How LIRG is contributing to LIS policy
Alison Brettle
LIRG Awards Co-ordinator
Helen Buckley Woods, ScHARR
Library and Information Research Group

- Established 1977, Special interest group of CILIP 2003
- Brings together those interested in LIS research
- Promotes the value of information research and links research with practice
- Aims to:
  - raise awareness of, use of, and contributions to research by LIS practitioners;
  - increase the profile and impact of academic and practitioner LIS research;
  - influence positively the direction of LIS research;
  - promote the dissemination of sound research methodologies
What does LIRG do?

• Publications – Library and Information Research


• Events – Workshops eg Writing for Publication, Getting Started in Research and Evaluation (with HEALER), Research Data Management

• Awards – Research Award, Student Prize and the Research Scan
LIRG and CILIP Policy

- “...if a society is to remain culturally, socially and economically vibrant then it is imperative that it sustains an effective infrastructure that facilitates the acquisition, organisation and exploitation of information..”

- “... the hall-mark of a true profession is its open desire and ability to capitalise on research and development and embrace change with enthusiasm and vigour ..”

- “... to create new knowledge and thereby contribute to the growth of LIS as a profession or discipline...to improve problem-solving and decision making in the workplace, to make professional practitioners critical consumers of the research literature, and to better equip librarians to provide optimal information services to researchers in other fields..”(Powell et al, 2002)
In the context of R&D in the information and library arena, CILIP (via LIRG) claims a role in:

- acting as an authoritative voice on R&D
- influencing the broad R&D agenda
- identifying the scope for, and promoting appropriate R&D
- maintaining a dialogue with relevant stakeholders whether as initiators, supporters or users of R&D
- disseminating information regarding R&D activity
- promoting the take-up of relevant R&D outcomes
- ensuring an adequate skills base for undertaking and applying R&D
- nurturing a professional culture that embraces R&D and encouraging reflective practice generally
- ensuring the free flow of information that stimulates R&D
- upholding the right of individuals to pursue R&D in any lawful area
- creating an appropriate ethical foundation for undertaking R&D
- sustaining a climate in which the integrity of R&D results is maintained and maintainable
LIS Research Coalition

- A co-ordinated and strategic approach to LIS research across the UK
- Led by Prof Hazel Hall, Edinburgh Napier
- CILIP/LIRG founding members
- 3 year project, ended July 2012
- Created a DReAM cohort to take research forward
- Website of research related resources
LIRG Scan Award

• .. a special means to address an urgent current issue in library and information science, by acting as a summary of relevant research. It is not intended to generate new research, but rather to collect, analyse and present existing research..

• intended to encourage dissemination and take-up of research and innovation in library and information science

• Offered as and when there is a need
What do LIS practitioners want from research?

- To cover the published literature, across all domains of LIS, focusing on the following questions:
- What kind of research is relevant to LIS practitioners?
- What do practitioners understand by "research" and how do they use it?
- What are the barriers and facilitators to using research in practice?
Schedule

- **December 2012**: Call for proposals.
- **7 January 2013**: Submission Deadline.
- **By 21 January 2013**: LIRG to select and notify the successful researcher/team.
- **January through June 2013**: selected researcher/team to compile a draft Research Scan paper
- **15 June 2013**: submission of the draft Research Scan paper.
- **1 July 2013**: LIRG Pre-Umbrella Conference Event