



## CoLRiC Impact

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CoLRiC Impact is a regular e-bulletin that will showcase exemplary practice and innovation across the FE and Sixth Form College sector. As a CoLRiC member you will be able to submit your own examples of good practice for publication to the CoLRiC community. All contributions that demonstrate the value and impact of libraries and learning resource services are welcome: case studies, reports, reviews, exemplar documents, features on local projects, national initiatives, cross sectorial collaborations and any good news stories you want to share. CoLRiC is written by the CoLRiC membership for the CoLRiC membership, and will engage colleagues, initiate discussion and support the exchange of ideas.

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Welcome to the first issue of CoLRiC Impact for 2019. This bulletin showcases the story behind Northampton College's 'Maths Magician' initiative. It also features a call for members to apply to join CoLRiC's Executive committee. Committee membership offers fantastic career development opportunities.

**A date for your 2019 diary.** Make sure you have pencilled in Friday June 21<sup>st</sup> to attend our 2019 Conference. Booking opens in February.

### The Maths Magician Numeracy Scheme

Last year, Mirna Peach and Corinne Walker, the Co-Chairs of CoLRiC, celebrated the organisation's 25th anniversary by acknowledging and rewarding best practice in the Further Education and College sector with the presentation of three prestigious library and learning resource centre awards.

*'These awards celebrate the very best practice taking place in FE and sixth form college learning resources services. Libraries play a critical role in supporting organisational goals and strategies. Our resources and services have demonstrable value and impact helping create and sustain an institution-wide lifelong learning environment.'*

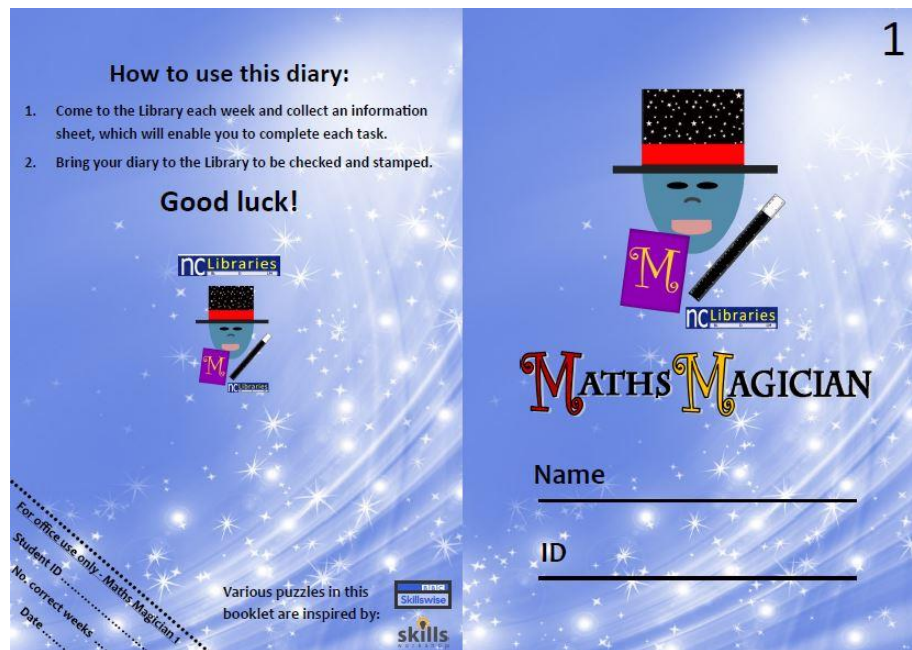
The Library at Northampton was awarded the CoLRiC 2018 Best Practice Award for demonstrating excellent practice in engaging students in numeracy skills. Northampton College's Librarian Amy Harnaman said: 'Maths Magician has raised awareness of the role of the Library as an indispensable service in the promotion of learning. Above all it breaks down the barrier of the general fear of maths in society and makes maths magical, not menacing.'

#### Innovative interventions

Maths Magician is an original and innovative twenty-week numeracy scheme developed by Library assistants at Northampton College in support of the Government's agenda to improve Literacy and

Numeracy in the UK. The aim of the scheme is to embed numeracy skills by inviting students to continually practise their maths skills through completing a weekly maths puzzle.

A student registers at the Library and receives the first of two Maths Magician work books. Each book contains ten Library related puzzles, incorporating library staff into real life scenarios, for example using the Library cash float. The student collects an information sheet from the Library each week to enable them to complete each puzzle. This information sheet is also displayed online, which produces traffic on the website. Once the puzzle is completed, the student brings the work book into the Library to be checked and stamped by Library staff.



## Workshop learning

The scheme is available to all students and is aimed at Entry Level 3/Level 1. Business tutors, Childcare and Health and Social care tutors have all made use of the scheme. Pre-entry ESOL tutors have found Maths Magician to be beneficial in improving their students' understanding of English alongside numeracy skills, finding it an engaging way to mix the two. Furthermore, Maths Magician has been successfully adapted for Level 2 students with a Maths Magician Higher booklet. A weekly maths workshop has also been created to offer structured support to supported learners. It has been so successful that a Maths Magician Plus workbook was produced for use over the summer term.

## Positive impact

Maths Magician has had a very positive impact on students. It increases students' confidence with everyday numerical problems, for example, understanding and interpreting time sheets, bills and timetables. Students gain confidence in visiting the Library and interacting with Library staff alongside improving their Literacy skills as the puzzles require careful reading. The scheme has grown in success, 123 students participated during the pilot year (2016) and this number has expanded to 166 participants in the current academic year.

Tutors embrace the scheme as it integrates daily tasks, the questions are practical and relevant and the students like the fact that the questions are linked back to the Library and the Library assistant's everyday real life.

The Maths Magician continues to raise awareness of the role of the Library as an indispensable service in the promotion of learning. Above all it breaks down the barrier of a general fear of maths in society and makes maths magical, not menacing.

### **Tutor Comments**

*'I have been using the Maths Magician with my Entry 3 maths group since its launch. At the start I integrated time within my lesson plan to allow the group and I to go as a class to collect the weekly sheets and complete it as I was unsure how the adult students would take to such a scheme. This quickly became unnecessary as I found my students really took to the scheme and most had collected and completed the weekly task prior to their lesson. It has provided a basis of discussion in some lessons, where students have wanted to talk about the week's task as a group, to ensure they understood. As a tutor it has also helped me to see where students have gaps in their knowledge and to show students how maths is integrated into so many tasks we daily perform.'* Susan Masters –  
Lecturer of Basic Skills

*'I thought the Maths Magician scheme was a wonderful idea, particularly for students studying at Entry Level or Level 1 Maths. Some of the Maths students that I worked with at Entry Level 3 used this to practice their maths skills and when they found a problem that they did not understand, would ask me to explain. The questions were all relevant, practical and designed to encourage language skills for ESOL students as well as increasing the practical based maths skills.'* Ruth Savage – HP  
Additional Support Assistant

*'As with all your schemes, I think the Maths Magician is excellent, showing how maths is needed in everyday life and can also be fun.'* Sue Walker – Lecturer of ESOL

*'I have been utilising the Maths Magician scheme with my foundation business tutor group. It has been an excellent resource for me to use in our sessions. The 1 challenge page per week is great as it helps us keep moving along and is easy to catch up if they have an absence. There is an excellent variety of questions and they are so relevant to the students' functional skills maths lessons. The students enjoy the fact that the questions are linked back to the library and everyday real-life scenario's where they need to apply their maths knowledge. I am extremely grateful for this excellent resource and hope that the team gets the recognition they deserve for producing it.'* Nat Rice –  
Academic Coach for Business

*'Maths Magician and all the library activities have really been an integral part of my students learning this year. On a weekly basis my students in supported learning look forward to attending the library to complete the Maths Magician. They really enjoy taking on the maths challenge with the support from the extremely hard-working library staff. It has really helped many students gain confidence and a sense of independence with their work. The pupils and I really appreciate all the hard work that is put in by all the library staff to complete the library activities. It gives students a real sense of achievement and a chance to work with different people. Thank you all so much for all your work!'* Katie Ward – Academic Coach for Supported Learning

### **Student comments**

*'Maths Magician has helped me so much with my maths that I have now done my maths exam early.'*

*'I had to ask for two Math Magician work books as my husband, who is not a student, wanted to take part with me.'*

*'It's good as the tasks are usually what I have been learning in class each week.'*

*'It helps with my number and puzzle solving.'*

For further information please contact: Amy Harnaman, Centre Librarian, Northampton College  
[amy.harnaman@northamptoncollege.ac.uk](mailto:amy.harnaman@northamptoncollege.ac.uk)

## The Road Ahead

### CoLRiC Conference Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019 – a date for your diary

CoLRiC has an essential date for your 2019 diary. Our conference will be held on Friday June 21st, 2019 in Birmingham.

We'll be addressing key topics and challenges, including:

- How can we use social media effectively to promote services?
- How can we build local partnerships and collaborations?
- How can we innovate?
- How can our colleagues can work together more effectively?
- How can new technologies can be used to develop and enhance provision?
- How can we manage change and support one another?
- How can we thrive and offer excellence in challenging financial times?

Our keynote speaker will set the scene with a call to arms. We're delighted to announce that Liz McGettigan will present our conference rally cry. Liz is a technology expert, strategic leader, library enthusiast and advocate for the 'people side' of technology. 'The world is marching forward into the fourth Industrial Revolution and unfortunately this could be with or without libraries. We need a transformation and our transformation must not primarily be a technological shift but an organisational one happening at the intersection of technology, business and people. If we want to capitalise and harness on the opportunities this new complex world of technology and global information brings, we must challenge the status quo and drive change recharge our leadership and the nurture a new breed of librarian.'

Please make a note in your diary, and booking opens in February.

In the interim, why not check out the presentations from this year's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, 'The Road Travelled', available from the Members' Only area of the website.

### CoLRiC Executive Committee is looking for new members: an invitation to apply

Are you a CoLRiC member looking for an opportunity to collaborate with like-minded colleagues?

We are looking to enhance our Executive Committee with additional members, and we'd love to hear from you.

CoLRiC is run *for* members *by* members. Our Executive Committee is made up of volunteers who are committed to championing excellence in libraries and Learning Resource Centres in Further Education.

#### Why join us?

- Work collaboratively with like-minded individuals all committed to impact, excellence and making a real difference
- Committee work is an excellent way to develop a range of skills and work with - and learn from - a variety of people outside your own organisation
- Being part of a national committee can help raise your profile and that of your service within your own organisation

## How we work

Our CoLRiC committee works collaboratively, agreeing responsibilities, roles and tasks and working in smaller groups or teams to deliver agreed targets and outcomes. The Executive Committee is supported by two administrators and meets approximately three times every year, usually in Birmingham. In 2019 we are introducing virtual meetings – our first virtual meeting will be held in February 2019. Your travel expenses are covered by CoLRiC, and lunch, refreshments and chocolate biscuits are provided!

## What we are looking for

Applicants should be CoLRiC members and we welcome applications from under-represented communities/regions.

We are looking for ‘all-round’ members to join us, but we are also looking for colleagues who are specifically interested in:

- Working on our annual Best Practice Awards
- Providing support to and learning from our Treasurer
- Training to become an assessor as part of CoLRiC's prestigious peer accreditation scheme
- Providing technical and digital content support for the new website we plan to launch in the new year

We are also interested in working with new/early career professionals who are interested in the CPD value of committee work or who are in the process of CILIP chartership.

## Interested? Here's what to do next

Please contact our Admin team expressing your interest in joining the team. Email: [colric@colric.org.uk](mailto:colric@colric.org.uk) Tel: 07879667347

We can send you more information and a brief application form. Please specify which areas you are interested in working with us on. We look forward to hearing from you!

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CoLRiC encourages the submission of articles by all members for publication in CoLRiC Impact. To discuss ideas for articles in advance please give us a call on 07879 667347 or send an e-mail with a short outline of proposed content. To submit an article please email the following to [colric@colric.org.uk](mailto:colric@colric.org.uk): (a) an unformatted Word document; (b) any associated files or images; (c) any recommended further reading; and (d) any links to any external content to be embedded into the final e-bulletin. There are no limits on the number of articles or the word count. The CoLRiC administrative team will be responsible for formatting, editing and proof reading all contributions before publication. Please include the email addresses and job titles of all contributing authors. All authors will retain their copyright.

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