Inspire

Working collaboratively between different library services

The Future of Library Services

London

28th June 2012

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What is Inspire?

Inspire is a national access programme that seeks to support learning at all levels by providing easy access to libraries regardless of sector or of geography

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All Libraries?

Inspire was originally funded to work with public and HE as well as National Libraries but involves libraries from any other sector

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- What Inspire is trying to achieve
- Inspire background
- Benefits of joining Inspire
  - for learners
  - for libraries

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What are we working to achieve?

- Create a cross-sectoral access route to information and knowledge for learners
- Build and compliment the current network of successful access partnerships to create a single pathway – irrespective of geography and sector
- Reach non-users and those currently excluded from access to learning opportunities at all levels

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Three influential strategies that INSPIRE used are:

Empowering the Learning Community

- Public and educational libraries in any community or region should draw up “access maps” to enable users and learners to reach resources or assistance in other libraries on a managed basis

Aim Higher Partnerships for Progression

- Direct link to government’s target of 50% widening HE participation

Framework for the Future DCMS

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Inspire National and Regional Partners

- Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL)
- Society of Chief Librarians (SCL)
- The British Library (BL)
- The Combined Regions (TCR)
- Scottish University and Research Libraries (SCURL)
- South West Regional Library Service (SWRLS)
- Library and Information East Midlands (LIEM)
- National Library of Scotland
- National Library of Wales

Inspire Directors:

Andrew Green (SCL and Wandsworth Borough Council)
Philip Payne (SCONUL and Birkbeck University of London)

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Achieving our aims - the Inspire Framework

- Provision of a set of kitemarked criteria in order to create a coherent national offer

- Enrolling all Public and HE libraries to these criteria and expansion of this group to include libraries from other sectors
- Managed referral between all libraries
- Support registering libraries by providing:
  - a training toolkit for all libraries/staff involved
  - publicity materials for all participating libraries
  - INSPIRE website

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Inspire 'Kitemark' criteria

Libraries agree to the following:

- To accept managed referrals
- As a minimum, to give referred visitors reference access to hard copy materials
- To provide collection mapping information for the web site
- To publicise Inspire throughout their library service and to the wider community
- To collect information to monitor the impact/ usage of Inspire

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Inspire 'Kitemark' criteria

Libraries to ensure that:

- An appropriate member of staff is nominated as Inspire key contact or 'activist'
- Designated staff receive in-depth training (supported by training toolkit) and cascade information about the scheme to other staff
- All staff are briefed on Inspire Programme
- Inspire is included in induction and on-going training programmes

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Concerns and reassurances

- Overwhelming demand for scant resources
- Loss of income from external borrower schemes
- Security worries
- Extra demands on staff
- Unrealistic expectations amongst users

- This has not happened
- Borrower schemes can remain
- Visitors unlikely to create problems
- Handled through training and normal procedures
- Expectations managed via website and referral

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Benefits for users and potential users

- Opening up access to resources previously unavailable to them
- Creation of a national service so the recognisable minimum standard of access will apply everywhere
- Enhanced knowledge and skills amongst library staff to
  - direct people to the resources they need
  - provide whatever form of referral is needed

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Inspire – 334 registered Library Institutions

England

- Public Libraries - 140 authorities 95%
- Higher Education - 114 institutions 88%
- Further Education - 87 colleges
- Specialist Libraries - 106 libraries
- Health Libraries - 71 libraries

Scotland - 2

Wales - 1

N.Ireland: LISC Inspire - 22 organisations – c.140 libraries

Republic of Ireland - Cork and Music PALs

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Achieving our aims - the Inspire Framework

- The kitemark criteria create a coherent national offer which brings a basic minimum standard for all
- Enrolling all public and HE libraries to these criteria and expanding this group to include libraries from other sectors
- Support registering libraries by providing:
  - publicity materials for all participating libraries
  - a training toolkit for all staff involved

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Making it work

Expansion of the original HE/Public Library remit to include libraries from other sectors

- helped to raise the profile of the programme
- provided greater numbers of participants where public and academic libraries spread thinly
- brought in the Health sector

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Making it work

The Kitemark Criteria

- made it as easy as possible for libraries to sign up by requiring permission for minimum access only
- enabled libraries to set their own access conditions
  - gave the libraries control of the process
  - gives potential users ‘permission’ to visit

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Making it work

- Managed referral between all libraries
- Support for registering libraries
  - Inspire website
  - LIS-INSPIRE
  - Information pack for all involved
  - Publicity materials

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Login Site Map Text size: A A A search...

About Inspire | Joining Inspire | Inspire Libraries | Find it! | Inspire News | Useful links | Contact Us

Shelving Delivered by BCI, Lammhults Library Design

About Inspire

- Background to Inspire
- Inspire Documents
- Inspire Management Board
- Key supporters

Select a Country

Welcome to Inspire

Inspire supports libraries in working together to improve access to information and learning for all.

There are now almost 4000 Inspire libraries throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These libraries are all committed to supporting learning in its widest sense and together they provide an open route to the information and inspiration library users are seeking – wherever it may be found.

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Inspire Libraries

- England
- Northern Ireland
- Republic of Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales

Select a Country

Inspire Libraries

There are now over 3,500 libraries in the UK and Ireland that have joined colleagues, locally, regionally and beyond to support access to information through joining Inspire. This number continues to grow.

Please follow the links below to find details of the library, libraries or collaborative library groups you wish to contact in your region or elsewhere. Alternatively you can use the search option at the top of the page to look for a specific named library or group'

- England
- Northern Ireland
- Republic of Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales

Joining Inspire

- East Midlands
- East of England
- London
- North East
- North West
- South East
- South West
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire
- Northern Ireland
- Republic of Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales

Joining Inspire

Any library which has a collection to which Inspire visitors will be allowed reference access may join Inspire. For full information on joining Inspire, please:

- Download the Inspire Registration Form and Inspire Kitemark Criteria.
- Read the Kitemark Criteria: this is what you are agreeing to
- Complete and sign the registration form
- Return the registration form, either by email or by post, to the address on the form.

For libraries in England and Northern Ireland, if you want to know more about what is happening with Inspire in your area you can:

- Find England or Northern Ireland on the map on the left to look at the information on your region – or - use the links below
- Contact your local Inspire Group or other local libraries involved with Inspire (there will be links to them in the regional information)
- Contact Inspire directly
- Join LIS-INSPIRE an email discussion group for all involved with Inspire or who are interested in

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Making it work

- National initiative - transparent/permeable boundaries
  - HE has a national focus
  - Helps to encourage sign up
- Focus on the needs of the user
- Inspire Directors and Management Board

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Key lessons from Inspire

- Participating libraries will have concerns that need to be addressed
- Timescale – it will take longer than you think
- Need for a regional or sub-regional 'operational group' to support development
- Importance of involving staff at an early stage
- Need for a marketing/awareness raising strategy both for providers of the service and for potential users

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- Questions, Comments, Observations?

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Website

- Inspire: www.inspire-libraries.org.uk

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