Learning from each other

Valerie Stevenson
SCONUL Focus editorial board
Email: v.stevenson@ljmu.ac.uk

In this issue of *Focus* we have tried to give a flavour of the presentations and discussions at the SCONUL annual conference in Cardiff, which took place while the debate about tuition fees for 2012/13 was in full swing. Things are a little clearer than they were at that stage but there is still a great deal of uncertainty about the impact on individual universities and on the sector as a whole. The conference panel session on tuition fees was very timely and it was refreshing to hear the opinions of students on this issue. The conference speakers all looked towards the future, presenting a range of views, scenarios and evidence-based research, which will all contribute to current practice and strategic planning. A great deal of the work presented at the conference will help us to raise our heads above day-to-day concerns and to understand more clearly what we need to be doing to address a rather uncertain future.

Other contributors to this issue provide us with insights into good practice, covering more than just the main themes of their articles. Sarah Elsegood has very interesting things to say about students' information-seeking behaviour, but also provides some excellent background on running student focus groups that could be applied to any topic. In their case study of a problem-based learning programme, Nora Hegarty and Alan Carbery cover not just the content of the sessions but how this method of delivery was received by the students. Jenny Delasalle's enthusiastic approach achieves a near-impossible feat, making bibliometrics sound entertaining, informative and, yes, almost fun. Several current topics of general interest including e-readers and QR codes are covered in this issue, as well as a fascinating insight into the Bonaparte Wyse collection at Waterford Institute of Technology. We have two snapshots of busy roles, provided by Donna Carroll at Warwick University Library and Nikki Heath who, in her role of school librarian, is training the next generation of higher education students in information literacy skills.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

In Issue 51 of *Focus* I omitted the name of one of the co-authors of 'Getting to grips with the figures: the data manager post at the University of Plymouth', Sarah Weston. Apologies to Sarah, who should have had an author credit along with Ian Mayfield.

In issue 52 of Focus one of the presenters, Tania Durt, was misnamed at a parallel session at a conference held at Birmingham City University 'Mission impossible, satisfying disabled students needs'. Tania Burt should read Tania Durt. Apologies for the error.