

- **Information Literacy Community of Practice for Scotland Meeting**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (online, [recording link](#))

1. *Welcome, apologies and introductions*

- Liz Adams, Scottish Government Library & Information Services
- David Brazier, Edinburgh Napier University
- Andrew Feeney, PhD researcher, Edinburgh Napier University
- Margaret Gair, Scottish Government Library & Information Services
- Stéphane Goldstein, Media and Information Literacy Alliance (MILA)
- Paul Grey, Scottish Government Library & Information Services
- Leah Higgins, CILIPS
- Bill Johnston, IL CoP
- Christine Love-Rodgers, University of Edinburgh
- Dina Martzoukou, Robert Gordon University
- Kirsten MacQuarrie, CILIPS
- Kirsten McCormick, Glasgow Caledonian University
- Catherine McLaren, NHS Education for Scotland
- Sean McNamara (Chair), CILIPS
- Anne Noble, North Ayrshire Council
- Claire Roberts, City of Glasgow College
- Bruce Ryan, Edinburgh Napier University
- Sarah Thompson, National Library of Scotland

*Apologies*

- Gillian Baxter
- Helen Beardsley
- Anne-Lise Harding
- Marion Kennedy
- Helen McGregor
- Samantha McKinnon
- Emma Mclarty
- Joy McLean
- Sorina Mihai
- Alison Preston
- Lauren Smith
- Donna Watson

2. [Previous Minutes](#)

The previous minutes were approved as accurate with all outstanding actions covered as part of today's agenda.

### 3. *Update on ECIL Conference – Andrew Feeney, Bill Johnstone and Dina Martzoukou*

- Unanimous impression that Kraków, especially the Old Town, is an amazing place to visit!
- Kraków now understands IL as a municipal and civic concern, building on historic work in schools/colleges/universities/libraries.
- The conference offered a welcome opportunity to get together in person - renewing acquaintances post-pandemic and forming new ones.
- It featured fantastic keynotes with themes including information culture; mis- and disinformation; the role of IL in dealing with world crises both climate and democratic; information as embodied, in contrast to print/digital formats alone; the political economy of information literacy and IL's links to wider civic issues, with mention of the Scottish Government IL training scheme.
- Other keynote highlights were those centred on IL and value ethics, where many cutting-edge developments are taking place; the frontiers of IL; corporeal IL (information from and about one's own body); and animal literacy.
- The focus on ethics echoes the [Objects of Trust Framework](#) (more below) - everyone is responsible for safeguarding our personal and collective information.
- Also of particular interest were Artificial Intelligence sessions including political domain anxieties; deep fakes; AI as the black box we do not yet fully understand; and encouraging young people in particular to develop critical thinking around AI (a key role and opportunity for librarians).
- The CoP noted that it is encouraging to see IL increasingly embedded into discussions on a diverse range of pressing societal issues like AI, social media use and disuse, global conflicts and sustainability.
- For further reading, a link was also shared to the November 2022 report [Building trust in the digital era: achieving Scotland's aspirations as an ethical digital nation](#).

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### 4. *Update from [MILA](#) – Stéphane Goldstein*

- MILA is now approaching its two year anniversary, having been originally established by CILIP and the CILIP Information Literacy Group (ILG) but since growing into a network, forum and enabler for any organisation/initiative with an interest in IL.
- MILA is currently working with Edinburgh Napier University on the societal importance of IL research (output coming very soon as a great example of what such an Alliance can achieve).
- It is proving important and valuable to bring together the concepts of information and media - reflecting UNESCO's approach.
- MILA has a three fold purpose within this context of bringing people together:
  - Developing the IL evidence base through facilitating research collaborations and bringing together different players, including to contribute IL perspectives to existing research and proposals.
  - Bringing together communities of practice - players from different sectors and perspectives to work together, including looking at

accreditation to reinforce ideas of IL as ever more relevant and practical.

- Advocacy - developing awareness of what IL is and why it is important to society, with a focus on educationalists and policy makers across the UK.
- Recent months have seen recognition that MILA needs to be a legal entity in order to raise funds and increase capacity, so we are in the process of turning MILA into a charity (noting that charity law is devolved and therefore this complicates the picture of a UK-wide remit)! It is hoped this will be completed by spring 2024.
  - Charity status will enhance MILA's profile, credibility and fundraising
  - Encouraging a move away from an ad hoc, looser approach and towards operating as a more structured organisation.
- All within the CoP are very welcome to [join the MILA mailing list](#).
- The CoP discussed [the distinctions on CILIP/CILIP Scotland charitable registration](#) and whether insights from this could be useful.
- The CoP also discussed the value of international contacts and connections. While it is impractical at present for MILA to operate on a global scale, international connections are still valuable for extending reach and learning from other countries.
  - e.g. ECIL delegates from Croatia highlighted valuable examples at the conference of the importance of IL to workers' rights.
- The media lens of MILA is also especially helpful for highlighting the relevance of IL to all in society.
  - Could Think Tanks help as an outward facing aspect of this work? Practical ideas for development like this continue to be welcome - to fulfil its purpose(s), MILA cannot be top-down and needs input/ideas from diverse communities.

##### 5. [The BRIDGE project](#) - Dina Martzoukou and Stéphane Goldstein

- BRIDGE is co-funded by Erasmus and with eight partners in six countries (coordinated by Spain) and the project is moving towards completion by February 2024.
- Its main purpose is to foster IL in primary schools - developing a set of resources and encouraging collaboration in young citizens by learning about fake news, combatting disinformation and related themes.
- BRIDGE is unique in how it connects IL skills with values: equality, diversity, inclusivity and global citizenship.
- The project centres on three key outcomes:
  - A report overviewing developments/policies/strategies across partner countries, including highlighting the role of school libraries.
  - A multilingual, audio-visual and open access portal ([previewed during meeting!](#)) that features the key themes and values of project, collated for the purposes of teaching IL.
  - A seminar in every partner country to disseminate the learning.
    - UK-wide but could there be a Scottish event at the National Library of Scotland?

- It has been sobering to realise how few international locations now have primary school librarians.
  - The project features ‘silent books’ with illustrations rather than words that young people in all countries can engage with, bringing in their own life experiences, and learning about information provenance, evaluation and sharing.
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6. *CILIPS/[The Ferret](#) – Misinformation training in libraries funding bid – Sean McNamara*
- Ferret, Scotland’s fact-checking service, have been running exploratory workshops with school and public librarians in Scotland on misinformation training, which have received excellent feedback.
  - They are seeking funding to scale this nationwide and reach a far wider audience - ultimately resulting in a ‘train the trainer’ model of learning.
  - Their recent survey has indicated high levels of interest, so the next step is bringing together a roundtable of practitioners to shape the funding bid: exploring the challenges and considerations necessary for this work.
  - Please email [sean.mcnamara@cilips.org.uk](mailto:sean.mcnamara@cilips.org.uk) to participate.
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7. *[Online safety bill for noting](#)*
8. *Other Group updates*

David Brazier, Edinburgh Napier University

- David has been working with Gemma Webster and Peter Cruickshank on research into information proxies, and the team are looking to resubmit funding applications and grants in order to continue this work.
- Related research undertaken by David, Andrew Feeney and Frances Ryan on [Librarians as Proxies: An exploratory study on the digital proxy practices of librarians](#) is now at the data analysis phase, having already revealed much that is too-often taken for granted about what librarians do.
- There are also hopes to build on/scale up a past ILG project on Scottish teenagers and IL, so interest and ideas for this are very welcome.

Bruce Ryan, Edinburgh Napier University

- Bruce, Dr Peter Cruickshank and Marina Milosheva have just completed a second project on the impact of IL research on society, encompassing an extensive literature review and report that will appear on the MILA website, accompanied by graphics and an easy read blog, plus a presentation at LILAC in March 2024.
- It has been interesting to discover that so much existing research has centred on tertiary education, compared with other factors like citizenship that are part of the CILIP IL definition.next project puzzling out why!

- Dina Martzoukou, Robert Gordon University
- Dina highlighted recent IL research with 555 nursing students within Robert Gordon University, including [a paper](#) recently published in [JAN: Leading Global Nursing Research](#).
  - With a tight deadline, they are seeking collaborators/partners in Scottish universities interested in co-applying for a follow-up study that will evaluate the impact of the digital competencies toolkit developed above, supporting students to upskill across various areas of IL. Please contact [k.martzoukou@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:k.martzoukou@rgu.ac.uk) if interested.
- Maddie is Online - most recent research involved 239 secondary school pupils across six schools Scotland and has been [published in a new paper](#) for [Computers in the Schools: Interdisciplinary Journal of Practice, Theory, and Applied Research](#).
  - Fascinating results in terms of young people's feelings about online connectivity post-pandemic.
  - A new episode on AI is in development - please contact Dina [k.martzoukou@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:k.martzoukou@rgu.ac.uk) if you are interested in supporting this.
- OneHEMindsets online community of practice are organising a new student research showcase (late spring/early summer 2024). Please get in touch [k.martzoukou@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:k.martzoukou@rgu.ac.uk) with any IL students to put forward.

Kirsten MacQuarrie, CILIPS

- CILIPS have recently funded [four Green Libraries Scotland projects](#), all exploring climate literacy in different ways.
- Any CoP members interested in supporting climate/environmental literacy are welcome to join the Green Libraries Network of 120+ professionals across the sector (please email [kirsten.macquarrie@cilips.org.uk](mailto:kirsten.macquarrie@cilips.org.uk)).

9. *[Update from Information Literacy Group – reserved for future meeting]*

10. [Terms of Reference](#) – Sean McNamara, Anne Noble and Margaret Gair

Ideas and suggestions:

- Moderate phrasing from 'will' be a feature of every meeting to something like 'breakout discussions where appropriate/where time allows'.
- Is there appetite for a name change to incorporate both Media and Information Literacy? Yes, with the suggestion that this needs to be rooted in input from media specialists e.g. Ferret.
- Where best to advertise the CoP to encourage new voices/organisations to get involved? Word of mouth, CILIPS newsletter, *Information Professional* etc.
- Avoid siloed working by keeping the CoP open to other practitioners and considering student roles e.g. observing/minute taking.

*11. Chair role 2024*

- The Co-Chair system has previously worked well - please email [sean.mcnamara@cilips.org.uk](mailto:sean.mcnamara@cilips.org.uk) if interested.

*12. Any other Business*

*13. Date of next meeting*

**2-4pm, Thursday 22nd February 2024, online**