

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

I had planned to focus on Special Collections in this newsletter but circumstances have militated against this. As a taster we have an item from Newcastle City Libraries about the developments and increased interest that their new special collection facilities have created.

I have also listed several interesting events which I would like to bring to your attention should you have missed the original announcements. The focus this month however, is on libraries in Christchurch, New Zealand and how they are coping in the aftermath of the earthquake on February 22nd. Little information or publicity seems to have appeared about these libraries so I hope you may find this of some interest.

Christchurch City Libraries

Witness statement on evening of February 22nd:

"I take a short detour down some side streets, past the library, its floor strewn with books and CDs and its chairs scattered like the remains of an overly aggressive game of musical chairs".

Not surprisingly, following the earthquake, almost all of the twenty City Libraries in Christchurch are closed. Three branches remain open and people are encouraged to use them. The library staff are begging their users NOT to return books and other items they have borrowed as there is nowhere to house them.

Several other libraries in NZ, large and small, are welcoming Christchurch residents who are currently staying away from their home area. Gisborne's public library has encouraged any Cantabrians taking refuge in their city to - "come along, get instant membership and free access to all services!"

The Library blog has the following entry:

Suffering withdrawal? How about a neighbourhood library!

I've heard quite a few people talking about how desperate they are for the libraries to open, that they are hanging out for a book to read, perhaps as a distraction in these trying times and I may just have found a solution!

Instead of relying on the community libraries in the next week or two when they may be shut, how about forming a neighbourhood library? Talk to your neighbour and others in your street and see what they have on their shelves and in their DVD and CD collections, and let them check out your collection and do some swapping! It will give you new titles, something to do, and keep you reading and listening and watching. It may start you on a new author, a new genre, a new recording artist or movie director.

Then when the libraries open again, you can search for more titles by that author, or other movies that director filmed and you've opened your horizons in the face of adversity. Not to mention getting to know your neighbour.

Maybe just keep a list somewhere of who borrowed what and when so it can all find it's way back to it's original home when your favourite library is open and those wonderful library staff are back to help you find what you need!

There are also recommendations as to how to run a Tiny Tots library session at home if you cant get to your local library.

The Library blog can be found [here](#) (please note, access can be intermittent),

Canterbury University Library

One witness said.

"It felt like it picked up and shook the Canterbury university library."

All the University libraries are closed however every effort has been made to ensure that not only are e-resources accessible via the Library website but publishers have been asked to extend the access to resources online and, in particular, those earthquake resources that were provided following the previous earthquake in September 2010.

Tony Hilker for example, from BMJ (British Medical Journal), arranged for free access for the University of Canterbury to BMJ Best Practice as a support to medical staff working with people injured from the earthquake.

High demand books have been purchased as e-books where ever possible and all e-resources are now in MultiSearch and are planned to be added to the catalogue over the weekend of 5/6th March.

Electronic interlibrary loans are available and the Liaison Librarians are providing support via email helpdesk and by phone.

As with the public library, all users are asked to keep any items they have until the campus reopens. No fines will be charged.

Anthony Tedeschi, Rare Books Librarian, at Dunedin Public Libraries sent the following to the Rare Books email list:

Dear Colleagues:

I have been in touch with a friend from University of Canterbury special collections. The campus remains closed, so she has yet to see what state the collection is in. The special collections weathered the September earthquake rather well, due to the type of shelving and location on the ground floor. We can only hope it is the same this time. Thankfully, and most importantly, no staff were injured.

The James L. Logie Memorial Collection of Greek and Roman antiquities (also held by the University) has been packed away since being damaged in the September quake. No news, but hopefully the packing has protected the objects.

News from the British Library

The British Library has launched its new strategy 'Growing Knowledge' for 2011-2015. The Library's new strategy contains five strategic priorities, based on the themes of the Library's 2020 Vision, published last September. These include:

- guaranteeing access for future generations;
- enabling access for everyone who wants to do research;
- supporting research communities in key areas for social and economic benefit;
- enriching the cultural life of the nation; and
- leading and collaborating in growing the world's knowledge base.

Although it is operating with reduced operational and capital budgets, the Library will also deliver a range of key objectives during this period including:

- opening their state-of-the-art Newspaper Storage Building;
- digitising up to 20 million pages from the national newspaper collection in partnership with brightsolid and
- developing selected collaborative stewardship arrangements to collect and connect to content.

Special Collections taster

Newcastle: Showcasing our special collections



The Newcastle Collection

In developing the new City Library in Newcastle, an important part of its design was the provision of features that allowed material that was previously 'hidden' to be displayed and promoted to a wider audience.

The new exhibition area for the Newcastle Collection, inspired by the King's Library in the British Library, provides an opportunity to showcase material from the City Library's special collections previously hidden away in strongrooms. Lined with slate from the floor of the last City Library, this environmentally controlled area allows the City's most significant printed heritage collections to be displayed in secure conditions for all to see. Items in the display can be easily changed to meet service needs and allow visitors to see the full range and diversity of the special collections.

In the past these items have often been the preserve of academics and researchers; now these developments have enabled the public to discover, use

and enjoy the city's heritage collections. A recent exhibition 'Taking Liberties in the North East' featured special collection material that included: a first edition of Darwin's *The Origin of the Species* from our own stock, an eighteenth century copy of *Habeas Corpus* loaned by the British Library and the 1832 Great Reform Act, loaned by the Parliamentary Archives. The exhibition which ran between November 24th 2010 and January 30th 2011 attracted 33,224 visitors.

An award of £427,000 received from the Heritage Lottery fund in 2007 for the Newcastle Collection project, provided the means to conserve a significant amount of local special collection material and design a dynamic website to promote it. The website can be found at:

www.newcastle.gov.uk/newcastlecollection

Promotion of the collections via this Newcastle Collection website has also succeeded in raising public awareness of these resources and the result has been a corresponding increase in interest. The library now receives enquiries about collection material from all over the world.

With thanks to Kath Cassidy Heritage Service Manager and Nick Stopforth Library and Information Officer, Newcastle City Library

Events

Is your information service 'Future Ready'? What will be the key skills required of information professionals in the next five years?

Where: [Kro Bar](#) 325 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PG

When: 22nd March 2011, 6:30 to 8:30pm

Allan Foster will lead an evening session to explore issues of the future readiness of corporate libraries and information services. He will be use the results of his 2011 Business Information Survey, to be published concurrently in late March in *Business Information Review*, to identify current practice and future priorities for SLA members. In the light of the Survey findings, the audience will be asked to focus on the question "what will be the key skills required of information professionals in the next five years?"

Allan Foster is an information industry consultant and writer, previously Director of Information Services at Keele University and a senior information manager at Manchester Business School, Lancashire Polytechnic, Sheffield Polytechnic and the British Institute of Management. E-mail: allan.foster@gmail.com*

The evening is free, but you'll have to buy your own drink at the bar.

Please register using [this form](#) so we have an idea of numbers attending.

You can find out more about SLA's 2011 theme on the [Future Ready 365 Blog](#)

E-books: accessible for all?

Where: Crawley Library, West Sussex

When: Thursday 24th March at. 10.30am – 12.00pm.

Alistair McNaught of JISC Techdis will be discussing the issues around e-books and accessibility for customers with visual impairments, including an overview of the screen reader market and demonstration of visual impairment friendly online tools.

JISC Techdis is the UK's leading advisory service on technology and inclusion for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

To book your free place email abigail.luthmann@eastsussex.gov.uk
This is a free event hosted by the Society of Chief Librarians: Visual Impairment South East Sub-group.

Mashups in Libraries

Where: Goldsmiths (Library), University of London

When: 13th April 2011

What are Mashups?

They are web applications that combine freely available data from various sources to create something new and potentially more useful into a single tool. They can be a very powerful way to meet our user's varied expectations and provide excellent web-based services adding value to library websites and library catalogues. They can also allow libraries to promote Library services where the users are.

Speakers

- Chris Keene Technical Development Manager (Library, University of Sussex)
- Julian Cheal Systems Developer (UKOLN)
- Gary Green technical Librarian (Surrey County Council)
- Paul Stainthorp Electronic Resources Librarian (University of Lincoln)

Event programme

9.30 -10.00 Coffee and registration

10.00 -12.45 Presentations including examples of mashups in Libraries

12.45 -1.45 Lunch

1.45 - 4.30 Create your own mashups - hands on session (Paul Stainthorp Electronic Resources Librarian) yahoo pipes/Google data 101 session. Parallel session tba.

All day event: you can come for just the morning presentations or stay for the whole event (both options include lunch)

Price: Morning session - £35 for cpd25 members (£55 for non-members) All day - £45 for cpd25 members (£65 for non-members) Lunch and refreshments included in both.

Please note that places are limited. To book, please use our online booking form http://www.cpd25.ac.uk/component/option,com_philaform/Itemid,98/form_id,2/ or email the administrator via cpd25@lse.ac.uk

Cancellations less than one week before the event will be charged a 50% cancellation fee. In the event of a 'no-show' on the day, the full fee will be charged.

Opening Data - Opening Doors

Where: Malmaison Manchester, Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 1LZ
When: Monday 18th April 2011, 10.00am to 4.00pm

How can we gain bigger audiences for our scholarly and cultural resources and enhance services for researchers, teachers and learners?

In 2010, the JISC and RLUK Resource Discovery Taskforce (RDTF), involving national stakeholders from libraries, archives and museums, set out a vision for making the most of UK scholarly and cultural resources. JISC and their RDTF partners have now committed to a programme of activity to help fulfil the vision - building critical mass through opening up data, exploring and demonstrating what open data makes possible, and actively sharing learning points with the wider community.

The 'Opening Data - Opening Doors' event marks the starting point of this journey.

Chaired by Professor David Baker, Deputy Chair of the JISC Board, on behalf of the JISC and RLUK Resource Discovery Task Force

- * Hear from services that are opening up their data including what's happening in the new RDTF projects that have just been commissioned
- * Help to shape the messages, advice and support offered during the 2011 programme and beyond
- * Help to develop practical and engaging approaches to exploiting our data

For more information and to register, please go to:

<http://rdtf-opening-doors.eventbrite.com/>

You can also download a copy of the first RDTF newsletter [here](#) .

LIS Research Coalition DREaM Project (*Developing Research Excellence and Methods*)

Where: [British Library Conference Centre](#)

When: Tuesday 19th July 2011

The first DREaM project event will be a one-day conference at the in London on Tuesday 19th July 2011. The programme will include an opening keynote presentation by [Dr Blaise Cronin](#), a closing keynote presentation, a one minute madness session (following [the success of this format at last year's LIS Research Coalition conference](#)) and a choice of themed workshops, as well as a session on the DREaM project itself.

Four further DREaM project events will take place:

- Tuesday 25th October 2011 – workshop in Edinburgh (places for 30 participants)
- late January 2012 – workshop in London (places for 30 participants)
- April 2012 – workshop in Edinburgh (places for 30 participants)
- early July 2012 – concluding event in London (places for 40 participants)

These events will explore the scope of LIS and related research and the range of methods appropriate to research in the domain. Experts in a variety of techniques will present method overviews and a wide range of techniques will be evaluated. It is hoped that a number of the participants will be able to attend all events

(along with others who will elect to come to one or more). To register interest in these events, please e-mail Hazel.Hall.

Other News

Oxford University Press and Portico work together to preserve e-books

[Oxford University Press \(OUP\)](#) and [Portico](#), a non-profit, electronic archiving service, have announced an agreement to preserve OUP's entire collection of e-books from its Oxford Scholarship Online resource and Handbooks Online resource.

Oxford Scholarship Online is a cross-searchable digital library of over 4,400 full-text books in academic disciplines such as history, classical studies, religion, political science, business, literature, and mathematics. Oxford Handbooks Online is an online resource of the prestigious Oxford handbooks series, available as a collection of four subject modules.

The number of titles and types of content preserved in Portico has grown significantly since 2005. Over 12,000 e-journals, 70,000 e-books, and 39 digitised historical collections have now been entrusted to the Portico archive.

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Inspire eNewsletter - April Issue

Special Collections will now be the focus the April issue of the e-newsletter.

Are special collections under threat in these difficult financial times?

Do you share the management of your special collection with other libraries/other organisations – eg archives or galleries – or across sectors.

I would be interested to hear about issues or success stories for your special collections – so, please get in touch.

New email address: inspire2011@hotmail.co.uk

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*

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