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A TIRESOME EXERCISE, OR A FIRST STEP IN LIBRARY LEADERSHIP?

Ian Johnson

My perspective – a quick biography

- ❖ **Public libraries, professional committees, academic manager**
- ❖ **Projects, research, journal editing, columnist**



The problem

- ❖ **Why do libraries and librarians receive insufficient recognition?**
- ❖ **Could one reason be that practitioners cannot effectively communicate their impact on society?**



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Professional goals

- ❖ **Sharing knowledge**
- ❖ **Demonstrating professional commitment**
- ❖ **Continuing professional and career development**



Employers' expectations

- ❖ **Communication skills**
- ❖ **Task management skills**
- ❖ **Creative thinking and problem solving skills**
- ❖ **Self-appraisal skills**
- ❖ **Action-centred leadership skills**



Assessing work (1)

- ❖ **Investigation has been based on a thorough gathering of evidence**
- ❖ **Analysis and findings are credible**
- ❖ **Results are understandable and create confidence**
- ❖ **Practical implications have been considered**



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Assessing work (2)

- ❖ **Depth, coherence and clarity**
- ❖ **Fulfilling instructions, on time**
- ❖ **Creativity**
- ❖ **Presentation**



Student Paper competitions

- ❖ **IFLA Student Paper Award**
- ❖ **LILAC**

- ❖ **Libri annual Best Student Paper**
 - **€500, a year's subscription and [Open Access] publication**
 - **Winners from Austria, Canada, China, Germany, UK, and USA**
 - **Originality, topicality, and depth**



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Libri winning topics

- ❖ **Comparative studies**
- ❖ **User studies**
- ❖ **New technologies**
- ❖ **Professional philosophies**
- ❖ **Ethical issues**



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Options for others

❖ **Competitions for practitioners**

➤ **Incentives for writing**



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Library leaders?

- ❖ **Academic progress**
- ❖ **Successful practitioners**
- ❖ **Professional and community leaders**



New courses and new careers

- ❖ **Writing for the web**
- ❖ **Support for literacy and information literacy**
- ❖ **Courses in writing and communication skills**
- ❖ **New opportunities need new approaches?**



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<http://www.rgu.ac.uk/abs>

Thank you for your attention
Questions?
Comments?



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- ❖ **IFLA LIS Student Paper Award 2010 – URL**
<http://www.ifla.org/en/set/student-paper-aw>
- ❖ **LILAC (Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference) – URL**
<http://www.lilacconference.com/dw/awards/>
- ❖ **Libri Best Student Paper – URL:**
<http://www.librijournal.org/> OR
<http://www.reference-global.com/>