MCLIP - Example of an evaluative statement 2

by Example Portfolio Content

This is an example of a successful evaluative statement from a chartership submission.

This example does not contain the whole portfolio, but just the evaluative statement. The numbers in blue are where the candidate linked their evidence pieces to the content in their statement.

Example Evaluative statement

When I registered for Chartership, I had completed the Diploma part of the MScEcon Information and Library Studies, was working as Assistant Librarian at the English Faculty Library [1] and was involved in a variety of interesting projects. My main motivations for registering were to take the time to reflect on these experiences, to gain recognition for this work and to provide a framework for my ongoing professional development. I identified key areas for my personal professional development (Initial PPDP) and my work on each of these areas has led to improvements in my workplace and had an impact on the wider profession. Reflection on practical experience has made me a more rounded professional and contributed to my appointment as Librarian at the Department of Engineering [2].

In order to better understand user needs at the English Faculty Library, I assessed the information literacy of new undergraduates [3]. I used knowledge gained to inform the redevelopment of an induction programme for undergraduates in the Faculty of English [4] and the restructure of the Faculty’s virtual learning environment [5]. I have since reflected on how the needs of undergraduates at the Department of Engineering differ from those of students of English and on how user education in my new role will differ as a result [6].

I realised that I need a structure to help me to keep up to date with information literacy research so (with Sheila Webber) I established an Information Literacy Journal Club [7]. These online discussions have put me in contact with key contributors to the field, given me an insight into information literacy in other sectors and led to my nomination for the 2014 Information Literacy Award. Ongoing participation has fuelled my desire to conduct further research and I intend in future to look at how engineers use information to inform decisions in the workplace and consider the implications for information literacy education at third level. I expect that the contacts I have made by visiting workplace-based engineering libraries [8] will help with this research.
I had previous experience of leadership and management [CV], but I knew that in order to progress I would need to further develop these skills. I completed the ILM Level 3 Award in Front Line Management, a one-to-one management coaching session, training in writing job descriptions, recruitment and selection skills, and managing and developing effective teams. The course on writing job descriptions [9] helped me to think carefully about the current structure of my team and consider what other roles I might add to the team while also giving me a better understanding of the grading process. Training on Recruitment and Selection Skills [10] has been useful every time I have needed to fill a vacancy, helping me to ensure that I am selecting the best candidate for the job and correctly follow the University's recruitment processes and procedures. I would like to complete the ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management in order to continue my development in this area.

I Co-Chaired CILIP East of England through a merger with the local Career Development Group [11], gaining valuable experience of change management and leadership of volunteers. Our merger was followed by similar mergers across England and I was invited to represent CILIP Branches on the project board for CILIP’s Branch and Group Review [12]. This was my first experience of overseeing a project without being directly involved in its implementation. I was able to view CILIP from different angle, feed into the development of a core membership offer and to learn from the experiences of other project board members. Attendance at CILIP's Umbrella Conference [13] provided a further opportunity to gain an insight into issues affecting different sectors, including information literacy for lifelong learning, embedded librarianship in a critical care unit and the debate surrounding 'community libraries'.

I have a particular interest in supporting colleagues and helping others to develop in their careers. In current role I have created a culture of reflection and fully support the development of my team members [14]. This will lead to a happy, motivated team working in a more efficient and effective way to meet the needs of our users.

Through Cambridge LibTeachMeets [15] I helped to provide an encouraging environment in which library and information professionals could share their teaching tips and experiences with others. I presented and published on this, reflecting on our experiences and encouraging others to organise their own TeachMeets. The model is now firmly established in library circles, with TeachMeets taking place across several countries and included as a regular feature of the international LILAC Conference.

Inspired by the 2010 New Professionals’ Conference and 23 Things programmes, I developed and coordinated ‘23 Things for Professional Development’ [16], an online programme which encouraged its 1000+ international participants to reflect on their career and professional development as well as social media. I read many of the participants’ blogs, gaining an insight into the perspectives of library and information professionals from all sectors. As New Professionals Support Officer [17] I supported new professionals from public, academic and health libraries across the East of England by organising online hangouts, encouraging active participation in CILIP and organising an event on ‘Professional Knowledge and Skills for your LIS Career.’
I have benefitted from having Eva Hornung as a mentor, guiding me through the Chartership process, providing ongoing encouragement, suggesting development opportunities and introducing me to key contacts within the library and information sector in Ireland. I reflected on the changes to Chartership and blogged to help other candidates deciding whether or not to switch to the new regulations. My next step in the area of staff development will be to become a CILIP mentor so that I can support other professionals in this way.

Chartership has provided an invaluable framework for my professional development over the past two years. I have used the Professional Knowledge and Skills Base (PKSB) to identify areas for future development and outlined some of the steps I plan to take to achieve this. I look forward to taking on these challenges and to achieving CILIP Fellowship in due course.

999 words

(This submission used 20 pieces of evidence)