I was fortunate to be awarded funding from CILIP's Scotland Professional Development Fund. The funding was to go towards the cost of a module from Robert Gordon University's Information and Library Studies MSc. The module was Cataloguing and Classification.   The module started in Sept 2019. I am currently an Information Assistant at City of Glasgow College and have been undergoing training from the Senior Information Assistant on cataloguing. I aim to further develop my classification and cataloguing skills to enable me to fully assist my Senior and catalogue independently.

An imagined scenario was given and both the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme (DDC) and the Universal Decimal Classification Scheme (UDC) were to be considered as a classification scheme for the new Centre of Environmental Studies. As part of the assignment we had five subjects drawn from the resource collection; we had to classify each subject using both classification schemes. We were to give a full breakdown of how we classified each title and the reasoning behind such. This was extremely challenging. I had never used UDC before and found it quite daunting, however once more accustomed to the scheme, I rather enjoyed the freedom UDC gave in building numbers in comparison to DDC. Despite a working knowledge of DDC it too proved tricky, especially when I attempted to build numbers which didn't want to build! I am sure many students of DDC know exactly what I mean. For the second part of the first assignment we had to carry out an evaluation based on our practical classification attempts. I thoroughly enjoyed this assignment but did have a few sleepless nights over it. I just received my mark back and I got a B, so I am pleased and somewhat relieved.

For the second assignment we had to look at both the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2 (AACR2) and Resource Description and Access (RDA). Both standards had to be compared for use in a Technical Service department. Several aspects had to be considered including Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR), Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) and BIBliographic FRAMEwork (BIBFRAME). For our practical aspect, we had to create bibliographic records, conforming to either AACR2 or RDA. This was carried out with OCLC Connexion. Again, I thoroughly enjoyed the assignment, especially cataloguing the records. Getting to grips with both AACR2 and RDA took some time, with the concept of FRBR proving particularly hard to pin down. However, over time things eventually made more sense. RDA and BBIFRAME appear to offer an exciting opportunity for dealing with bibliographic data, and I will watch with interest to see how it all unfolds.

Thank you to CILIP's Scotland and their Professional Development Fund for affording me the opportunity to complete this module. It is very much appreciated. Thank you and stay safe at this time.