

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.

Happy New Year!

This January issue of the Inspire e-newsletter is quite a long one. It includes a wide range of items I hope you will find of interest, not least the update on the development of the Worcester Library and History Centre.

Inspire News

Inspire in Walsall. A group has recently been set up with members from the public library, hospital, college, NHS, Walsall Art Gallery and University. The group meets twice a year but keeps in contact by e-mail. The group intend to share training and do awareness visits for staff.

For further information, please contact: Rita Mills, Walsall Public Library
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News from the British Library

Sharing your voice with the British Library

Ever been 'read the riot act' or wondered why 'love is blind' and good friends are the 'salt of the earth'? Are you sitting reading this or sat reading this?

Evolving English: One Language, Many Voices (until 3 April 2011) is the first ever exhibition exploring the English language in all its national and international diversity. Based at the British Library, treasures on display include the only surviving manuscript of Beowulf, Shakespeare quartos, and recorded speeches by Churchill and Gandhi, as well as comics, adverts, text messages, posters, newspapers, trading records and dialect recordings.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see and hear the English language in all its forms from 5th century runes to 21st century youth-speak, and it's on the move! We've been touring aspects of the exhibition to public libraries around the country, from Newcastle down to Portsmouth, keen to hear your own voice.

Visitors to the touring exhibition, as well as at the British Library and www.bl.uk/evolvingenglish, get the chance to record their voice for researchers to use at the British Library's Sound Archive. Using phone booths (you can also do this online using Audioboo via the BL website). You can choose between reading an extract from the Mr. Men story of Mr. Tickle (adapted to capture how different people pronounce the same words and phrases), or just saying six words for example: do you say sofa or settee, mum or mam, or something else? The British Library would like to know!

News from the National Library of Wales

NLW runs several exhibitions a year. Their current major exhibition "Small World - travel in Wales and beyond" runs until 2 April 2011 focuses on. This exhibition, which features the history of travel and exploration of Wales and beyond, is interpreted through various items in the collections. Short video clips from the exhibition together with blog postings relating to the exhibition can be seen by clicking on the above link, and then through to the individual exhibition. From 29 January - 2 April, "Places" will be an exhibition inspired by an item or theme in the Library's current "Small World" exhibition, and is an exhibition of works by local artists with learning difficulties from Plas Llust Day Services. The library has a strong link with this Centre and regularly stages exhibitions of items by these artists. Links to further information regarding our exhibitions [here](#).

The Library hosts its own blog in both English and Welsh, and this was a new undertaking which began in August 2010. Items are posted three times a week, on interesting items from the collections, outreach events which staff have attended, or any other interesting happening or event which staff think our followers might be interested in.

The NLW also has a presence on Twitter, with three daily tweets and 552 followers at present!

Hot off the press this month, the Library is launching its e-newsletters!! Further details, and to subscribe to a newsletter, can be found [here](#).

News from Worcester

Worcester Library and History Centre

Inspire has followed the development of the Worcester Library and History Centre from its earliest days when a presentation on these exciting plans for the city were given at the Inspire Conference in 2006 by Anne Hannaford and Margaret Snook. Judith Keene, Assistant Director Information and Learning Services at the University of Worcester has kindly sent us this update on progress based on a presentation given at the SCONUL Autumn Conference in December 2010.

Enhancing services through partnerships: the Worcester Library and History Centre

Construction of Worcester's joint university and public library is reaching an exciting point, with the 'topping out' ceremony, when the last roof cone is placed, due at the end of January 2011. From that point, it will be just 17 months until the building opens for use, bringing together not just the respective libraries of the partners (University of Worcester and Worcestershire County Council), but also the County Record Office and Archives, Archaeology Services, and advice about council services.

To get this far has taken over 6 years, and massive commitment and activity from many people. It would undoubtedly have been much easier – and quicker – to build an extension to our existing university library. But we believe that fully integrating our services with those of the Council will bring benefits both to our users and the wider community of which we are a part. We recognized early on

that many of our students and academics are also Worcestershire residents, so treating them as a single community would provide not only economies of scale, but also opportunities for better service overall.

A crucial factor for delivering the benefits is the location, which bridges the University's new City Campus and the shopping centre of Worcester, creating a new 'Learning and Cultural Quarter' in a previously run down part of the City. The potential this creates to widen participation and promote Higher Education and lifelong learning to a wide audience, helped attract funding from HEFCE, (£5m grant £5m interest free repayable loan) central government (DCMS) (£43m in PFI credits) and the regional development agency (£7m). Either partner on their own would not have had access to all these.

Other benefits to the partners include extended opening hours for both, and opportunities to showcase their services and holdings to each other's user bases. There are great opportunities as well for ongoing staff development at all levels.

Because this is the first of its kind in terms of complexity and integration, there have been many challenges, not least the workload and skills development involved for the project leaders. There are also technical issues to overcome and many practical and procedural details to clarify and resolve. We need to reassure our users, and not least our students and staff who are anxious about sharing our resources with the public in a time of constraint.

A large number of challenges centre around people. It has been essential to involve representatives from HR from both organisations. We need to integrate staff from different cultures and manage the changes in their working practices, whilst making sure they get the training and support they need and to underpin the sense of being one united workforce, we have worked with staff to develop the core values of service delivery which will apply in the building.

It has been important to learn to work with managers from each other's organisations, and to reassure and engage the Trades Unions over changes in staff working practices and location, as well as pay and conditions. We looked at a number of possible governance frameworks, before agreeing a model where staff stay with their existing employer, whilst sometimes working under the direction of a manager from the other partner. This avoids the need for TUPE, and has been made easier by the relative similarity of pay scales and contractual details at each organisation. Because of the size, cost and duration of the project it has also been vital to have full commitment from senior management at both the County and University, and to keep them briefed and on message.

So a project of this nature is hard work, protracted and full of risks and challenges to be managed. But the benefits are many, and could equally apply to institutions considering the convergence of student services, or co-location of information services with another HEI. The key is to remember that: "The aim is to improve services, not primarily to save money", and to keep reinforcing that vision at every opportunity.

Judith Keene and Gill Slater, University of Worcester

The SCONUL Autumn Conference presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Events

JISC 2011 Annual Conference

JISC, (the Joint information Systems Committee) has announced that the JISC 2011 Annual Conference, to be held this year in Liverpool, is now open for registration. The programme follows the theme of 'financial challenges, digital opportunities'. The conference is scheduled for March 14 - 15, 2011, and will focus on how digital technologies can bring cost and efficiency savings to universities and colleges. For more information click [here](#),

LibTeachMeet

A Librarian "TeachMeet" event is being held in Huddersfield on 9th Feb 2011. (idea from <http://latnetwork.spruz.com/>)

This will be a very informal opportunity for librarians who teach to get together to share tips and experiences. Although held at Huddersfield University, the event is open to library staff from all sectors - and the organisers would love 'a real mix of people to take part'.

If you would like to attend, be prepared to give a short (5 min at most) talk to share an aspect of your teaching. There will be "speed dating" aspect too, to share tips Plus a lucky dip of teaching goodies to rummage through for inspiration.

The event is free and will be held at the University of Huddersfield from 14:00 to 16:30 on Wednesday 9th Feb. More details <http://hudteachmeet.blogspot.com/> and <http://bit.ly/eN32GF>.

Please email library.learn@hud.ac.uk if you would like to attend. Places are limited, so book now to avoid disappointment.

Andrew Walsh

Other News

OCLC and The Combined Regions plan to launch web-based public library national union catalogue in UK

06 January 2011: OCLC and The Combined Regions (TCR) announced plans to launch Britain's first freely accessible national public library union catalogue. Containing the bibliographic data from 80% of the UK's public libraries, the service will make it possible for Web users to simultaneously search 9 million bibliographic records and 50 million holdings.

Based on information already indexed in WorldCat, this customised union catalogue will provide a view of holdings contributed by the 149 local authorities with a current full package subscription to UnityUK, the UK's only nationwide network for resource sharing.

OCLC and TCR believe that this initiative will make bibliographic data more discoverable on the open Web and increase visibility for public library holdings - positioning them as primary sources of information alongside other Web resources.

The first phase of this project is to produce an initial 'proof of concept' which will be available for review by those UnityUK libraries with a full package subscription in March 2011.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.oclc.org/uk/en/productworks/ukunioncat.htm>.

Alternatively, email uk@oclc.org.

'Cloud-sourcing Research Collections: Managing Print in the Mass-digitized Library Environment'.

[OCLC Research](#), has released a new report titled, 'Cloud-sourcing Research Collections: Managing Print in the Mass-digitized Library Environment'. This report presents findings from a year-long study designed and executed by OCLC Research, the HathiTrust, New York University's Elmer Bobst Library, and the Research Collections Access & Preservation (ReCAP) consortium, with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The objective was to examine the feasibility of outsourcing management of low-use print books held in academic libraries to shared service providers, including large-scale print and digital repositories. The study assessed the opportunity for library space saving and cost avoidance through the systematic outsourcing of local management operations for digitised books to shared service providers and progressive downsizing of local print collections in favour of negotiated access to the digitised corpus and regionally consolidated print inventory.

According to the report, substantial library space savings and cost avoidance could be achieved if academic institutions outsourced management of redundant low-use inventory to shared service providers and suggests that academic library directors can have a positive impact on the future of academic print collections by implementing a deliberate strategy to build and sustain regional print service centers that can reduce the total cost of library preservation and access.

The report is available online at:

<http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2011/2011-01.pdf>.

Development in provision of access to e-books: Project MUSE extends its coverage from e-journals to include e-books.

US based [Project MUSE](#) has signed contracts with 27 scholarly publishers to offer their upcoming monographs in the humanities and social sciences as part of ebook collections on the MUSE platform. Project MUSE is a collaboration between libraries and publishers, providing "full-text, affordable and user-friendly online access to a comprehensive selection of prestigious humanities and social sciences journals".

Many of the publishers that currently contribute content to its electronic scholarly journal collections for Project MUSE will now also contribute their e-books.

The first collections of these e-books will be available in Autumn 2011. Subject-based collections as well as a comprehensive collection of all available titles will be offered. Pricing and book title details are expected to in late March.

Book content will be seamlessly integrated with MUSE's existing journal content,

allowing users to search and browse across formats and easily discover related scholarship. Books will be offered in PDF format, searchable and retrievable to the chapter level.

Freedom of Information: Guidance for researchers from JISC

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/programmerelated/2010/foiresearchdata.aspx>

JISC has created a simple to use set of questions and answers to help navigate the issue of FoI for researchers. The information provided will support researchers and may well be of use to many others in responding to requests and in liaising with FoI practitioners or Information Officers in their institution. The guide also makes suggestions on best practice to streamline the process.

The publicity on this concludes that, "the main message here, if you get a request, is to involve your local FoI Officer as soon as possible."

It should also be noted that this Guidance covers what to do if you receive an FoI request. It does not provide assistance for those making an FoI request or dealing with rejections or redactions to the information provided.

With many thanks to all 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 new address: inspire2011@hotmail.co.uk*

Thank you