

# **CILIP CONFERENCE**

**THEME:**

**Leadership**

**VENUE:**

**Hilton Birmingham Metropole**

**DATE:**

**12 – 13 July 2023**

## OVERVIEW

The conference focused on the theme “Leadership” and the celebration of the 125 years of CILIP’s Royal Charter. The conference aimed to inspire attendees through a series of talks and discussions. In attendance were established, emerging and aspiring leaders to discuss and explore ‘top of mind’ challenges and opportunities in the library and information sector, including:

- Leading inclusive library, information and knowledge services
- Building representative collections
- Attracting, retaining and developing talent
- Promoting organisational resilience
- Focusing on Wellbeing
- Digital Leadership

There were interactive sections, panel discussions, workshops, and exclusive cross-sector networking opportunities. There were exhibitions from the event sponsors displaying their products and services that are tailored towards the needs of libraries and information centers.

### Keynote Address

Keynote addresses were delivered by leaders in the field of technology, policy, learning and libraries. The opening keynote was led by Rebecka Isaksson, Partner and Director Content and Collaboration AI, AI lab in Sweden. She drew on her extensive experience and background at Microsoft and gave real world examples of how AI is driving business value in knowledge management and how new tools and technology are already impacting the way we work.

Another keynote speaker was Dr Navina Evans (Chief Workforce training and Education officer NHS England) who joined the delegates via recorded video to talk about how her experience as a practitioner enabled her to find her role as Chief Workforce, Training and Education Officer, NHS England. She shared some vital insights into the qualities a leader needs to successfully manage an enormous workforce.

Day 2: keynote was led by Masud Khokhar, University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection spoke about his route into library leadership. He talked about how motivation and an understanding of internal bias are vital to success in leadership, and how leaders need to share their optimism and vision with their staff, who sometimes don't have the same opportunities to get the full picture.

## **Panel Discussions**

Panel discussions covered everything from wellbeing, digital content, eBook rights, school libraries, and climate justice and the Green Libraries Initiative.

## **Key highlights from the conference**

**Inspiring Talks:** The conference featured a lineup of established, new, and emerging leaders who delivered inspiring talks.

These talks covered a wide range of topics related to the library and information profession, including the role of AI, leadership in the digital age, and the importance of human connection.

**Networking Opportunities:** The conference provided a platform for approximately 500 colleagues from the information, knowledge management, and library sector to connect and network.

Attendees had the opportunity to share best practices, exchange ideas, and develop their careers.

**ReDiscovery Conference:** As part of the CILIP Conference, the Metadata and Discovery Group (MDG) held their biennial conference titled "ReDiscovery".

This conference focused on the latest developments in metadata and discovery practices in the library and information field.

## **Celebrating CILIP 125**

There was a dinner to celebrate 125 brilliant human beings who through their work are impacting on the lives of millions of people across all sectors. The CILIP 125 list is a celebration both of their professionalism and of the continuity of belief in empowering people through literacy, learning, libraries and access to knowledge.

## **Key Take Away**

Information Professionals are key people in entrusting knowledge.

'Libraries are the backbone of humanity.

Networking opportunity with professionals, sharing best practices, and exploring new ideas.

Overall, the 2023 CILIP Conference in Birmingham provided a valuable platform for professionals in the library, information, and knowledge management sector to come together, learn from each other, and gain inspiration for their work. The conference addressed important topics such as AI, leadership, and the role of humanity in the digital age.