

# Reading, learning, sharing: library leadership resources

**I**N 2012, I attended the CILIP in Wales Conference on the theme of leadership. I loved every minute of the conference. I came out of almost every session with things I wanted to follow up and my reading list of recommended resources on leadership was huge! Quite a few people were tweeting at the conference, and others were interested in reading these resources too. I compiled a list to share with others who were interested, and set up an online reading group so we could read them at the same time and discuss the resources and our experiences. The Library Leadership Reading Group (LLRG) was born. Admittedly, this was partly to encourage me to read some books I'd been meaning to read for a while, but I also hoped the reading group would enhance learning for all involved.

## How does the Library Leadership Reading Group work?

LLRG is an online reading group which uses Twitter as the discussion platform. It's open to anyone to join – we just choose a resource to read, set a date and time to discuss, and tweet at that time using the #llrg hashtag. If you've joined in another Twitter chat such as #uklibchat or #ukmedlibs (both of which I recommend) it's similar, though slightly less structured as we don't have a set time each month (we tend to hold the discussions once every two or three months) and we don't set questions in advance. Since 2012, we've discussed almost 20 different resources; mostly books but also articles.

## How does LLRG support CPD?

Reading is a useful way to learn about a topic, and the LLRG resources often support many of the areas of CILIP's Professional Knowledge and Skills Base (PKSB). Leadership is obviously a key area, but many of the resources also

## CILIP Professional Development Group



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support areas such as strategic planning and communication skills. I record my LLRG reading in my CPD log in CILIP's VLE, which I use for my Chartership revalidation each year.

## Discussion and reflection

In addition to the reading, LLRG also adds the element of being able to discuss and reflect on what you have read. I find this adds so much to my understanding of the reading. As I'm reading, I tend to make more notes and focus more on what I'm reading and learning so that I can share that learning during the discussion. I also think about some of the questions it raises for me, so that I

can bring those to the discussion too. The part I love though is the actual discussion. It's only an hour long but I always learn so much during that hour. Often others will have picked up and reflected on something I hadn't chosen to reflect on, so I get the benefit of them sharing what they have learned. I also love hearing people's examples of how they have seen elements of the theory in practice, or how they intend to apply them in practice. I always come away from the discussion with so many ideas, thanks to the insight from fellow professionals. I certainly get a lot more from participating in LLRG than I would do if I just read the resources on my own.

## How can I join in?

LLRG is open to anyone, so to join in just check the LLRG document (link at the end of the column) to find out when the next discussion is, then read the book/article, and join us on Twitter on the day and time we are holding the discussion. You can use any Twitter client and just follow the #llrg tweets. In order to ensure others will see your tweets during the discussion, you'll need to make sure your account is public (not private). If you haven't had a chance to read the whole book by the time of the chat you are still welcome to join to ask others what they learnt from it.

## Can I suggest resources?

Absolutely! There is a list of previous and potential Library Leadership Reading Group resources available online as an open Google Document which anyone can edit. Please feel free to add any resources.

If you have any questions about LLRG please feel free to contact me – I'm @joeyanne on Twitter or you can email me.



## Resources

**LLRG blog post:** <http://bit.ly/2dohi63>  
**LLRG Google document:** <http://bit.ly/2dg3F7X>