

Conference Report

Libraries Change Lives Conference and Award 2010

Hui-Yun Sung

I was delighted to attend the Libraries Change Lives Conference and Award as a complimentary delegate. I was very grateful for Cilip Community Services Group's support.

My Ph.D. research aims to investigate key ingredients that help make community engagement work in public libraries. This conference brought together good and innovative practice in the public library service in the UK that successfully work in partnership and genuinely engage with local communities. Not only did I learn from those award winners' successful stories, but I was also inspired by the keynote presentations by John Holden and Sue Charteris. Under the threat from restricted budgets in public libraries' expenses, John advocated that public libraries need a simple, straightforward framework, whilst Sue underscored that the library needs to learn from the retail revolution and Total Place.

There was also a session, specifically addressing the NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) agenda. Young people are generally viewed as being hard-to-reach groups. The Reading Agency pointed out the important role that public libraries play in engaging with young people. Get It Loud in Libraries programme engaged with young people by presenting the pop culture through gigs, events and masterclasses in Westminster Reference Library and Lancaster Library.

Finally, this conference provided me with great opportunities to communicate my research with library practitioners and do some networking. This conference offered a chance for different library services and library professionals to share good practice. It was a fantastic conference.

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