

Forum for Interlending and Information Delivery

Annual Report 2011-12

It has been a year since the last FIL Annual report and what a year it has been. In this report we hope to give the reader a taste of the activity that FIL has engaged with, as well as an overview of the current status of the organisation.

This report was formally presented at the FIL AGM 2012, 26th June, University of Worcester for consideration by the members and member representatives present. It was prepared by the current Chair of FIL, with reference to meeting minutes and the rest of the Committee as appropriate.

Membership

Membership as of this report is 181, which includes 7 non-renewals of subscription but also 4 new members. While this does represent a decline on the previous year, this was expected given the financial structures which libraries and individuals across the country find themselves in currently. Partly as a consequence the membership fees were frozen for a further year to encourage retention and recruitment. However, as noted in the treasurer's report FIL continues to operate on a sound financial footing, although prudence in expenditure continues to be a key part of strategic and operational planning.

Committee Officers

At the first meeting of the year the following FIL Executive Committee members were formally confirmed in the following positions:

- **Chair:** Gareth J Johnson, University of Leicester
- **Vice Chair:** Marie Lancaster, Cardiff Metropolitan University
- **Treasurer:** Christine Shipman, University of Warwick
- **Secretary:** Gerry Cole, University of London
- **Web Officer/ Marketing Officer & Membership Secretary:** Helen Trollope, University of Wales, Newport
- **Newsletter Editor:** Tracey Jackson, Hertfordshire Libraries

Note, it was agreed at Committee that the positions of Web Officer/ Marketing Officer & Membership Secretary are very closely linked. As such Helen agreed to continue in these dual roles for 2011/12. It should be noted that while it is not a formal Committee post that Su Fagg (University of Worcester) has been the *de facto* chair of the Interlend 2012 conference planning working group, and should be commended for her efforts.

Committee Membership

Su Fagg and Tracey Jackson (Hertfordshire Libraries) were nominated and elected unopposed to the Committee at the 2011 AGM. Observers from the three allied organisations continued within their roles on the Committee: Kate Ebdon (British Library), Gillian Wilson (CONARLS) and Rose Goodier (IFLA), and provided valued input and insight throughout. The close working relationships, mutual support and collaboration that FIL enjoys with these three organisations is something that continues to be welcomed by all involved. In addition it provides strong communication channels for the dissemination of news, events and outcomes of interest to the membership of all of these bodies.

Linda Cameron (Stirling University) stood down from the Committee after the AGM which left two vacancies. These were advertised widely and two suitable volunteers were identified. As a result Jennie Cooke (University Hospitals Birmingham) and Julie Clement (Swansea Libraries) were co-opted onto the Committee for the 2011-2012 session.

The current Committee contact details are available:

<http://www.forumforinterlending.org.uk/who-we-are/list-of-committee-members>

Committee Meetings

The Committee met formally 3 times during this cycle at the Britannia Hotel, Birmingham (19/10/11, 18/1/12 & 18/4/12). In addition in-between these meetings monthly telcons were called by the Chair in order to progress activities. A Committee working group heading by Su Fagg was established to take forward the organisation of Interlend 2012 who mostly conducted business electronically and over the phone. However, a number of this team did make a site visit to the University of Worcester as part of the conference planning and preparation activities.

Approved minutes from meetings are available:

<http://www.forumforinterlending.org.uk/who-we-are/minutes-of-recent-committee-meetings>

Events

In addition to FIL Interlend 2012, three other professional development and training events were organised by the Committee. All these events, including the conference, were structured to provide the maximum benefit to UK interlending staff for the lowest possible cost. FIL individual and organisational members were able to access these events at a discounted cost from non-members. At the same time the quality of speakers and workshops was a paramount concern for the Committee, as well as ensuring a mix of practical and aspirational content.

These other events were:

- *Are we there yet? Document Delivery in Wales*¹ (9/5/2012, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama)
- *FIL@BLDSC*² (16/3/2012, British Library, Boston Spa)
- *Meeting the Challenge: Interlending for the Future*³ (3/11/2011, University of Leicester)

¹ Sponsored by CILIP Wales with support from the Kathleen Cooks fund

² Delivered in partnership with the British Library

³ Delivered in partnership with LIEM: Libraries and Information East Midlands

Feedback from delegates attending these meetings was by and large very positive. All feedback received was analysed and reviewed subsequently by the Committee as part of their review and planning function for future events.

The Committee has endeavoured to seek sponsorship of events in order to offset costs and to provide useful supplier merchandise to attendees. The Committee wishes to especially acknowledge these sponsoring and partnership organisations that helped FIL enact their events programme.

Slides and handouts from these events are available from the FIL Website:

<http://www.forumforinterlending.org.uk/past-events>

Finally two mobile banners were designed and sourced to provide for a more impactful FIL presence at events and conferences, highlighting the range of activities of both the organisation and the membership. The Committee notes its thanks to Helen Trollope for spearheading the design and sourcing of these.

Advocacy & Website

Following months of preparation a new FIL website was launched via a commercially hosted service. The new site represents a major step forward for FIL's web presence and allows for direct editorial control with changes to content able to be made immediately by the FIL Committee; something that was not possible with the old site. A lot of new content, as well as archival material from the old site, has been added including biographical information, reports and images.

The former FIL site hosted on CILIP servers redirected to the new site until the end of 2011, at which point it was discontinued. The Committee has established and maintains both a twitter and Facebook presence as additional communication channels to the Website.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/forumforinterlending>

Twitter: <http://www.forumforinterlending.org.uk/publications>

FIL continues to maintain the FIL@jiscmail.ac.uk distribution list, as a venue for the discussions of issues related to interlending in the UK and for communication of FIL's activities. Membership of the list is open to all, and it continues to offer a more focussed discussion route to the often more function oriented *lis-ill* list.

Noting the reduction in membership numbers the Committee continues to make efforts towards raises the visibility of FIL both within the library and interlending communities and further afield. This advocacy has included making a formal return to the Governmental IPO open call for comments on the implications of the Hargreaves review of copyright; as it related to interlending. In addition a flyer was drawn up to highlight membership benefits. This was distributed to all former FIL member organisations in an effort to enhance recruitment. A version of this leaflet is available online, as well as being included in all conference and event delegate packs.

<http://www.forumforinterlending.org.uk/fil-membership-benefits>

Research Work

As in previous years FIL conducted a survey of UK and Eire access to theses policies. This was published on the website in October 2011.

<http://www.forumforinterlending.org.uk/lending-paper-theses-document-updated-oct-2011>

This includes the electronic resources survey conducted in partnership with CONARLS and the North West Libraries Interlending Partnership.

<http://www.forumforinterlending.org.uk/electronic-resources-survey-2012>

Other informal survey work was also conducted and distributed via the FIL email list to the membership.

Sponsorship Awards

The Committee made available two sponsorship awards during 2011/12 which were advertised widely. These were to fund attendance at the ILDS Conference in Chicago (Sept 2011), and the FIL Interlend Conference (June 2012). There were a number of applications in both cases. The winners were selected by the Committee after reviewing the individual applications. In each case the winners were required to produce a report on the event for use on the website and newsletter.

Newsletter

One of the major member benefits is the regular production of the FIL Newsletter, which was published 3 times during the period this report covers. Issues are made available online some time after publication for general consumption. Discussions on cost savings have focussed on the production of a print newsletter, which are not inconsiderable. However, anecdotal evidence from individual members has expressed a strong desire for the continuation of the printed edition. The cost versus the benefit of this will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.

An archive of newsletters is available:

<http://www.forumforinterlending.org.uk/publications>

Acknowledgements

The Chair wishes to note his very grateful thanks on behalf of the entire FIL Membership to each and every Committee member for their contributions throughout this past year. As all Committee members are volunteers, proffering their services in addition to their employment, this is to be especially applauded. Without their tireless devotion to furthering the cause of interlending in the UK, and not least the organisation of the above activities, it would not have been possible for FIL to function let alone deliver the activity detailed above.

Gaz J Johnson, FIL Chair, June 2012

Presented at the 2012 FIL AGM, University of Worcester