University of Huddersfield Repository

Lancaster, John

INSPIRE: a proposal for its future development

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/7858/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

• The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
• A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
• The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
Inspire is a project that has been established to support "libraries in working together to improve access to information and learning for all. Participating libraries are committed to supporting learning in individuals, groups and communities by providing an open route to the information library users are seeking, wherever it may be found."

It was instituted in 2004 under the energetic leadership of Mary Heweny (formerly Director of Learning Centres at the University of Wolverhampton and now Director of Services at Manchester Metropolitan University) and Andrew Green (then Head of Libraries & Information Services, Coventry City Council and now Head of Library and Heritage Service, Wandsworth Council). Mary resigned her role in Inspire in 2006 and was replaced by Philip Payne, Librarian, Birkbeck College. Sally Curry is its Inspire National Partnerships Manager.

Funding was provided by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, the Museums Libraries and Archives Council, the British Library, SCONUL, and the Society of Chief Librarians.

Inspire is also supported by the Committee on Library Cooperation in Ireland (COLICO), the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals, and the Colleges of Further & Higher Education.

Findit

To make access to this information easier, the Findit website was created as part of the Inspire programme. The website is one of the central points of the Inspire programme to support learners and learning and allow anyone to identify, quickly and easily -

- which library holds resources on specific subjects
- where those libraries are
- what the terms are for accessing those resources.

Inspire is effectively creating a distributed national library available to everyone.

Findings

Inspire’s 2004 pilot projects were funded by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in co-operation with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The 2004-6 Inspire Programme was funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the Regional Libraries Advisory Group (sponsored by the BL, CLIP, VLA, and CCL), and through the DfES' Action Plan Supporting Framework for the Future, the public library strategy in 2013. As at the end of 2006, the PLA and other sponsors allowed the Inspire Directors to continue to use remaining funds to further improve access to information and learning.

The future

Inspire is a wonderful resource that has an important role in supporting education, employability, enterprise and employment. More specifically Inspire has a role in supporting life long learning, CPD, the public library service, the HEFCE shared services agenda, widening participation programmes, community development and much more. Individually, many libraries and information services are modest in size – but collectively are a remarkable resource of great diversity and richness. Some of the ideas we are discussing include a national Inspire card, a national virtual library for the general public, the development of partnerships with key organisations and the further development of the Findit web presence.

Nevertheless our funding is gradually being depleted and a new funding arrangement is now urgently required.

From vision to reality

Two pilot schemes were run in 2004 and these were followed by a two-year programme (inspired by libraries from all sectors across the whole of England). There are now over 2000 Inspire libraries throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Inspire libraries include public, higher education and national libraries plus further education libraries, health-related libraries and a wide range of specialist libraries. Together they provide an extraordinary rich and varied resource of information on every subject from Accountancy to Zoology, in the process facilitating access to the universal collection of knowledge - and they are open to all in the community.

- Extended existing networks of successful access partnerships and added new ones - creating a single national access route to information, irrespective of geography.

- Ensured that learners can have access to the most appropriate learning materials irrespective of the status of the learner or the location of the materials.

- Provided greater opportunities and accessibility for socially excluded individuals and groups.

Through this work, Inspire has fulfilled key aspects of the Museums Libraries and Archives Council’s Framework for the Future 2015 vision which had as one of its objectives that any member of a public library can also access materials held in higher education (HE) and further education (FE) libraries. The programme also relates directly to many government initiatives on widening participation, lifelong learning and social inclusion.

Goverance

Inspire has two Directors who are also members of the Management Board viz.,

- Philip Payne, Librarian, Birkbeck College (nominated by SCONUL)
- Andrew Green, former Head of Libraries & Information Services, Coventry City Council and now Head of Library and Heritage Service, Wandsworth Council (nominated by the Society of Chief Librarians).

They are supported by a Management Board representing the interests of all the funders and a wide range of libraries in the UK and its membership also includes:

- Inspire Support, Sally Curry, Robinson Library, University of Newcastle upon Tyne
- British Library, Stephanie Keanna, Manager Regional & Library Programmes
- Devolved Administrations and SCOLIN, Chris Finde, Director of Learning and Information Services, Napier University
- Northern Ireland & LISICON Inspire, Elaine Quirchart, Assistant Director, University of Ulster, COLICO Chair
- Libraries and Information East Midlands and The Combined Region (TCR), Lynn Hodgkins, Regional Libraries, LIEM
- National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, Richard Crabb
- Society of Chief Librarians, Martin Burton, Head of Libraries & Information Services, South Gloucestershire
- Society of College, National and University Libraries, John Lancaster, Director of Computing & Library Services, University of Huddersfield
- South West Regional Library Service (SWRLS) and TCR, Lynne Osborne, Director SWRLS

The Society of Chief Librarians

The Society of College, National and University Libraries

SCONUL 2010 Conference

INSPIRE - a proposal for its future development

Head of Libraries and Information Services, Napier University

Coventry City Council and now Head of Library and Heritage Service, Wandsworth Council (nominated by the Society of Chief Librarians).

Inspire is a proposal for its future development

From vision to reality

Two pilot schemes were run in 2004 and these were followed by a two-year programme (inspired by libraries from all sectors across the whole of England). There are now over 2000 Inspire libraries throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Inspire libraries include public, higher education and national libraries plus further education libraries, health-related libraries and a wide range of specialist libraries. Together they provide an extraordinary rich and varied resource of information on every subject from Accountancy to Zoology, in the process facilitating access to the universal collection of knowledge - and they are open to all in the community.

- Extended existing networks of successful access partnerships and added new ones - creating a single national access route to information, irrespective of geography.

- Ensured that learners can have access to the most appropriate learning materials irrespective of the status of the learner or the location of the materials.

- Provided greater opportunities and accessibility for socially excluded individuals and groups.

Through this work, Inspire has fulfilled key aspects of the Museums Libraries and Archives Council’s Framework for the Future 2015 vision which had as one of its objectives that any member of a public library can also access materials held in higher education (HE) and further education (FE) libraries. The programme also relates directly to many government initiatives on widening participation, lifelong learning and social inclusion.

Goverance

Inspire has two Directors who are also members of the Management Board viz.,

- Philip Payne, Librarian, Birkbeck College (nominated by SCONUL)
- Andrew Green, former Head of Libraries & Information Services, Coventry City Council and now Head of Library and Heritage Service, Wandsworth Council (nominated by the Society of Chief Librarians).

They are supported by a Management Board representing the interests of all the funders and a wide range of libraries in the UK and its membership also includes:

- Inspire Support, Sally Curry, Robinson Library, University of Newcastle upon Tyne
- British Library, Stephanie Keanna, Manager Regional & Library Programmes
- Devolved Administrations and SCOLIN, Chris Finde, Director of Learning and Information Services, Napier University
- Northern Ireland & LISICON Inspire, Elaine Quirchart, Assistant Director, University of Ulster, COLICO Chair
- Libraries and Information East Midlands and The Combined Region (TCR), Lynn Hodgkins, Regional Libraries, LIEM
- National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, Richard Crabb
- Society of Chief Librarians, Martin Burton, Head of Libraries & Information Services, South Gloucestershire
- Society of College, National and University Libraries, John Lancaster, Director of Computing & Library Services, University of Huddersfield
- South West Regional Library Service (SWRLS) and TCR, Lynne Osborne, Director SWRLS

The Society of Chief Librarians

The Society of College, National and University Libraries

SCI...