Meeting the challenges of LIS research: a national coalition approach

Presentation to the Third International Seminar on LIS Education and Research (LIS-ER), Barcelona, Spain

Friday 5\textsuperscript{th} June 2015
About Hazel Hall

I'm Director of the Centre for Social Informatics in the Institute for Informatics and Digital Innovation within the School of Computing at Edinburgh Napier University. This is my personal web site. Here I maintain a blog, keep an archive of my research output and popular handouts, and link through to my external presentations on SlideShare.

My main research expertise and interests are in the areas of social media, particularly in the context of community management and the management of (social) networks, and in the application of social networking technologies to the management of social care and in the context of healthcare and e-health.
To facilitate a co-ordinated and strategic approach to LIS research across the UK (2009-2012)

To explore the extent to which LIS research projects influence practice (2011)

To create outputs to support the use and execution of research by librarians and information scientists (2012)

To develop a UK-wide network of LIS researchers (2011-2012)
£229,000 investment

- ~€319,000
- ~$350,000
Establishment of the LIS Research Coalition

- 2006-2008: Consultations
- March 2009: Coalition formally established by 5 founding members
- August 2009: Dr Hazel Hall appointed to lead the implementation, 2 days per week in a seconded role
‘To facilitate a co-ordinated and strategic approach to LIS research across the UK’

Provision of a formal structure

- To improve access to LIS research
- To maximise the relevance and impact of LIS research

Main aims

- To bring together information about LIS research opportunities and results
- To encourage dialogue between research funders
- To promote LIS practitioner research and the translation of research outcomes into practice
- To articulate a strategic approach to LIS research
- To promote the development of research capacity in LIS
Access to existing resources to be exploited and reused
Resources to support LIS practitioners as researchers

LIS resources

This page contains links to guides and guidance that are relevant to LIS researchers in general and to researchers in specific sectors.

Toolkits and guidelines for LIS researchers

- The American Library Association’s Reference and User Services Association maintains the RUSA Research and statistics page. All links to multiple resources:
  - doing quantitative research
  - doing qualitative research
  - project assessment and evaluation
  - US data source sites, and
data gathering and evaluation.

- The Digital Engagement Guide: Ideas and practical help to use digital and social media in the public sector. An introduction can be found here.

- DREaM project resources: the five Developing Research Excellence and Methods (DREaM) project events, which take place between July 2011 and July 2012, are generating resources to support LIS researchers. These can be accessed from the DREaM project web pages.

- ESRC National Training Centre for Research Methods, a network of research groups, each conducting research and training in social science research methods. Coordinating at the University of Southampton.

- HEALER research toolkit. The toolkit is intended as a starting point for those wishing to undertake a research project, highlighting issues to consider and signposting resources. Although primarily aimed at those working in health librarianship it is of value to LIS researchers across sectors.

- NCRM National Centre for Research Methods

- NHS

About the information held on these web pages

The Library and Information Science Research Coalition was a three-year project ended on 31st July 2012. This website holds resources it remains visible, but are no longer updated.

The Coalition members intend to continue their work beyond July 2012.

Professor Hazel Hall led the implementation of the LIS Research Coalition between 2009 and 2012. To contact Hazel please e-mail h.hall@napier.ac.uk, or telephone 0131 455 2750.

> Top Posts

Publications

DREaM event 5: Opening Keynote

Conference review, thanks and resources

From perspectives to policy: how an examination of evidence, value and impact can inform the LIS research agenda by Charles Oppenheim

One minute madness

Review of the work of the LIS Research Coalition

Publications
Heavy use of social media by means of a Twitter feed that is still active in 2015.
Face-to-face events

Conferences

- Coalition conference 2010
- DREaM launch 2011
- DREaM conclusion 2012

Workshops

- DREaM: 3 in 2011/12
- RiLIES1: 3 in 2011
- RiLIES2: 1 in 2012

'External' event participation

- 22 events
Impact examples 1

Social media reach: examples

- **Coalition web pages**: monthly hit rate of 2,908 views in 2012
- **@LISResearch**: almost 6,000 followers in 2015
- **SlideShares**: 49 sets of slides viewed thousands of times, with the most-viewed attracting 15,444 hits

Project reach: **DREaM** as example

- 213 'on-site' participants
- 33 presenters
- Remote audience of ~80 blog posts, ~800 tweets, multiple web pages, SlideShares, SoundClouds, Vimeos etc.
Impact examples 2

Growth in knowledge and expertise in research skills

- **DREaM**: workshop participants reported (1) substantial growth in theoretical knowledge; (2) modest increase in application of new skills; (3) greater confidence as researchers; (4) widened networks.

Development of new resources

- *Research, evaluation and audit* (Facet, 2013): a third of the book’s authors had some involvement in the Coalition’s activities between 2009 and 2012.

Research on the agenda of LIS professional bodies

- e.g. CILIP, LIRG, European Association for Health Information and Libraries
Published reports on immediate impact of DREaM

**2012**


**2013**

Current project to measure impact of DREaM 3 years on

Since 2012, to what extent have the workshop participants:

- implemented new and innovative research methods/techniques in their workplace environments?
- undertaken and disseminated relevant, high priority research output to inform policy, determine information services provision, and develop the future LIS research agenda?
- experienced enhanced possibilities for exploring avenues for new research initiatives as a result of network participation?
- continued to work as a network?
- witnessed impact of their post-DREaM research on end-user communities?
What next?

Keynote presentation at EAHIL conference

- Hall, H. (2015). Opening keynote presentation to be delivered at Research minded: supporting, understanding, conducting research workshop organised by the European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL), in collaboration with the International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists (ICAHIS) and the International Clinical Librarian Conference (ICLC), Edinburgh, 10-12 June 2015.

Complete 2015 DREaM impact study

- Data collection and analysis
- Internal report September 2015
- External publication of findings to follow
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