this, UKSG will have offices for the first time in its 40-year history; the small premises in Oxfordshire will act as a hub for homeworkers and a base for office staff.

UKSG's Executive Director: Sarah Bull

"**The value of UKSG is that it brings together the entire ecosystem and we all learn from and challenge each other's perspectives.**"

"**UKSG relies on the expertise, networks, knowledge and experience of volunteers. They are crucial to the alignment of UKSG with the community that it supports.**"

Listening to Members

We've been acting on the key points from the November 2015 membership survey throughout 2016 and have taken action on:

- supporting academics and scholarly communications through the Think. Check. Submit. campaign which provides guidance to scholars on submitting articles to trusted journals.

- funding for the COUNTER Code of Practice for usage statistics, specifically to support the technical writing of the new Release 5 and its web presentation. This will help users of the Code of Practice to navigate the Code to support effective implementation by publishers and ease of use by librarians.

- serving our international audience – webinars continue to be popular and serve our international audience well with attendance from over 50 countries during 2016.

- becoming bolder – the new Executive Director is tasked with an exciting portfolio of developments around research and innovation to facilitate dialogue and debate on those 'wicked problems' challenging our community.

- helping members to gain the confidence and insight to put themselves forward for committee positions and other rewarding volunteering opportunities.

> "The webinars are consistently excellent and always pay a dividend in terms of the time invested in attending the live events or watching the recordings."

Headline Events

Annual Conference
11-13 April
BIC, Bournemouth

UKSG's 39th annual conference was again a great success with delegate numbers strong at 960, an increase from 2015, and representing 25 countries. It brought together delegates and speakers from across the scholarly information community and over 100 suggestions on topics and speakers were received.

Responding to 2015 feedback that there were too many strategic plenary sessions, the 2016 programme featured additional breakout sessions.

"**Amazing experience all round! Being so new to the profession, it filled me with enthusiasm and excitement about things to go away and discover in more depth.**"

"**95% of delegates rated the conference as Excellent or Very Good.**"

We expanded our bursary scheme for the 2016 conference, with bursaries offered to groups including:

- students

- early career professionals

- 20 places for library staff from Colleges of Further Education – *new for 2016!*

- 3 places for librarians from Myanmar in partnership with Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) – *new for 2016!*

One-Day Conference
15 November
London

The scholarly communications ecosystem: understanding and responding to evolving expectations

A range of speakers, including researchers, librarians, publishers, providers and start-ups, explored how researchers' scholarly communication needs are changing, and how different organisations are responding. Diverse topics together with networking ensured a thought-provoking day for the 126 attendees.

Headline Events

Forum
16 November
London

The innovation game: breaking the rules

Now in its fourth year, the Forum continues to be popular with attendance totalling 354. A fun football theme kept energy levels high for the range of short talks on offer and encouraged some eye-catching outfits in the sessions, exhibition and networking spaces.

> **"The conference and the forum provided much rich content and discussion around innovation and not being afraid to try new things. Scholarly communications need to adapt with cultural, academic and technological developments and being empowered to innovate and to *'break rules'* can help our industries to keep up."**

The football theme celebrated the Forum venue being the birthplace of the Football Association and where the rules of the modern game of football were established.

354

The recordings from all the One-Day Conference sessions and some Forum sessions are available at: *https://tv.theiet.org/Index.html?channel=uksg* Courtesy of IET.tv – The Institution of Engineering and Technology's video production service.

Events and Webinars

Seminars

UKSG ran 10 in-person events throughout 2016 which were held in Belfast, Boston Spa, London and Manchester. There were 206 attendees from various sectors.

"**Great all-round introduction with strong practical elements and interaction. Liked that we thought about personal goals at the outset and could relate to these throughout.**"

Delegate, UKSG Negotiation Skills for Librarians

Encouraging FE participation:

Budgeting for staff development continues to be challenging in the Further Education community; with that in mind, UKSG made 20 day-delegate bursary places for the annual conference available to library staff in the sector.

We also held a popular free event specifically for sector librarians in November, *UKSG E-Resources for Further Education,* and have some great support from FE representatives in our committees and publications as part of our commitment to cross-community participation.

Webinars

Meeting the training needs of members who are based outside the UK or find it hard to travel to in-person events continues to be a priority.

In 2016 there were about 3,000 registrations for these free monthly events. Delegates from across the knowledge community represented 50 countries.

Top 10 countries represented:

United Kingdom	1553	Ireland	46
United States	661	Germany	41
Canada	105	Sweden	35
Australia	87	Netherlands	26
New Zealand	63	Italy	24

Publications

Insights

Our thrice-yearly peer-reviewed journal, *Insights*, offers a mix of research articles, case studies, commentary, opinion pieces and reviews, as well as people and profiles. Since March 2015 we've run it on an open access web-friendly platform, Ubiquity Press, which continues to raise the profile of *Insights*.

Editors: Lorraine Estelle and Steve Sharp

Most popular articles:
- *Screen vs. paper: what is the difference for reading and learning?* (Myrberg & Wiberg)
- *A quiet culture war in research libraries – and what it means for librarians, researchers and publishers* (Anderson)
- *Focusing upstream: supporting scholarly communication by academics* (Banks)

The Publications Subcommittee

The Publications Subcommittee of UKSG fulfils one of the organisation's key objectives: *"To disseminate news, information and publications, and raise awareness of services that support the scholarly information sector."*

UKSG eNews

Our e-newsletter is published every two weeks and sent exclusively to UKSG member contacts – almost 2,000 individuals. The issues include an editorial, UKSG news, industry news and company news. We also include product and library news, as well as the latest on journals, resources and people.

The editorial elements of *UKSG eNews* are now archived in full text on the UKSG website, as part of plans to make it more visible to the wider community of site visitors.

Editors: Helle Lauridsen and Leo Appleton

Contribute

Write a short editorial for *UKSG eNews* (500 to 1000 words).
Email it to: seneditor@uksg.org
Write an article for *Insights*.
Follow this link to find out more: http://insights.uksg.org/about/submissions/

Register as a peer reviewer

You can undertake reviews of scholarly articles in your area of expertise or research interest.
Follow this link to find out more: http://insights.uksg.org/author/register/reviewer/

How to Get Involved

Four new committee members joined UKSG this year. We ask them how they got involved and how they benefit from being on the committee.

**Colleen Campbell,
Work Director,
Institutional Participation
and Strategic Partnerships** – **Europe at Ithaka**

How did you get involved in the running of UKSG?
Being relatively new to the *'territory'*, I was eager to get more involved with the information community here in Europe. After attending the Annual Conference just once, I knew that taking on an active role in UKSG would be the perfect way to contribute and learn! I was really fortunate to have been co-opted to the Main Committee my first year – via a little guidance from one of the Main Committee members and an earnest expression of interest via the UKSG website.

How do you benefit from your involvement in UKSG?
There are so many benefits to getting involved! Gain insight into the needs of the community, share your expertise in an impactful way, learn from colleagues of different backgrounds, expand your skill set! What I value most is the opportunity to personally connect with other Committee members and our colleagues at large. Working together toward common goals at the service of the community is a fantastic way to build professional relationships with an amazing group of people!

**Anna Grigson,
Head of the Collection
Services Group at the
LSE Library**

How did you get involved in the running of UKSG?
My first experience of UKSG was attending a Student Roadshow presentation when I was studying librarianship, two decades ago. Since then I've attended numerous UKSG Conferences and events, and presented on UKSG courses. I've been involved in supporting skills development for librarians throughout my career, so it felt like a natural step to take that commitment further by joining the Education Subcommittee, and then standing for the Main Committee. I was elected in 2016, and will soon become Education Officer.

How do you benefit from your involvement in UKSG?
My involvement with UKSG for 20 years has been invaluable in keeping up with the changes. Attending training courses gave me practical skills when in operational roles, and UKSG continues to be an essential source of knowledge as I've moved into a more strategic role. Being part of UKSG's community helps me to do my job, has helped me to build my career – and have fun! As a manager, it's especially rewarding to see new professionals within my team getting involved.

How to Get Involved

**Laura J Wilkinson,
E-Resources Librarian,
University of Sunderland
Library Services**

How did you get involved in the running of UKSG?
I had been an attendee at the UKSG Conference and other events for a few years before being invited to join the Research and Innovation Subcommittee, and from there I stood for election to the Main Committee. Over a period of time and during several job roles, I became more familiar with UKSG. By the time I joined the Main Committee, I felt like I had developed a good understanding of the scope and aims of the organisation from which I could continue to learn and contribute.

How do you benefit from your involvement in UKSG?
Through my involvement in UKSG I enjoy the opportunity to meet with lots of other enthusiastic, engaged people from across the knowledge sector. Away from the short- and medium-term priorities of one's day job, it's good to be able to explore more long-term ideas and projects within UKSG. There is a positive feedback loop between my job and my UKSG activities in which my learning and practice are mutually reinforcing.

**Matt Borg,
Senior Librarian,
EMEA,
Ex Libris**

How did you get involved in the running of UKSG?
Having been an invited speaker at a number of UKSG events, and having attended the Annual Conference as a librarian, I had experienced first-hand the benefits that UKSG provides to its members. After one event, I found myself speaking to members of the Main Committee and I realised that many of our ideas were similar in terms of how we engage with vendors and librarians. I was co-opted onto the committee after the 2016 Annual Conference.

How do you benefit from your involvement in UKSG?
As an individual, I benefit massively from the engagement with the rest of the UKSG committee and our members at meetings and events. The conversations at committee level always make me think about the role I play within my organisation, and how I can better serve our libraries, and more importantly, their users. Getting involved with UKSG has been a highlight of my career so far, and I'm proud to be part of the organisation in its 40th year.

Financials

UKSG is in a strong and stable financial position. Thanks to careful management and investment we have been able to make the decision to implement a new website, to create a new post of Executive Director, and to establish an office for the first time.

Members remain loyal, events continue to be popular with delegates and exhibitors, and the benefits of membership are significant in terms of discounted or free attendance at events and the bimonthly *UKSG eNews.*

UKSG's remit is to encourage debate and increase knowledge around scholarly publishing and with this in mind we are able to offer benefits to the wider community too:

- free-to-attend webinars with recordings also available post event ***http://www.uksg.org/webinars***
- making *Insights* available through open access ***http://insights.uksg.org/***
- contributing financially to the technical writing of COUNTER Release 5 Code of Practice

Contact us

UKSG
PO Box 5594, Newbury RG20 0YD UK

Contact: Alison Whitehorn, Business Manager
Tel: 01635 254292
Email: Alison@uksg.org
Charity number: 1093946
Company number: 4145775

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