

RaPAL AGM 2017 Chair's Report

2016/17 has been a good year for RaPAL with a high level of activity and cross-sectoral engagement.

We have participated in two sector consultations: through the national adult literacy standards and functional skills reform. We have sustained publishing three excellent digital journals by different editorial teams on a termly basis as well as a distinct digital and softback book, *Resilience: Stories of Adult Learning*. We are producing a new promotional hardcopy Taster journal. We have organised two conferences: the annual autumn joint conference in London with the Learning and Work Institute, UCL IoE Post-14 Centre, UCU and NATECLA 'Resilience and Responsiveness' and our own summer conference in Liverpool 'Global Literacies: UK Literacies in a Global Context'.

Social media and website traffic activity are significantly higher than at any time in the past and demonstrate particularly high levels of activity in the UK, followed by the rest of the English speaking world. There is consistent international interest and access. This mirrors national and international activity and publicity around RaPAL's activities. We have run a members' survey and continue to develop RaPAL in response to members and the sector through an active and committed Management Group and Regional Advocates network.

We continue to work to increase our membership and sector engagement as a voluntary and membership organisation in a challenging and underfunded sector undergoing significant change and streamlining disciplines. We are solvent and investing in our core activities. I would like to thank the volunteers who work extremely hard in the fractions of time available outside their other commitments and livelihoods to keep RaPAL running, and our members for their commitment to improving the quality of life of adult learners.