AL4
:CLOSING ADDRESS
SUSTAINABILITY

Steve O’Connor, Director, Information Exponentials Consultancy
AL 4

• Excellent papers and participation
• International standard papers and presentations
• Diverse range of topics and perspectives
• AL conferences have and continue to reflect the life of academic libraries
• Unable to summarise all papers or choose better papers
• I want you
• to think about things you do not think about!
WHAT'S WRONG—YOU LOOK TERRIBLE?!...

I'VE JUST REALISED—I'M A LIBRARIAN
• We are Insiders, need to be Outsiders

• Need to remember and understand what we have heard and learnt

• We will not know that something is sustainable until it is actually sustained
Fit for purpose
Perception is reality
Future Position
** Regenerative is Preferred Thinking. Library Sustainability Plan and Communities of Practice  Chamey

IFLA “asserted that library and information services promote sustainable development by ensuring freedom of access to information”  Petra Hauke

If you build it….composting…. Hussong-Christian

Small things that make sense. Castle of light  Vilks

Sustainability is the ability to continue a defined behavior indefinitely. Spodick

** …create a culture of sustainability in the organisation. Spodick

** Sustainability and target setting  Jones and Wong

Sustaining web materials for archive roles and boundaries
The Right to be remembered!!  Helen Hockx-yu
Tiered service delivery model and student employees training and engagement  Kealy and Oetomo

** Reconcile the conflicts between growth and sustainability with finite human and financial resources Kealy and Oetomo

** Very thoughtful and thought through change and strategic management at Saskatchewan  Sorensen

** Tennant’s quip: only librarians like to search; everyone else likes to find. Now to delivery. Meadow

** Libraries are the steward of knowledge. Collaboration, partnerships, relationships will contribute to whether changing library and publishing Environments can offer greater sustainability as we invest more in a more intense digital world. Meadow

** The academic library environment progressively demands new librarian Roles.... Gained through sustainable leadership. Williamson
Perceptions of PS and TS librarians of each other  

Weng Ackerman

We get too siloed and developed stereotypes and misconceptions of each other  

Weng Ackerman

A reminder of the power of in-house metadata services  

Han

A single shared library management system for Wales  

Owen

Collaboration and Consortia  

Helmer

** Librarians should draw from philosophies outside their field to inform their work  

Beasley Rosseel

eLearning as a library strategy to enhance learning experiences  

Yates Han

Extended and experimenting library service integrations.. process  

King

LIS Professional re-imagine collections and services  

Foster Evans

Digital Humanities journals research  

Wong

** Understanding and researching library users experience  

Priestner
Redefining Enquiry services for sustainability Hockey
Information Literacy across diverse disciplines Caplan
Library services to support research programs McRostie
Educating increasing numbers of students about libraries Phillips

Library sustainable services Pionke

** Strategies: Sustaining value .. Listening and learning Cmor
Fit for purpose
Perception is reality
Future Position
THE CONVERSATION…

• The definitions of Sustainability as the ‘ability to continue a defined behavior indefinitely’… will always allow for change

• Each of the papers concerning Sustainability discussed new modes of operation, new processes and new roles in response to challenges, crises but changed strategic circumstance

• Sustainability has many many facets

• Our Conversation can only be validated by looking from or imagining the end point
TWO FINAL POINTS

• If it has been sustained...
• Then we will have understood ‘Big Data’
  • Departmental stores know where we go and what we do
  • Need to understand information user behaviours beyond libraries. We leave a lot of data trails.....
  • Jaron Lanier Who owns the future
• We do not know where our own paths lead.... Or
• Will hugely affect the sustainability of libraries and indeed publishers
  • How this intersects with our sustainability strategies will be the Future
• Then we will have understood the direction.....
“A good hockey player plays where the puck is.

A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be”

Wayne Gredzky
Libraries need to be where the puck will be....

Think about things you do not think about!
Thank You
I never lose. I either win or learn.

Nelson Mandela
Nimen hao
Lao pen yao
Great conference only one peer AL2
Thanks to Diane and Louise for chairing and leading this conference. To the Program Committee for constructing such an excellent program and of course to all of the Speakers.
As Editor of LM I am an observer of trends and developments
• Climate Change
  • Who believes?
• Sustainability arose as a concept because of diminishing resources
• Library Change
  • UK Public Libraries 25% reduction in past 1 to 2 years
  • Who believes that libraries are vulnerable?
• Sustainability
  • Environment
  • Resources
  • Technologies
  • Services
• Have to believe that Climate Change/Library Change is real and commit to action
• Have to know how to address the problems
  • This conference has been very helpful
  • The papers have been exceptionally good in the four themes
  • But how do each of us choose where to place the emphases in our own library operations
• This provides you a filter because not every good idea will work in every library
• Already one issue of LM and probably another 2 to come.
• Many papers accepted already and rest under author review after review
• A fine addition to the AL tradition since 2007 and Colin Storey’s initiative
• One Observation:
  • We do not know really what our users are doing and we need to take BIG DATA in a systematic fashion to really understand who will own the Future as Jaron Janier eloquently points out
  • To predict the future we need to be great. Need to be like famous Wayne Gretzky the great famous ice hockey player
• I thank and congratulate the authors on their vital and often insightful contributions
• Intellectually it has been very worthwhile
• Let's be Gredzky like

• Let's find where that puck will be and let's be there to meet it...PREPARED
• Intersection
• Chamey Regenerative
• Sustainability is about the present for the institution; more about the profession future
• Library Sustainability Plan to move to where the puck will be…..
• Community of practice
• Haipeng Li Triple zero Commitment
  • Zero net Energy
  • Zero net Waste
  • Zero net emissions