

Inspire supports libraries from all sectors in working together to enable members of communities across the UK who are engaged in lifelong learning or research to find and access their information needs.

Editorial

In these times of financial stringency collaboration and sharing services between libraries is becoming increasingly prevalent - both within and across sectors as well as with non-library organisations. Inspire has always supported library collaboration and we are encouraged by these developments, hoping that against this background, they will all lead to improved, or at the very least, continued services for library users.

This newsletter showcases some of this work. If you have any other examples we would be interested to know of them and to feature them in future newsletters.

News from the British Library

BFI and British Library join forces to increase access to their unique collections

The BFI and the British Library have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with the objective of increasing public, professional and research access to audiovisual and broadcast content and integrating it with other knowledge collections.

The MOU outlines key areas for joint strategic thinking, including public access, rights management and digitisation. The partnership will look at ways in which the custodians of the nation's audiovisual and broadcast heritage can meet the challenges of collecting, preserving and providing contemporary and long term access to their unique collections in the digital age, for the benefit of research and the wider public.

Both organisations aim to explore areas such as: collecting policies; contributing to IPR and copyright discussions; metadata and resource discovery; how new digital technologies and enhanced physical spaces can improve access to film and television content; digital and paper conservation; exhibitions and public programmes; and how both institutions can offer services for the creative industries. More specific details will be developed at a strategic summit in early spring.

Library Collaboration and Shared Services

New ways of delivering public library services

As with other parts of the public sector, Councils are looking at innovative ways to deliver services, including libraries. Government endeavours to reduce the public deficit mean that, as an example, London Councils are reducing expenditure by an average 27%. Libraries are perceived by some to be a "soft touch" where cuts need to be made with a number of authorities closing nearly all their libraries, including in large rural counties as well as urban areas. In contrast, other authorities are reducing other services but not libraries. Closure proposals are all against a background of ensuring the process responds to the issues raised by the Wirral Inquiry, active interest from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and widespread public and supporter reaction. Proposed new legislation in the

form of the Localism Bill is intended to give local communities the right to be given six months to prepare a bid to take over and buy a community facility, e.g. a library, that is proposed for, or is facing, closure.

Even if closure is not an option, cost reduction is. Most authorities have done the obvious to reduce costs and are now exploring more radical, challenging and complex ways of reducing costs. The current activities include the following:

Local authorities looking at merging their whole management structures as illustrated by the tripartite working underway in the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea and City of Westminster; local authorities looking at merging their library services in managerial terms; consortia sharing staff and investigating shared back – office services e.g. "bibliographical " services or information and reference services or children and young people's services or single transport contracts for stock movement; outsourcing – to the private sector or to another local authority as Slough have done with Essex; creating a Trust or joining an existing one and; staff bids either by management or via a Staff Mutual along the lines of the John Lewis Partnership.

Further information is available on the DCMS website with details of the Future Libraries Programme or at www.communities.idea.gov.uk/welcome.do

£100k fund to help communities set up their own libraries

Public libraries – Warwickshire

With over 400 libraries still under threat of closure, this is purely by way of an example of how libraries and councils are coping.

Warwickshire County Council has reduced the library and information budget by £2million from the previous £7.4million previous pot. As a result, a total of 16 of the county's 34 libraries are under threat of closure and others could have their opening hours cut.

The Council has been running public consultation on the plans around issues related to libraries (and other areas receiving cuts). The library consultations started in March and run until early June.

Following what has been reported as "strong interest" from residents in either setting up their own lending service or cheaply leasing libraries facing the axe, Warwickshire Council is now offering residents a cash boost of £100,000 to set up their own libraries. The Council has also said it will consider leasing library premises to community groups at a peppercorn rent, or at less than market value. Whilst this may sound promising for some, this is a 'one off' injection of cash and the offer of leasing libraries at a peppercorn rent is only for an initial period of one year.

There are also issues of stock, the selection and management of e-books for example, background support services, building maintenance, insurance etc and, most importantly library staff. Can a library service without professional staff provide the level of service that most of its users really want? Whilst there are many very enthusiastic individuals who wish to support their libraries, it will be very interesting to see how these volunteer-run libraries fare by the end of 2012 and how many are still in existence in 2015.

Shared cataloguing and discovery

In these times of economic stringency, libraries in all sectors are looking for ways in which savings can be made without creating a negative impact on their users. Cataloguing and discovery services are one area where attention is currently focussed.

Public Libraries are already well advanced in their involvement with shared cataloguing through cataloguing provided by aggregators such as [BDS](#), the seven public library authorities in the South West of England who have used WorldCat Local as their shared end user discovery service since 2010. In January this year, OCLC and The Combined Regions' (TCR) [announced plans](#) to launch Britain's first freely accessible national public library union catalogue. This catalogue will contain the bibliographic data from more than 150 of the UK's public libraries as well as national collections including the BL and the RNIB. The service will make it possible for Web users to search 9 million bibliographic records and 50 million holdings simultaneously. (Though there are inevitably some hiccoughs along the way with this development).

The academic sector has long benefited from [COPAC](#) service which initially held the catalogues of academic research libraries plus those of the British Library and the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales. Over the last few years COPAC has been extended to cover a much wider range of university library catalogues plus those from increasing numbers of specialist libraries with collections of national research interest, as well as records of specialist collections held in UK academic libraries.

[RLUK](#) has now established a Task and Finish Group to investigate the potential of a national bibliographic resource, based on COPAC, cost savings for libraries through deep sharing of back-room processes and the needs of students and researchers for resource discovery as well as other related issues. The group has already discussed

- the requirements for a new 'above-campus' cataloguing system
- metadata standards beyond MARC
- open bibliographical data and retrieval
- the impact of new tools in library management systems to change current practices and
- the reliability of cloud computing approaches to these issues.

Future meetings will consider Resource Description and Access (RDA) and sharing cataloguing through library-publisher partnerships.

The group will report in June. Further information is available [here](#).

Other News**Demonstrating the value of libraries in the Further Education sector**

CILIP's Policy and Advocacy Unit have brought together a set of articles and reports to help those in further education (FE) to demonstrate the value and impact of the services they provide. The focus is fully on the FE sector and a small number of resources relating to higher education (HE) have been included as their findings can be applied to, or may be of interest to, information professional working in FE.

Full details [here](#).

BBC working with Libraries – 'Things To Do' website

Over the past year the BC has been developing a new BBC website called [Things To Do](#). It can be used by libraries to promote the activities and events that run in relation to BBC projects.

What is Things To Do?

The Things To Do website will enable the public to find activities and events being run by the BBC or our partner organisations such as libraries. People will be able to find out about activities happening in your libraries in a visually appealing way, on a website that is easy to navigate supporting the ambition of the BBC and public libraries to engage people in 'hands-on' activities that inform, entertain and inspire further learning.

All activities and events must be linked to a BBC project i.e. a BBC television or radio programme, or other specific BBC campaign. Things To Do will have 10 categories that your activities and events can be classified under: Arts & Culture, Entertainment, History, Learning, Lifestyle, Music, Nature, Outdoors & Adventure, Science, Sport. The priorities at launch will be *History, Nature and Outdoors & Adventure*. This is because there are BBC programmes and campaigns, (e.g. Springwatch, Countryfile, Hand on History campaign) ready to promote audience engagement and participation. More projects will be added to the website in the coming months.

Things To Do will replace all existing BBC online activity finders; it will be the one place to go to find BBC linked activities and events across the UK.

How will it be promoted?

The BBC will promote the Things To Do website on an ongoing basis through television and radio programmes, on the BBC's homepage, on BBC Local and regional pages, and on BBC genre pages such as history, nature, science, food etc. It will also have a version for internet enabled mobile phones.

What activities are suitable?

The criteria below sets out what makes activities suitable for Things To Do:

- Activities must be run by partners that are publicly funded or not for profit.
- Activities must be linked to a BBC project i.e. a BBC television or radio programme, or other specific BBC campaign.
- Activities must happen at a specific time on a specific day.
- Activities must include active participation or learning and/or be designed to engage new audiences in the underlying goal of the project.
- Activities must be free of charge to the public or be run on a cost-recovery basis.
- Activities must be accessible to the general public.
- For each activity registered an image will be required. A written guide will be provided.

How to register and start using Things To Do

We are working with Culture24, a not-for-profit online publisher and the official cultural data provider to the BBC. They'll be supplying information on activities happening in libraries, museums, galleries, heritage sites and other cultural venues directly from their database to the BBC Things To Do website.

Culture24 are working with the BBC to register libraries. An individual library can register itself and manage its own information, or a library authority can register once and manage any number of libraries within that authority. In the latter case, the library authority can act as a group manager using a single username and password that covers multiple libraries. The group manager's username and password can be used by multiple users.

- If you would like to register **10 or more libraries** please email Conrad Westmaas at Culture24 in the first instance: conrad@culture24.org.uk
- Otherwise you can register with Culture24 using this online form: <https://culture24.wufoo.com/forms/culture24-bbc-things-to-do-partner-registration/>
- If you have any queries with registering your organisation or uploading your Things To Do activities on Culture24, please contact Conrad by email: conrad@culture24.org.uk

E-book services in public libraries

In April, The Guardian published an interesting and thoughtful article "Public Libraries open doors for e-books" on the developing provision of e-books in public libraries and the issues that are being raised over their management and use. It also reports on Lincolnshire County Council's trial e-book supply service with its existing main hard copy supplier, Askews.

The Guardian website posted a report, on 14 April 2011 which covers the growing trend for public library authorities to provide downloadable e-book services. It addresses the various issues and future possibilities which arise with the Vice-President of CILIP, Phil Bradley, who is an acknowledged ICT guru. It also reports on how Lincolnshire County Council has developed its service with its existing main hard copy supplier, Askews, and the possibility of charging per download. This, of course, has all sorts of ramifications regarding what is a book and is this contrary to the statutory duty to provide free book loans?

See: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/government-computing-network/2011/apr/14/public-library-ebook-service-grows-cilip-lincolnshire>

Survey of digital reading preferences reveal that the reported that imminent death of paper may be exaggerated

[Gartner, Inc.](#) a technology research services firm in the US has recently released a report which shows that the time people spend reading on a digital screen is now almost equal to that spent reading printed paper text. Perceptions of the ease of reading on screen are demonstrated as being slightly different depending upon the technology used. A majority of tablet and iPad users say they find screen reading either easier than reading printed text (52%) or about the same (42%). Amongst laptop users 47% find screen reading *harder* than reading printed text, and 33% reported it was about the same.

Not surprisingly, the survey showed that younger age groups are happier to read on screen than older respondents, with the 40-54 year group least satisfied with their screen reading experience. Men typically reported screen reading easier than women, but both sexes said screen reading was generally the same or harder than reading printed text.

The survey was carried out in late 2010 and covered 1,569 consumers in the China, India, Italy, Japan, UK and US. It concludes, "Despite a relentless trend toward screen-based consumption, consumers generally find reading text on a screen the same or harder than reading printed paper text". It goes on to review the implications of the findings for technology providers.

Gartner's 'Survey Analysis: Consumer Digital Reading Preferences Reveal the Exaggerated Death of Paper' is available for purchase [here](#).

JANET enables network access on the move with new 3G data service

On April 27th, JANET(UK) announced the launch of its new high capacity data service for education institutions and research organisations, JANET 3G. From June 2011, the data service will allow academic and support staff to access vital resources such as research data, virtual learning environments and library catalogues while on the move. JANET received over 60 enquiries in the first week of its launch, from both universities and colleges.

JANET 3G has been developed to provide a range of 3G data packages that combine value-for-money with features specifically configured for the education sector. It is designed to be easy to deploy, helping organisations to make the most of their existing investment in wireless networking. It offers seamless integration with the international roaming service, [eduroam](#), their existing authentication mechanism can be used for mobile users, making security configuration much simpler. By enabling the use of an organisation's existing IP addresses, JANET 3G also makes firewall configuration much easier. Educational organisations are offered a wide selection of price plans enabling them to precisely match their users' needs whilst keeping control over costs. Data packages available range from low usage machine-to-machine plans to genuine 15Gb data allowances for demanding users, providing a real breadth of choice. Customers are able to choose either to use a press-out SIM card useable with the iPad and tablet family; add a dongle for individual users; or create a Wi-Fi hub for up to five users with a Mi-Fi device. JANET 3G will be provided by aql, and powered by the Three 3G mobile data network. Details of the service can be found on the JANET [website](#)¹

Total book sales in the UK amounted to £3.1 billion in 2010

The [Publishers Association \(PA\)](#), UK, published its annual report of 2010 sales figures across the UK book publishing industry in May. The report demonstrates that digital sales are accelerating across all sectors.

The PA Statistics Yearbook 2010 shows that total book sales in the UK amounted to £3.1 billion in 2010. It also reports that total consumer digital sales* showed the most rapid growth, having increased by 318 percent since 2009 from £4 million to £16 million. Combined digital sales increased by 38 percent on 2009 figures.

Academic and professional publishing digital sales have doubled in the past 3 years. Academic and professional sales amounted to 72 percent of all digital sales. The PA's Yearbook figures are based on data compiled from 250 publishers representing 77 percent share of total UK publisher sales and their annual Digital Survey.

*Digital sales were defined as including e-books, audiobook downloads, downloads of all/part of books, subscriptions/access to online book publications, and any other wholly digital material delivered online or via CD-ROM.

Events

Shared Services: case studies in collaboration CILIPS One Day Seminar

Where: Dundee

When: 25th May 2011 **BOOKING CLOSES Friday 20th May**

Costs: CILIP Members: £45; institutional members: £55; non-members: £65

A one day CILIPS seminar to explore the cooperative landscape in library services. The day includes a mix of strategic and practical case studies which will be of interest to both managers and front line staff.

Programme highlights include:

- Libraries Inspire: the Welsh cross sectoral strategic framework initiative
Alyson Tyler, Libraries Development Adviser (CYMAL)
- Unexpected outcomes (Craig Green, Information Services Manager, John Wheatley College)
- Frontline merger – developing a new customer service in Fife (Dorothy Browse, Service Manager, Libraries, Arts and Museums)
- Consortium purchase for the digital age: the SHEDL initiative (Barbara Houston, QMU)
- Carmondean Connected (Hilda Gibson, Development Manager, West Lothian Council)

To book go to: www.slainte.org.uk/EventsXtra/1105/sharedservices.html

The Artist in the Library

Where: University of East London, West Building Lecture, Docklands Campus

When: Friday 3rd June 2011, 1pm to 5pm, starting with coffee and cake, and finishing with a glass of wine.

Cost: **Free, but spaces are limited.**

This is a free half-day symposium organised by the Institute for Performing Arts Development (IPAD), and Library and Learning Services at the University of East London. It reflects on the relationships between artists and libraries; how their spaces, systems and structures provide inspirational possibilities. With speakers including artists, librarians and researchers, the afternoon will present a range of projects that intervene in, respond to, or collaborate with a range of libraries both public and academic.

A full programme will be confirmed shortly, speakers include:

Clare Qualmann, University of East London
Serena Korda, Artist
Cheryl Jones, Curator of Libraries and Collections, The New Art Gallery, Walsall
Sarah Bodman, Research Fellow, University of the West of England
Jennie Savage, Artist

To attend: Contact Judith Preece, email: j.a.preece@uel.ac.uk Tel: 020 8223 7400.

CoLRiC Roadshows: surviving in a cold climate

Free ½ day events near you!

Where: Bristol

When: 16 June 2011 – Novotel Bristol Centre (Registration 1.00pm)

Where: London

When: 23 June 2011 – Cilip London (Registration 1.00pm)

Cost: **Free for members of CoLRiC.** Non-members is £25

To facilitate attendance CoLRiC is organising half day events around the country. These events will cover the NEW Peer Accreditation Scheme, Benchmarking and KPIs and will include a 'Professional Surgery' – how are you surviving in this cold climate?

If you would like to attend an event please email colric@colric.org.uk for a booking form.

“Professionalism and Activism in a Time of Downturn”

Career Development Group, New Professionals Conference

Where: University of Manchester, Hulme Hall, Victoria Campus ([Directions to Venue](#))

When: Monday June 20th 2011

Costs: CDG members - £60 + 20% VAT = £72

CILIP members - £70 + 20% VAT = £84

Non CILIP members - £80 + 20% VAT = £96

Students & Unwaged - £35 + 20% VAT = £42 (20 places available, on a first come first served basis)

Conference themes:

- Getting involved is now more important than ever
- Contacts and partnerships you can make through networking
- What activism can do for your CV and self confidence
- Cost-effective CPD opportunities
- How roles in the information profession have diverged from the traditional librarian role.

The conference programme will feature a variety of presentations, workshops and debates allowing an excellent opportunity for networking and continuous professional development.

Booking: Please contact Jon Scown on JMScown@SOMERSET.GOV.UK or tel: 01278 451201 ext 243. Booking deadline: Friday 10th June 2011. Cancellations after Monday 6th June will incur the full booking fee

More information and booking also on the [Career Development Group website](#)

Increasing Usage of your online resources and library technology clinic 1

Where: Monday 20 June 2011

When: Exeter Central Library

Cost: **FREE**

Organised in collaboration with SWRLS and Credo Reference the focus will be on discovering new ways to promote your online resources and increase their value for money. Also includes a free lunch, plenty of time to network, technical advice and Credo reference training if desired. Everyone is welcome – not limited to Credo subscribers or COFHE members. The full programme and booking form is

available here: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/c-of-he/circles/south-west/pages/events.aspx>

Increasing Usage of your online resources and library technology clinic 2

Where: Truro College

When: Tuesday 21 June 2011

Cost: **FREE**

Repeat of the Exeter event – in Cornwall. The focus will be on discovering new ways to promote your online resources and increase their value for money. Also includes a free lunch, plenty of time to network, technical advice and Credo reference training if desired. Everyone is welcome – not limited to Credo subscribers or COFHE members. The full programme and booking form is available here: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/c-of-he/circles/south-west/pages/events.aspx>

To Book: Download a booking form for all these events from the COFHE SW website:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/c-of-he/circles/south-west/pages/events.aspx>

For more information contact Laura Lay, Secretary, COFHE SW Circle, Librarian, Truro and Penwith College laural@truro-penwith.ac.uk. 01872 267505

Latest Developments in RDA & DDC: FREE Joint UC&R London and CIG event

Where: Ewart Room, CILIP London

When: Wednesday July 13th 2011 Refreshments, from 5.30-6 pm, Start: 6-8 pm

Cost: **Free**

Speakers: Alan Danskin & Caroline Kent, both from the British Library.

Please contact David Lass to book a place: david@malcolm.myzen.co.uk; or

Tel: 0207 096-2176

"If you've got it, flaunt it!": displaying your collections to wider audiences.

When: 7 - 9 September 2011

Where: Collingwood College, Durham University

Cost: from £48 per day to £408 for full attendance for non-Cilip members

This is the annual CILIP Rare Books & Special Collections Group conference for 2011. This year's conference aims to equip you with the inspiration, knowledge and skills to show off your collections - to the public, to your senior managers and to potential researchers. We aim to have practical papers from those who have successfully created exhibitions, events and outreach programmes to attract new audiences and customers. We hope the conference will give you lots of ideas and will reassure you that there is much you can do yourself whilst providing a guide to when you need to bring in other professionals.

For details and an application form are available [here](#)

9th Northumbria International Conference

Where: University of York Exhibition Centre

When: August 22-25, 2011

Cost: £445.00 (until 10th June), £495 (after 10th June)

The Conference seeks to bring together practitioners, researchers, educators and students interested in all aspects of performance and measurement in library and information services in any context. The conference is truly international and welcomes participants from all countries and continents. The review of practical experience of measurement and evaluation to improve libraries alongside reports on theory development and application of research methodologies has always been a feature of this conference.

The Conference theme reflects the current global context in which library and information services are operating. The main topics covered in the conference will be:

- Value, impact and outcomes of libraries
- Statistics and quantitative measurement for library and information services
- Quality

Online Registration for the 9th Northumbria International Conference on performance measurement in libraries and information services is now open. Full details [here](#)

End Note:

Spotify for Books? <http://www.futurebook.net/content/spotify-books>

With many thanks to the many who have contributed to this newsletter.

***Reminder:** this newsletter is about collaborative activities, ideas and proposals throughout the UK – and beyond. If you would like to contribute information on events in your area, whether they are large or small, or offer any other items which might be of interest to Inspire members –please send them to me at the*

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