
JISC Collections 2011 Conference and AGM

National Railway Museum, York,

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<http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/>

News/JISC-Collections-2011-
Conference/

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The bright, autumnal weather in late November was ideal for a day trip by train to the National Railway Museum in York for the JISC Collections AGM and annual conference. Delegates took the opportunity during the breaks to walk round the wonderful exhibits on display which, as well as the engines and carriages in the main hall, include the collection of railway paintings and posters in the art gallery. The annual conference is an opportunity to reflect on the past year's activities, think about the challenges ahead for JISC Collections and discuss topics of current interest. All the presentations are available on the conference web site.

Lorraine Estelle, CEO of JISC Collections, opened the day's proceedings with a review of the year. Some major initiatives such as JUSP (the Journal User Statistics Portal) are fully operational and newer projects like OAPEN-UK (exploring the challenges and opportunities presented by open access publishing of scholarly monographs) are now under way. Stephen Town, University of York, gave a very thought-provoking presentation on the value of academic libraries, covering the importance of articulating value, how to respond to different patterns of research, the shift from quality measures to a 'value scorecard', and the need to focus on the local – what is really valuable to the university. Emily Armstrong and Chris Skerrow, Hull College Group, spoke about the challenges and successes they have experienced embedding e-resources in further education. The afternoon parallel sessions covered a range of current topics: OAPEN-UK, managing e-resources, the new community-owned content service JISC eCollections and e-books for further education.

The full and informative programme and the very interesting venue both contributed to a very successful day. Staff at JISC Collections are looking forward to another productive year and it is to be hoped that their work on behalf of the UK information community will continue to be supported following the outcomes of the JISC Transformation Review.