

Reserve your place at CILIP's flagship event

The Umbrella 2009 conference has attracted strong support from sponsors, and now it's time for delegates to book a place at CILIP's popular event.

CILIP'S FLAGSHIP EVENT continues to attract strong support from suppliers, with six sponsors and a sell-out exhibition secured as the campaign to attract delegates gets under way. Umbrella 2009 takes place on the DeHavilland Campus of the University of Hertfordshire in Hat-

field, 14-15 July. The last Umbrella event in 2007 was rated 95 per cent Good to Excellent by attendees.

This year's theme is 'Making connections: the power of people, partnerships and services'. Despite a change in format to two full days mid-week, the pro-



gramme will still give delegates a choice of 54 seminars in nine streams, plus two plenary sessions, and a 50-stand exhibition and a range of social activities. Full details will be contained in the delegate brochure to be distributed with the next issue of *Gazette*.

CILIP's special interest groups have been closely involved in the creation of this year's programme, under the direction of Director of Studies Ian Snowley, CILIP's Past President 2008. This guarantees a topical focus on challenging issues.

The two plenary sessions will feature international figures, including Charles M. Brown, a senior US public librarian, who will talk on leading organisations through transformations (read more on page 3). Look out in *Gazette* for further news of speakers.

New award presentation

For the first time, the presentation of CILIP's prestigious Libraries Change Lives Award will take place at Umbrella, creating a major new highlight.

The award showcases good practice within the profession and is one of the leading accolades in the library and information world. It will be presented during the second plenary session at Umbrella 2009 on the afternoon of 15 July. Information about the finalists is online at www.cilip.org.uk/lcla.

Exhibition hours extended

The Umbrella exhibition will be open throughout the conference and it will be the venue for refreshment and lunch breaks as well as the official conference reception. It will also feature the popular poster sessions, with show time extended to two full days, with two prizes on offer. A gala dinner at the RAF Museum in Hendon will be the highlight of the social programme.

All of these features add up to the promise of a very special Umbrella in 2009. Attendance will be highly cost-effective, with just two days away from work and an information-packed programme. Good quality accommodation is available on site right next to the event, as well as the university's extensive leisure and sporting facilities. The delegate fees provide exceptional value for money.

Sponsors supporting Umbrella 2009 are RNIB, MultiScreen Channel, Innovative Interfaces, Nielsen Book, Swets, and Jisc TechDis. A limited number of sponsorships are still available and details are on the event's website.

Contact john.woolley@cilip.org.uk for further information and to discuss the options.



Umbrella features popular social events, such as last year's conference reception

HOW TO BOOK

Early Bird rates if you book now

Umbrella 2009 takes place at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield, 14-15 July. Booking your place is easy. Online booking is now

open at www.umbrella2009.org.uk and Early Bird rates apply until 30 April. Alternatively use the Registration Form in the delegate brochure you will receive with the 30 January issue of *Gazette*. More than 700 delegates attended the last Umbrella.

