

## PhD Symposium – A Success!



January 19<sup>th</sup> was a day when Department of Information Science PhD students showcased their work to fellow students and to DIS staff. Chaired by Dr Gillian Ragsdell, 24 members of the Department's research student community shared their work-to-date – this included not only students who are well established in their studies but also students who registered as recently as October.

Feedback from students and staff has been very positive. Various staff members commented that they had not realised how many PhD students were in DIS; others were overwhelmed by the standard and variety of the research that is being undertaken.

The benefits of the day were recognised by everyone. One 2<sup>nd</sup> year student commented that the symposium was 'a good way to break the typical PhD isolationism' while a visiting PhD student noted that 'the symposium was great. It was a good opportunity to know the research problems, subjects, methods that researchers are interested in.' A part-time student welcomed the opportunity 'to mingle and chat during the breaks with other students and staff whom I hadn't previously had the opportunity to meet. Last but not least I thought it was very supportive of staff to turn up and participate in the event.'

A number of students appreciated the chance to practice their presentation skills - 'I think that it was a useful exercise to reduce my research into a ten minute presentation that could get the main points across, but still be understood by people who have not heard of my research beforehand' – even though it was quite a challenge!

So, overall it was a very productive day – well done to all those who contributed whether it was by presenting or by offering feedback to presenters.