



*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.*

## News

### Public Library Service developments

Whilst there has been some positive news for [Gloucestershire and Somerset](#), it has been announced that North Tyneside is considering closing libraries, Gateshead is considering reorganising its library service and that both Wandsworth and Croydon are inviting outside organisations to bid to take over their library services.

Meanwhile, responding to the widespread concern about the cuts to Public Library services, The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee has launched a new inquiry into public library closures in England. Chaired by John Whittingdale MP, the Committee are inviting written submissions and views on:

- What constitutes a comprehensive and efficient library service for the 21st century
- The extent to which planned library closures are compatible with the requirements of the Public Libraries & Museums Act (1964) and the Charteris Report
- The impact library closures have on local communities
- The effectiveness of the Secretary of State's powers of intervention under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

If you wish to contribute there are guidelines on how contributions should be formatted on the [CILIP website](#) and also some suggestions as to the issues to be covered on [The Public Library News](#) Blog.

### Arts Council Library Relationship Managers

The Arts Council are setting up Library Relationship Managers for each of the regions. Most have now been appointed though some are yet to begin their new role and the Relationship Manager, Libraries for East of England has not yet been appointed.

Other new contacts are as follows:

- **East Midlands:** Kate Earl, Kate was formerly Literature development Officer for Nottingham City and Northamptonshire Libraries (2 part time posts) [kate.earl@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:kate.earl@artscouncil.org.uk)
- **London:** Ms Emma Whiting (covering Sophie Lancaster who is on maternity leave until Summer 2012) [emma.whiting@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:emma.whiting@artscouncil.org.uk)
- **North East:** Margie Stewart-Piercy, formerly Regional Manager at Museums, Libraries and Archives Council NE
- **North West:** Nathan Lee [Nathan.lee@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Nathan.lee@artscouncil.org.uk)
- **South West:** Katie Lusty. Katie has a library background as Head of Service in Torbay and in Devon
- **West Midlands:** Jessica Harris [Jessica.harris@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Jessica.harris@artscouncil.org.uk)
- **Yorkshire:** Carl Clayton from SINTO is to take on the role of Library Relationship manager at the Yorkshire office.



### **Information handling in collaborative research**

This study, commissioned by RIN and the British Library, comprises of a set of five case studies looking at how researchers access, use and disseminate information when working in collaboration between higher education and business, public and third sector partners. The case studies focus on the behaviours and needs of researchers working on both sides of collaborations between higher education institutions and an external partner. The overall aim of the case studies is to:

- Understand how researchers manage the discovery, access, use, creation, sharing and dissemination of information resources, within the research project and with external partners;
- Provide comparisons between the behaviours and needs of researchers in different types of collaborations;
- Identify barriers to more effective use of information in collaborations, and provide recommendations on how such barriers might be overcome.

The research was carried out by TNS-BMRB and Dr Ruth Levitt and the final report is available to download [here](#). If you would like a hard copy, please email [contact@rin.ac.uk](mailto:contact@rin.ac.uk).

### **OCLC introduces OCLC WorldShare**

OCLC is launching the OCLC WorldShare Platform, which they state will enable library developers, partners and other organizations to create, configure and share a wide range of applications that deliver new functionality and value for libraries and their users. The OCLC WorldShare Platform facilitates collaboration and app-sharing across the library community, so that libraries can combine library-built applications, partner-built applications and OCLC-built applications. This enables the benefits of each single solution to be shared broadly throughout the library community.

Over time, OCLC will bring together additional OCLC services and applications under the OCLC WorldShare name, including resource sharing, consortial borrowing, metadata management and additional applications. OCLC's currently deployed library management solutions will continue to be maintained and enhanced in line with libraries' ongoing requirements under their current brand names.

For more information, click [here](#).

### **Special Collections Feature**

#### **The Unique and Distinctive Collections Project - Alison Cullingford writes:**

This new project aims to help universities and other organisations make the most of their "unique and distinctive" collections such as archives and rare books. Such collections can be great assets to their parent organisations, offering new scope for community outreach, research and teaching, and selling points for marketing and fundraising. However they are all too often hidden gems, poorly funded and understood, often struggling under burdens of uncatalogued material, heavy and unrealistic demand, limited staffing and inappropriate spaces; not to mention the implications of the growth of digitisation and born-digital materials.

The Unique and Distinctive Collections Project, funded by Research Libraries UK (RLUK), aims to help organisations do more with these assets. Over the next few months, as Project



Manager, I will be researching the challenges faced. The final report (due September 2012) will suggest ways in which libraries can collaborate and exploit new technologies and ideas so that their collections and users can survive and thrive. The project will also incorporate the publication of the [OCLC survey of UK special collections](#).

Note that the use of “unique and distinctive collections” emphasises that universities and other libraries often hold collections which fall outside the standard remit of “special collections” e.g. other library collections, data sets, research outputs, or objects. These too may have qualities which mean that their parent organisations and wider society should value and support them.

Although funded by RLUK, this project is not limited to RLUK libraries. Problems and solutions are common to all, so the situations faced by collections curators throughout higher and further education, schools, public libraries, historic houses, learned societies, museums, cathedral libraries and so on will also be considered. We are not aiming to list collections, but to explore and address issues that prevent collections from fulfilling their potential.

You can keep in touch with project progress via the [blog](#) or contact me:

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## Events

### **Information Literacy as a graduate attribute: Are employers getting a good deal?**

**When:** December 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30 to 3.30pm

**Where:** The Savoy Suite, at the St Mary's Road Campus, Ealing

**Cost:** £35 - Refreshments and light lunch included.

In an information-based economy, what skills do employers expect from university graduates and, are our graduates meeting those expectations?

Many universities have referred to Information Literacy (IL) as either a graduate attribute in itself, or as an indicative example of an element contributing to other specific attributes. The University of West London Library is holding this event to explore whether or not employers feel that graduates coming in to employment have the skills they would expect, and specifically whether they are able to find, use and evaluate information in a useful and effective way.

Speakers will include Ruth Stubbings, Deputy Chair of CILIP CSG Information Literacy Group, Head of Academic Services at Loughborough University, and Jason Eyre, Lecturer in Learning and Development at De Montfort University, who presented a paper at LILAC this year on the need to ensure graduates are able to apply their information skills in the 'real world' as well and not just in the academic environment. We also hope to engage some local employers in the discussion or to give short presentations from their point of view, which will help us all to devise IL training with lifelong applicability.

Please email [kanwal.virdee@uwl.ac.uk](mailto:kanwal.virdee@uwl.ac.uk) if you are interested in attending



**East Midlands LIS/Chartership/Certification meet up**

**When:** Thursday, December 15th at 6.30pm onwards

**Where:** The Malt Cross pub, Nottingham city centre (located just off the main square) <http://www.maltcross.com/>

We would like to invite you to an informal LIS meet-up for those undertaking Chartership, Certification etc or for anyone who would like to come and socialise/network in the East Midlands area!

If you are planning to attend we would love to hear from you so we can get some idea of numbers. Also, it is worth noting that it will be late night shopping in Nottingham that evening so if you are in the area pop in and see us for a hot chocolate!

Visit the event page here <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/2522027452> -

Aneesa Thantrey [nees.nees@gmail.com](mailto:nees.nees@gmail.com) & Thomas Paige [pageaf632@gmail.com](mailto:pageaf632@gmail.com)

**Emergency Planing**

**When: Monday January 16, 2012**

**Where:** British Library Centre for Conservation, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB [Location Details](#)

**Cost:** £65 (+ VAT) standard or £55 (+ VAT) for 4+ from single institution or £49 (+ VAT) RLUK members or £41 (+ VAT) for 4+ from single RLUK institution

*Or*

**When: Tuesday February 7, 2012**

**Where:** John Rylands University Library, The Main Library, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PP [Location Details](#)

**Cost: as above.**

Do you want to know more about planning for emergency situations? Would you like information on practical steps you can take when responding to situations? This intensive half-day course focuses on preparing for disaster response and salvage. The course uses experience of responding to real incidents to demonstrate how planning can minimise the impact of emergencies in libraries and archives. With reference to case studies, the course includes strategies for dealing with damage, an emergency decision-making exercise and a hands-on salvage exercise.

Previous attendees commented that they had learnt 'How much there is to think about when dealing with a disaster and how to prioritise actions.' and 'Importance of preparedness. Tips for emergency kits and for small scale incidents. How to assess what we can cope with ourselves and when to call in help.'

The sessions are led by Emma Dadson of Harwell Document Restoration Services.

**Moving on up... School/FE/HE transition**

**When:** Thursday 19th January 2012, 9.30am-4pm (registration & coffee from 9.30-10am)

**Where:** Durham University Library, Seminar Room, Level 4, Main Library See '13' on this map <http://www.dur.ac.uk/map/durham/>

**Cost:** £65 (+VAT) including lunch & tea/coffee for CILIP institutional & individual members. £75 (+VAT) including lunch & tea/coffee for non-CILIP members



This University, College & Research Group (Northern Section) event is aimed at School, Further Education and University Librarians and examines the transition that most 16 -18 year olds make from School to College to Higher Education. It will consider what support there is for students making the transition and what can we do to help. There is an impressive programme of presentations delivered by respected and knowledgeable speakers who will be sharing their broad range of experiences and skills.

NB: This event is limited to 25 places, so bookings will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Bookings must be made by 10th January 2012 to enable refreshments to be arranged.

**Going it alone: innovations in information literacy**

([http://www.uel.ac.uk/lls/news/infoskills\\_conference.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/lls/news/infoskills_conference.htm))

**When:** Friday 13th January 2012. 10.00-15.30

**Where:** University of East London- Docklands campus

**Cost:** £30 (inc. lunch and refreshments; non refundable) N.B credit card bookings only.

“Info skills” a new and very successful online tool produced at UEL, has attracted a lot of interest - both within UEL and further afield. Join us in a one day conference to find out about how the site was developed, what the site is and how it is being used.

The day includes a keynote speech from Andrew Walsh of Huddersfield University, who will share some insights into innovations in information literacy. Andrew is a National Teaching Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is well known for using mobile technology in original and inventive ways. He is also currently working on an exciting project that brings fun and games into libraries and information skills.

We are able to stage this conference through the kind assistance from the University Colleges and Research Group (UC+R) which earlier this year granted their Innovation Award to our project.

To book a place: [http://www.uel.ac.uk/lls/news/infoskills\\_conference.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/lls/news/infoskills_conference.htm)

We are limited in numbers, so please book quickly to avoid disappointment.

**End Notes**

**The Mysterious paper sculptures final appearance**

In September I drew your attention to some truly wonderful paper sculptures appearing in libraries in Edinburgh. A few more have **appeared** but sadly they are to be the last. Thank you and ‘Happy Christmas’ to whoever has given many of us such pleasure in viewing them. More on the Paper sculptures [here](#).

**[The Whole World is Watching](#)**

A long essay on the politics of public surveillance but an interesting one which should give libraries pause for thought about how they safeguard the personal data they collect about their users.



**With many thanks to the many who have contributed to this newsletter and Best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to all Inspire members, colleagues and friends from the Inspire Team:**

**Directors:** Andrew Green (Wandsworth), Philip Payne (Birkbeck),

**Management Board:** Carol Edwards (National Library of Wales), Lynn Hodgkins (LIEM), Liz McGettigan, (Edinburgh), Ann Murphy (Greenwich), Lynn Osborne (SWRLS), David Pearson (City of London), Jo Rowley, (Queen Margaret, Edinburgh), Jerry Shillito (The British Library), Helen Workman (Brookes) and Sally Curry, Inspire support.

**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. Contact details:*

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