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1. Welcome to **aime**

This e-update shares with you the activities of AIM NI – your network of information colleagues responsible for maintaining 'specialist' information services in the public, voluntary or private sector – and a panel of the Library and Information Services Council (LISC), Northern Ireland. A big welcome to those who are new members of the Association of Information Managers NI.

It's a bumper issue and we are hoping that there is something in this issue of **aime** that you will find useful. If there is something you'd like to share (a new policy, resource, technology etc), contact Olive at olive@vairland.org. All feedback is happily received!

2. AIM Management Committee Report – 2 July 2009

Survey findings

This month we had a look at some early findings from the membership phone survey. One of the questions we asked was to tell us your 'burning issue' as an information worker, whether that was a day-to-day work occurrence or a training need. Early results seem to show that data security is a concern for many of us, especially in the light of Freedom of Information and Data Protection. Another important area is not surprisingly Web 2.0 and archiving of digital materials.

Classification schemes

Other committee business included discussion on classification schemes and their use in small and specialist libraries - if any of you out there are using a great system that you'd like people to know about, we'd love to hear from you.

New leaflet

The committee is about to update the AIM leaflet - creating an online version that people can download from the LISC website.

Knowledge sharing

As a networking forum the committee has agreed to keep a standard 'knowledge sharing' item on the agenda. Each meeting one of us will bring a new skill, tip, or suggestion that would be useful to share. If anyone would like to suggest a topic - we'd welcome your input. John gave a demo of the new community NI website and the use of iGoogle.

Retention policy

As natural hoarders, information types can benefit from a good retention/archive policy to keep us on our toes with clearing out. The committee is to start work on a generic policy. Have you got one you'd like to share?

The Committee will meet again in September. We would love to hear from you if there is anything you would like to put up for discussion, or **if you would like to be part of the Committee**, so do let us know through the [AIM \(NI\) mailbox](#).

Report: John McCormick, NICVA

3. Human Rights Commission seeks a library intern

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has a specialist human rights library which is open to the public by appointment, but is primarily used by staff. In preparation for making the library catalogue available on our website later in the year, the catalogue must be reviewed and all records updated.

Beginning in August 2009, the NIHRC seeks a library intern who can carry out cataloguing and library maintenance – ideally someone looking for experience in using electronic library management software; a student librarian or information specialist. The person should be familiar with cataloguing, but full training will be provided using Heritage software.

The position can be carried out on a full-time or part-time basis. The days and hours are negotiable, but it is envisaged that the internship will run from 1 August 2009 to 31 October 2009. It is voluntary and unpaid. The Commission will reimburse expenses for meals, travel, telephone, stationery, etc, subject to a maximum of £10 per day unless approved in advance. The application form and details are available at: <http://www.nihrc.org>. If you would like to discuss the position, please telephone Charlene Craig on (028) 9024 3987 or email: charlene.craig@nihrc.org. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **Friday 31 July 2009**.

Submitted by: Nadia Downing, NIHRC

4. Surveying AIM Members

The AIM Committee is coming close to the end of surveying the AIM membership. If you've already taken the time to give us your details and your views, thank you, it was great to get a chance to hear your views. Currently data security is looking like a hot topic for information professionals in Northern Ireland.

Committee members will continue surveying throughout the next month or so and I should have a survey report for the next **aim**.

Report: Olive Broderick, Voluntary Arts Ireland

5. Improving your Online Presence - Report

It's never been easier to have an online presence and Northern Ireland is now classified as having 100% broadband access, so a strong online presence has become essential. But how do you ensure that current and potential users of your information services are getting the more useful information via the internet?

'Improving your online presence' is a two day seminar hosted by JISC Netskills in collaboration with UKOLN and supported by the Strategic Content Alliance. It helps participants to understand the range of web technologies available to them and how to use them to best get information to their clients. The NI seminar was held at the Mount Conference Centre in Belfast on the 29/30 June 2009.

Improving Your Online Presence: Presenters emphasised the importance of good structure for online content. They demonstrated a range of social networking sites (ie wikipedia, flickr, facebook, twitter, blog sites, youtube etc) and introduced free tools for monitoring activity (ie www.netvibes.com for social networking sites and Google Analytics -(www.google.com/analytics - for websites).

Improving the Online World: They introduced the concept of Web 3.0 – or the semantic web – which will bring much stronger information retrieval capacity. Good news for information professionals. A building block of this is metadata - information about online data (for example, right click and select properties for any online resources – this is metadata). They suggest that standardising metadata input using a cataloguing convention, such as, Dublin Core - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin_Core - will help to support more robust search engines.

Tomorrow's World: And for those who like a glimpse of the future. Here is a podcast about buying toilet paper with the use of a new gadget....
http://www.ted.com/talks/pattie_maes_demos_the_sixth_sense.html

This is a very short overview of a very comprehensive seminar. It was wonderful to get a chance to attend this at no cost, and the fact that the presenters used most of the tools and online resources in their presentation of content was a bonus. Read more at www.scaseo.wetpaint.com or www.netvibes.com/scaseo

Report: Olive Broderick, Voluntary Arts Ireland

6. Community NI gets social networking bug; & IWN

An all new CommunityNI website is now into its second month (www.communityni.org). Its purpose is to be a networking and communications tool for the voluntary and community sector, but it has useful new features for all of us in the information world. As well as old favourites like news, jobs and events, the site is definitely more aimed at social networking.

Registered CommunityNI users can:

- **Contribute:** news articles, write and comment on opinion articles (visit 'Opinion'), start or join groups (visit Groups section), and have their ideas seen by thousands of people.
- **Advertise:** publish free job adverts, by visiting 'Careers' and promote events in the news and events section.
- **Network:** visit the 'people' section, create a profile and make connections with other CommunityNI users. You can even link up with your Facebook and Twitter account if you wish.

The group feature is already proving popular. 21 new groups have signed up in the last month with interests ranging from policy to funding to IT.

The **Information Workers Network** (IWN) has taken the opportunity to relaunch via the new website.

Do you work in information? The Information Workers Network is a forum to share and develop knowledge and expertise between information workers in Northern Ireland's Voluntary and Community Sector. The social networking possibilities of the site are ideal for information workers.

Visit www.communityni.org to find out more. You can find and join IWN in the groups pages.

Report: John McCormick, NICVA

7. Digital Curation, Preservation Outreach & Capacity Building

Free event: 14-15 September 2009

Holiday Inn, Belfast , Northern Ireland

<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/capacity-building-belfast-2009/>

The Joint Systems Information Committee (JISC) and the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) in co-operation with the Strategic Content Alliance (SCA), the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) are delighted to announce that they will deliver a joint two-day workshop in Belfast to help to establish more effective digital curation and preservation networks of support across the UK and between domains of public sector activity.

Benefits of participation will include:

Participation in this workshop will provide registrants with an opportunity to establish peer support networks to share their concerns, experiences, and approaches both with colleagues from Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK for digital curation and preservation activity within their institutions. The workshop will also enable participants to help inform the development of future training and professional development courses to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

Registration:

Registration is open to participants from the university; schools; library; cultural heritage; local government; health; public broadcasting sectors. Preference will be

given to participants from Northern Ireland but will also be open to eligible registrants from the rest of the UK and from the Republic of Ireland . **Registration is free and participation is limited to 40 participants.**

To register for this event, please complete the online form at <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/capacity-building-belfast-2009/register>.

8. Hot tip 1 - iGoogle

Ever wished all the things you used most - appointments, to do lists, news feeds, favourite websites (and of course your horoscope) were all in one place? Well now they are - with **iGoogle** – www.google.com/ig

Put simply, iGoogle is a personalised homepage, but rather than displaying one favourite page like liscni.co.uk, it can collect and display the information you want to have to hand most of the time.

As information people we all love tools that make research easier - iGoogle is ideal for that - pick a topic using the 'find stuff' box and have regular feeds set up for your homepage.

Always looking for a particular type of information or using the same sites to find things? Create your own custom search engine that searches where YOU want.

You might think that because you use outlook you don't really need something like this. But if you want your lists and calendars available away from the office - iGoogle is a way to gather this information - and you can display it on a mobile phone with Internet access.

On my home page, I have Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Bookmarks, Google Reader, and Google Docs, plus a raft of library related feeds, news, weather and some fun stuff. You can even add a Twitter or Facebook gadget if you need to know the minutiae of your friends lives at every point in the day.

Hot tip 2 - Google Alerts

Whether you are developing a raging paranoia or just curious to see who is talking about you, try **Google Alerts** – www.google.com/alerts . Alerts are an easy way to find out what is being reported about your organisation, where it is being mentioned and by who. This could be useful if you want to track your organisation's coverage in the mainstream media eg BBC news, local papers and also in blogs like Slugger O'Toole.

You can also use Alerts to stay on top of the latest posts on a particular topic. Bear in mind that the more general your topic, the more random and scattergun the results will be.

Hot tips from John McCormick, NICVA

9. Contacts

Currently there are six committee members:

- [Claire Killen](#) (**Chair**) Help the Aged
- [Nadia Downing](#), (**Secretary**) Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
- [John McCormick](#) NICVA
- [Mary Blair](#), Law Centre (NI)
- [Breda Connolly](#) (Mencap)
- [Olive Broderick](#), Voluntary Arts Ireland / **aim**e editor

Or email [AIM \(NI\)](#) main mailbox

For membership queries of a financial nature contact [Mairead Gilheany](#) of LISC

10. Join Us

AIM NI is a panel of LISC – The Library & Information Services Council. If you are already a member of LISC and work in a ‘specialist’ or ‘solo’ library or information service you are automatically entitled to membership of AIM NI. Many AIM members may now qualify for free LISC membership, a saving of at least £50 – if their organisation’s library budget is up to £5,000 – another good reason to join us. Just contact a member of the committee to make sure you are on our circulation list.

To join LISC visit the [website](#) to find an application form, contacts for LISC's finance officer, Mairead Gilheany and the cost, if applicable, of membership.

If you want to become a member of the committee, contact any existing committee member - details above.

It is our wish that this newsletter contains information that is timely, accurate and pertinent to your work and interests. If you feel that you have received it in error, please request that your address is removed from the circulation list by emailing [AIM \(NI\)](#)

compiled by Olive Broderick, Voluntary Arts Ireland
