
REPORT 7
(1215/52/IM)

LIANZA CONFERENCE 2010 REPORT BACK

1. Purpose of Report

To inform councillors on the LIANZA (Library and Information Association of New Zealand) Conference.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*

3. Conference summary

LIANZA (the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa) is the professional organisation for the New Zealand library and information services sector. LIANZA provides continuing professional development in the sector and co-ordinates member events for New Zealand's library fraternity.

LIANZA conferences are held annually and the 2010 event marked the organisation's centennial conference. The event was held in Dunedin from 28 November – 1 December 2010 with the theme "At the Edge: Te Matakaheru".

Several senior Wellington City Council Libraries staff attended, including Libraries Manager Jane Hill.

Nine keynote speakers presented along with 4 panel sessions. Presenters ranged from international experts including Stephen Abram (Past-President of the Canada Library Association), Dr Jesus Lau (Author of the IFLA International Guidelines on Information Literacy) and New Zealand's National Librarian Penny Carnaby, to prominent New Zealand businesswoman Teresa Gattung, and the Minister for the National Library and Archives New Zealand (Michael Woodhouse on behalf of Hon Nathan Guy).

The 2011 conference will be held in Wellington, with upwards of 500 delegates expected to attend.

4. Subjects Covered

The theme of the conference was “At the Edge” and focused on technological, social, political and economic issues facing libraries currently.

A sample of the keynote topics included:

1. Christine MacKenzie: Public Libraries after the I-Pad

The advent of the I-Pad may revolutionise the way people read and even questions the future existence of libraries if people are able to carry hundreds of books in one compact device.

Christine’s presentation showed how some libraries are evolving into community knowledge-sharing spaces with a reduced focus on books.

2. Carol Tenopir: Sharpening the value edge of academic libraries

The presentation discussed research methods for helping to gauge the value of libraries and how these methods can be used to improve the ways libraries are used. In particular, it focused on e-collections and libraries gaining a return on investment for their resources.

This largely focused on new trends, such as the increased usage of e-data and e-books by younger demographics.

5. Material for Circulation

All conference resources and videos are available on-line at:

http://www.conference.co.nz/lianza10/full_papers_and_powerpoints

I recommend that Councillors with an interest in libraries view the content.

6. Benefit to Council / Elected Members

The conference will benefit me in my role as portfolio leader for Community Facilities for the following reasons:

- It provided an insight into the future of libraries, their place in communities, and technological advances that are changing the way knowledge is exchanged. There was a large focus on utilising new technology such as e-books and e-collections to: connect to younger

people; maintain the relevance of libraries; and enhance the sharing of knowledge. It is imperative that Wellington City Council understand the changing needs of our libraries to deliver a better service to Wellingtonians.

- It provided me with an opportunity to meet and talk to Wellington libraries staff over an extended period and discuss local issues.
- Panel sessions highlighted the importance of libraries to minorities and the disadvantaged.
- It gave me the opportunity to better understand the regional and national libraries network.
- I was able to meet with and talk to people involved in the library industry from New Zealand and abroad.

In summary, I feel that I am now able to better understand the libraries portfolio and issues affecting it.

7. Conference Costs

The cost of the conference was \$917.40, flights cost \$639.14 and accommodation was \$208.70. This equals to \$1765.24. All these costs are GST exclusive.

Contact: Councillor Justin Lester.