

## SLG NEWS – December Bulletin

Welcome to the December edition of the e-newsletter from SLG! There's been an enormous amount of work done and contributions made by SLG members up and down the country this term as you've been reading in our monthly bulletin. However, there is always more to do and there are several opportunities for members to get directly involved and make your voice heard:

- the online petition to **Make School Libraries Statutory** closes on **Friday 11 December** <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/literacy/> The total currently stands at 5300 signatures so please encourage friends, family and colleagues to show their support by signing up.
- We'd like to encourage all colleagues to complete the questionnaires for the **National surveys of UK School libraries** which are now available online. Further information is below.
- **Recession Watch:** CILIP wants to know how the recession is affecting you. See below to find out how to get in touch

As this busy term draws to a close (phew!), we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## WHAT HAS SLG NATIONAL BEEN UP TO LATELY?

### ***National Surveys of UK School Libraries***

We are conducting two national surveys of school libraries. This work was instigated by the School Libraries Group and is supported by the School Library Association and the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians, with funds from the Wendy Drewett Bequest which is administered by CILIP. The survey is being managed by Information Management Associates. If you have any questions about this survey please contact David Streatfield: [IMA@mail2world.com](mailto:IMA@mail2world.com)

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#### **PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARIES SURVEY**

Please help us to build up a full picture of primary school libraries by completing the questionnaire at:

<http://www.informat.org/slp/primary/>

#### **SECONDARY/MIDDLE/SPECIAL/INDEPENDENT SCHOOL LIBRARIES SURVEY**

Please help us to build up a full picture of school libraries by completing the questionnaire at:

## **SURVEY OBJECTIVES**

The *main objectives* of this project are to establish:

- the extent to which the funding of school libraries in the UK is increasing, holding (in relative and absolute terms) or declining;
- whether the use of library services is increasing, holding or decreasing;
- whether and to what extent the types of activities in and use of library services have changed;
- the level and types of staffing of school libraries.

In addition, the project will gather perceptions from library managers about:

- how the school library is perceived within the school, including its place in supporting teaching and learning and the personal development of pupils;
- how well the school library is supported by the senior management of the school;
- opportunities and threats for the school library, including likely changes in the roles and functions of libraries;
- best practice ideas for school library development in the current economic climate.

Many thanks

David Streatfield & Sue Shaper

For the School Libraries Survey Team

### ***Information Literacy, the profession and CILIP***

SLG was asked to participate in the Round Table discussion on the growing importance of information literacy to the profession which was held at CILIP HQ on 23 November and chaired by Bidy Fisher.

### ***Information Literacy Task Force***

Tricia Adams (SLA) is to give a short presentation to the QCDA in early December about the discussions the Task Force had in October. The next meeting of the ILTF is in January.

### ***Branch and Groups meeting***

SLG attended the BnG meeting on 30 November. This happens twice a year and this meeting will be considering the proposed revision of the BnG regulations as well as next year's proposed 'Big Conversation' and the employer engagement initiative.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### ***YOUNG MINDS BOOK AWARD 2009***

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

*Sue Shaper writes:*

I was one of the judges for this year's award alongside Virginia Ironside, Anthony McGowan and two young people. The prize is given for a work of fiction which might help young people to cope with the emotional and mental stresses of the teenage years.

As part of the judging process, young peoples' book groups are invited to send in their comments on the long list of ten titles and their reviews have a direct influence on the selection of the shortlist. This year's winner was "*A perfect 10*" by Chris Higgins.

I think that this award has the potential to grow into something really important and SLG members are very well placed to contribute as we have, collectively, such a good knowledge of contemporary works of this kind. The organisers are very keen to get school librarians involved and as this year's sponsors were The Book Trust, it could become a very exciting partnership. Here's looking forward to next year!

### ***Room to Read - school libraries in the developing world***

Thanks to Yvonne Morris' posting on the CILIP website, we'd like to draw your attention to the Financial Times' 2009 Seasonal Appeal. This year the paper is supporting Room to Read, a charity that promotes literacy and educational opportunities for children in the developing world. One of the ways they do this is by building and stocking school libraries, and as a result of their work libraries have been established in countries such as Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Nepal. The FT reports that, at one school in Sri Lanka, a teacher described their new library as "like heaven for the children, a reader's paradise".

Further details are on the <http://www.ft.com> website

See also <http://www.ft.com/indepth/seasonal-appeal>

### ***Operation Read***

Schools can enter to win one of three 'Action Days Out'. The closing date is 19 March 2010. For further details, please go to:

[http://www.chrisryanadventures.co.uk/operationread/?dm\\_t=0,0,0,0](http://www.chrisryanadventures.co.uk/operationread/?dm_t=0,0,0,0)

The school attended by the winning teams will also receive Random House Children's books up to a total value of one thousand pounds (£1,000).

Please note: this competition is open to pupils of the Reading Champions schools aged 16 years or under only. Any school can join The National Literacy Trust's *Reading Champions: Involving boys and men in a reading culture*. Please go to:

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/campaign/Champions/join.html>

### ***Tackling social exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government***

#### ***Black Children's Achievement Programme evaluation***

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR177.pdf>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Daily Bulletin*, 27 November)

Evaluation carried out by the Institute for Policy Studies in Education at London Metropolitan University for DCSF, and which has had some media coverage – particularly as it found evidence of:

- “Lack of awareness or concern among staff about Black children’s underachievement and the need to address it;
- Institutional factors/processes including negative teacher attitudes / expectations and stereotypical thinking about the ability of Black children serves to undermine teacher ability to raise Black children’s attainment at an individual and group level. It also hinders their ability to view raising Black children’s attainment either as essential or a key aspect of race equality;
- Difficulties in challenging negative attitudes and prejudice among school staff ...” [p2]

### ***Recession Watch***

As the nights draw in and the cold winds of recession blow ever keener, CILIP wants to hear about how the recession affects you and your library / service. Please send your stories to [rhemming@ucs.org.uk](mailto:rhemming@ucs.org.uk). All submissions will be treated with sensitivity and confidentiality as appropriate.

If you do find yourself in challenging circumstances at work, please have a look at the ***Campaigning Tool Kit*** which CILIP has put together to help individuals make their case and defend their position.

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning-toolkit/pages/default.aspx>

### ***School librarians and advocacy***

This page has information to help school librarians advocate their value:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/advocacy/learning/schools/Pages/Schools-advocacy.aspx>

### ***Claim Tax relief on your CILIP subscription***

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can claim the tax back on your CILIP subscription. At 2009 tax rates, this can amount to a 22% discount on your subscription payment. For further information and to download the ***tax relief form***, please go to:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/membership/how/Pages/taxrelief.aspx>

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### ***15th Birthday Celebration of the Smallbone Library, Oakham School***

**Thursday 3 December, 18.30 – 20.00**

The Smallbone Library

Oakham School

Ashwell Road

Oakham

LE15 6QG

**RSVP:** Darryl Toerien *Head of Library and Archives* Tel. 01572 758 648 or email [dt@oakham.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:dt@oakham.rutland.sch.uk)

Harold Howe, former U.S. Commissioner of Education, said that what “a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it thinks about education”, and it is in this context that the significance of the Smallbone Library is rightly understood.

Opened in 1994 after seven years of planning, covering 2,400 square metres over two floors, and built at a cost of £2 million during a recession, the Library remains an extraordinary and profound educational statement by the leadership of the School.

A library is more than its building, though, and it takes time for words to call a reality into being. Fifteen years on we revisit the vision of a Library truly central to the intellectual and academic life of the School, and invite you to join us in celebrating its coming of age.

### **Programme**

- **18.30 – 19.00: Reception**
- **19.00 – 20.00: Inaugural *Smallbone Library Lectures***
  - Darryl Toerien, Head of Library and Archives: *Contextualising the school library*
  - Graham Smallbone, Headmaster of Oakham School (1985-96): The Smallbone Library at Oakham School: *The robustness of a vision for the future*
  - Sir James Hill, formerly Chairman of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust: *The library at the heart of the school* (as a preface to the *Lectures*)
  - Lynn Barrett, formerly Information Services Manager at Dixons City Academy and co-editor of the ‘CILIP guidelines for secondary school libraries’: *The academic school library*
  - Jonathan Douglas, Director of the National Literacy Trust and co-editor of the ‘CILIP guidelines for secondary school libraries’: *The reading school library*
  - Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster of Oakham School (2009-): *Concluding remarks*

### **“New Beginnings”**

#### **8-9 January 2010, Liverpool**

The Reader Organisation’s first national “Get Into Reading” Conference, which will share findings and best practice from their innovative reader development and social outreach programme; plus a Readers’ Day, which follows on Saturday 9 January (9.30am – 4pm).

<http://events.thereader.org.uk/get-into-reading-national-conference.html>

### ***Reluctant Readers, Reluctant Writers:***

*Developing Literacy through new technologies and developing creativity in Teaching and Learning*

For those of you who couldn't attend the "Reluctant Readers, Reluctant Writers" Seminar at Thomas Deacon Academy last week, then you may be interested to know that its 'sister' seminar is due to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> January at Walsall Academy.

Feedback from the last seminar suggested that the day was inspiring and motivating, with many attendees appreciating the hands-on elements.

*"Thank you - really good and as usual I leave with confidence & enthusiasm"*

*"Ideas presented very clearly. Perfect amount of time explaining and 'testing'"*

*"This is exactly the type of vision which my Development Plan lists."*

*"I feel I have lots of new ideas to take back!"*

### **Wednesday 20th January 2010**

**9.45am – 3.00pm**

Walsall Academy

Lichfield Road

Bloxwich

Walsall

West Midlands

WS3 3LX

#### **Lead Practitioner Seminar (cost £81.00)**

Delegates can choose from two morning sessions, one addressing the use of stylistic imitations as a way to engage students, teach writing and improve literacy and the other looking at the use of Virtual Learning Environments and Web 2.0 technology to promote Literacy and Information Literacy. The afternoon will bring the whole group together to focus on using new technologies and creative approaches to teach and promote Literacy.

#### **Who should attend?**

Anyone in English, Literacy or Library/ Media areas who want to gain hands-on experience of using new technologies and creative ways of teaching and learning to encourage reluctant readers and reluctant writers.

Attendance could be used as evidence towards CILIP revalidation or certification. Led by Sarah Masters and Misty Killip who are SSAT Lead Practitioners for Librarianship / Literacy

For further information please contact either  
[sarah.masters@thomasdeaconacademy.com](mailto:sarah.masters@thomasdeaconacademy.com)

[mkillip@walsallacademy.com](mailto:mkillip@walsallacademy.com)

#### ***Refugee Council Policy Update Conference – From theory to practice: how asylum policy impacts on the refugee experience***

**5 Feb 2010, Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, Coram Street, London, WC1N 1HT**

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/conferences/conference2010/>

Workshops at the Conference have just been announced. One which may be of interest to school librarians is a workshop about unaccompanied children in the asylum system.

**SLG COMMITTEES 2009**

You can find regional contact information and also contact the National Committee on the SLG web pages – <http://www.cilip.org.uk/slg>

**PLEASE HELP**

If you know of other SLG members who haven't received this, then please encourage them to register with the CILIP website so that they can be included on the distribution list in future. Make sure that the CILIP e-news box is ticked in the section under eBulletins in the 'My Profile' section.

If there is anything relating to School Libraries that you would like included in the future bulletins, please email [rhemming@ucs.org.uk](mailto:rhemming@ucs.org.uk)