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CoLIS in London, 2010: Reflections on the 7th Conceptions of Library and Information Science Conference

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Lyn Robinson was the Conference Organiser for CoLIS 2010, and David Bawden was Programme Chair.

Held in the Bloomsbury area of London between 21 and 24 June 2010, during some unusually sunny days of a British summer, the seventh CoLIS conference attracted about 100 participants from 19 countries.

As always with CoLIS, the material was academic, detailed, thought-provoking, and sometimes provocative. We decided to avoid split sessions, for the most part, to try to promote extended discussions and allow cross-session interactions, and this was justified by the quality and extent of the discussions. Presenters have had the opportunity to reflect this in the papers published here.

The official conference theme was 'unity in diversity', showing the variety of topics, perspectives and methods which underlie research in the information sciences, and this was certainly reflected in the contributions. A theme which emerged unplanned, through a number of presentations and the discussions following them and particularly in the panel sessions, was that of the questions which information science tries to answer. Do we agree on what they are, and how they are being changed – if at all – by changes in the technological and social environment?

Of 27 full papers presented at CoLIS, 25 appear here. Information on the others, and all other CoLIS materials, appears on the conference website, mentioned below.

The CoLIS website remains in being at <http://colis.soi.city.ac.uk>, and has information on papers, posters, panels, and the information literacy seminar and the doctoral student forum, complementing the papers published here.

The next CoLIS conference will be held in Copenhagen in August 2013. Details may be found at <http://www.iva.dk/english/colis8>, and the conference hashtag is #colis2013.