“The next generation information management”

On Friday 16\textsuperscript{th} October the DGI (German Association for Information & Knowledge) in collaboration with the PAID and the P-D-R hosted a hot spot session at the Frankfurt Bookfair entitled “The Next Generation Information Management”, to give cross industry information professionals and providers the opportunity to think about the future and actively engage with each other to learn the part that they can play in this evolution. The event was generously sponsored by Rights Direct.

With an attendance of over 60 people to this session it focused on 4 areas:

- A vendor driven panel discussion on trends of the future
- A presentation on whether or not Information Professionals would be replaced by robots
- An interactive vendor speed networking with opportunities for short 1:1 interaction with delegates
- A product review session focusing on interesting technologies to watch in the future

The panel discussion was moderated by Andrew Clark (UCB Biopharma and president of the P-D-R) and represented 5 leading industry partners: Dow Jones (represented by John Edeson), EBSCO (Frank Bertsch), Elsevier (Heather Devereaux), Oxford University Press (Lenny Allen) and Wiley (Duncan Campell).

In this forward looking session of where the information industry could be in 2020 topics included the future of electronic journals, new media types, copyrights, data privacy and store/share practices and most importantly the question if everyone is fit for the millennials. Plenty of discussion recognized that the industry is changing and will continue to change. The key message is that user culture and behavior will require industry providers to continue to adapt to changing requirements particularly in the world of big data where new technologies are becoming a way of understanding this. Our personal culture will also influence our research behaviors and how users are required to interact with information.

Reinhard Karger from the DFKI (German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence) and president of the DGI presented an engaging point of view on the part that robotics could play in the information industry. There was a clear opinion that Information Professionals will always be required to bring skills into the information center and that robots may just be one means of helping researchers to understand information.

A first for the book fair was a speed networking session. Individuals had the opportunity to rotate round a set of industry partners in quick succession. The concept was about helping individuals to share briefly who they represented, what they do and build network opportunities for the future.

This session was then followed by three short product reviews of emerging technologies that might support Information Professionals in the future. These included Empolis, intelligent views and Rights Direct.

Reinhard Karger closed the session acknowledging the book fair organization, Rights Direct and Barbara Reissland, Library Consult for their support in making this Hot Spot session a success.