IRMS purpose plans and membership benefits

IRMS UK

The Chair’s (Meic Pierce Owen) comments on the role of IRMS were largely drawn from the example of the Edinburgh event as it demonstrates many fundamental objectives of the Society. It showed, for example, how important the role of the practitioner was for healthy engagement with the practical issues of managing information. One of the strengths of IRMS is that it draws together a variety of information managers from a diverse set of backgrounds with a wide range of skill sets.

Another example was how the talk on social services and information from Maggie McTernan illustrated perfectly our core principles of ‘the right information with the right person at the right time in the right format’. Meic commented that we should very much look to do more of these ‘professionals using information’ type sessions.

The Society from top to bottom is run and supported (both in terms of talks given and event sponsorship) by those who work with information for those who work with information. The programme for today’s events reflects the fact that IRMS is very much a Society ‘of the profession’ for the profession.

IRMS provides high quality opportunities for CPD and professional networking as well as exchange of ideas - offered free of charge.

Emily Overton, IRMS Groups Director, provided some more detail about IRMS membership benefits from the annual conference to community group events to online resources such as the retention wiki, podcasts and blogs. She also described the key role the Society has played in her own professional development, to underline the value of membership.

IRMS Scotland

The Group will have been in existence for 10 years in March 2015 so it is a good point to reflect on how it delivers benefit to the members. The Scotland Group Chair (Claire Johnson) outlined the programme for the coming year which will explore the theme of ‘Managing change’ from the perspective of new technologies (January/February) and new legislation (June). In addition to delivering day long training events Claire was keen to stress the value of widening the discussion using video conference links at events (to reduce the need to travel to a single venue), the communication facilities in the new IRMS website (event resources, Blog, Wiki etc) and IRMSScotland Twitter feed (@IRMSScot). It may also be possible to organise shorter ‘local’ events held for a couple of hours in the evening (probably during the Summer months) in cities around the region to encourage local support networks to develop.

Claire also stressed the value of getting involved in any number of ways, being a host, sponsor, organiser or speaker, to help influence the successful delivery of events.

The session ended with a lively discussion picking up on points raised around geographic coverage of IRMS Scotland and the role of IRMS UK in advocacy and research.