

# LONDON CLIP

Newsletter for CILIP in London

## The Reading Agency

### Support for Adult Literacy

We're adding a new creative tool to our push to support adult literacy - Chatabout, a unique national network to support emergent reader groups.



We're inviting anyone already running or wanting to run a group to join Chatabout. We will provide guidance, case studies and a Chatabout online network. At the moment it is FREE to join so be one of the first to take part. Chatabout provides a great progression route for those who have done or who are doing the Six Book Challenge. The 2010 Challenge starts in January and colleges, adult education and workplaces are ready to start. Several library authorities are building on partnerships to target more Skills for Life and ESOL learners. The TUC is supporting the scheme in 55 workplaces and we're hoping to pilot the Challenge with libraries with council employees, including street cleaners in Westminster, dinner ladies in Norfolk and contract cleaners in Glasgow. Join the Six Book Challenge or see [www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk](http://www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk).

### Research into Reading and Health

We have been awarded funding for a contract with MLA to carry out research into libraries' work with reading and health. This is a great building block for the work we want to do on the ground on this topic and cements the work that we have started. Our partners in this venture are LISU and Professor Neil Frude. We will be running a series of events to profile the role of reading in delivering health and well-being and the work of libraries in supporting this work

Read more about our work on reading and health on our website - [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)

## Wellcome Collection

### A Free Destination For the Incurably Curious

Identity: Eight Rooms, nine lives

What influences or determines our sense of who we are? What makes one person distinct from another? This major exhibition explores the tension between the way we view ourselves and how others see us.

Nine individual stories introduce eight distinct rooms. One room begins with the story of scientist Alec Jeffreys's invention of DNA fingerprinting 25 years ago. A British geneticist who developed the technique of DNA profiling which is now used all over the world to assist police detective work and also to resolve paternity and immigration disputes.

The diaries of Samuel Pepys introduces another aspect on identity - Samuel Pepys an English naval administrator and Member of Parliament, is now most famous for his diary. The detailed private diary he kept during 1660-69 is one of the most important primary sources for the English Restoration period. Astonishingly, it was not published in a complete edition until the 1980s. Recording failings as well as achievements, it is regarded as the prototype of the diary as an honest record of the self. However even the most personal diary may be subject to manipulation by others. (Samuel Pepys diary is kept in the form of six large notebooks in the Pepys Library at Magdalene College, Cambridge).

Also represented in this room is Tony Benn. For Tony Benn keeping a diary is a way of savouring experience, reliving moments first by recording them and then being able to read about them again. Though best known as a politician, Benn ranges well beyond his life in government and parliament. The diary aims for greater completeness and transparency than most political memoirs. Benn's method is to dictate his thoughts onto audio cassette tape. This spontaneous record is then transcribed and edited for publication.

This process necessarily makes the record progressively more incomplete: first, pauses, coughs and tone of voice are lost. Then passages of text are cut to produce the final version. Which is the truer account of events?

'This exhibition takes a look back through history both at how science has attempted to determine human identity and at how we ceaselessly try to determine our own sense of self,' explains **James Peto, senior curator at Wellcome Collection**. 'Identity is a huge topic, so rather than trying to tackle it in one all-encompassing exhibition, we are staging a series of smaller, simultaneous, semi-discrete exhibitions, each tackling a different aspect of, or approach to, the subject.'

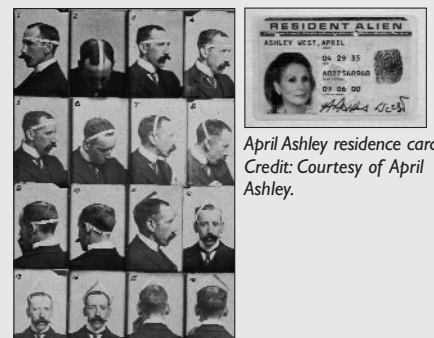
### Hugh Aldersey-Williams, co-curator of 'Identity' comments:

'The topic we are examining is so complicated, we knew we had to give it a human face. So we've done this quite literally, using a fascinating array of individuals to personify aspects of the subject. Visitors will see how these individuals have informed our understanding of identity, but they will also find out unexpected things about them as people.'

You will be able to explore contributions made by diverse individuals spanning the worlds of science, the arts and history.

Exhibition continues till 6th April 2010. Entry is free.

Visit [www.wellcomecollection.org](http://www.wellcomecollection.org) for more information



Cranial measurement. The phrenologist Bernard Hollander illustrating his system of cranial measurements, 1902  
Credit: Wellcome Library, London.

**The Value of CILIP in London Committee Membership**



*Sabelo Mapasure reports*

I was nominated by the Career Development Group – London and South East Divisions as

their representative to CILIP in London Branch for 2009. My interest in CILIP in London was ignited by attending the monthly meetings at the Sekforde Arms. One of the events was presented by Jennifer Rawley, whose book on organizing knowledge was a key text at the Library School where I studied Librarianship. I found CILIP in London a platform to connect with other professionals who are a source of inspiration and role models for professional development.

Attending Committee meetings has been challenging. I enjoyed contributing to decisions on cost-cutting measures for a reduced budget in 2010. I found it most peculiar that CILIP in London has more retired Librarians actively involved in the day-to-day affairs of the committee. Although some of the issues dwell on endemic challenges such as distribution of CILIP funds to the home nations, Ridgmount Street's limited opening hours etc. there are many others issues requiring innovation.

I have a personal interest in promoting the development of professional associations and libraries in developing countries, particularly in southern Africa. CILIP in London Committee meetings are usually held on Wednesdays at CILIP headquarters. Unfortunately this made it difficult for me to attend the International Library and Information Group (ILIG) meetings as they are held on the same day. When I completed my Chartership December 2008, I reflected on my involvement in professional groups and resolved to focus on a few, unfortunately CILIP in London has been one of the groups that I have had to drop.

*Where am I going next?* My job responsibilities at the National Institute for Medical Research have increased a need for me to put in more effort, in order to strengthen my reputation and career prospects. On professional involvement:

- I am now Candidate Support Officer for London and South East Divisions.
- I was co-opted into the Encompass Scheme Working Group in 2009. Interesting to note the scheme has been approved by National Council to be implemented nationally. I supervise one of the first candidates to the scheme at the National Institute for Medical Research.
- As from January 2010, I have accepted nomination to ILIG Committee. This is an opportunity to participate and contribute to the international library agenda.
- Since 2008, I have been a Committee Member of CHILL – the Consortia for Health Information Libraries in London's electronic communications sub-group.

I look forward to my involvement in these committees with positive outcomes. I am happy to have contributed to CILIP in London Committee during 2009 and have recommended to aspiring candidates that the CILIP in London Committee role requires active participation in lobbying, and benefits the individual with personal profession development, networking and understanding of wider professional issues.

'Dead librarians might not be everyone's cup of tea', said John Bowman, speaker at CILIP in London's end of year meeting on the 9th December 2009. John has created a Wiki based on W.A. Munford's Who was Who in British Librarianship 1800 -1985



*John Bowman*

*Tom Roper reports:*

'He was an energetic perfectionist with a relentless interest in detail'. How many in this great profession of

ours might fit this description of Charles Wilfred Black from the New Munford, the wiki-based version of Munford's Who was Who in British Librarianship. John Bowman formerly of UCL library school, spoke earlier in the year at a CILIP in London meeting about Robert Proctor.

Introduced by Edward Dudley, who cited a recent definition of a wiki heard on Radio 4, 'A wiki seeks consensus, not truth ... and is often vainglorious amateurism'. John started by warning us that dead librarians might not be everyone's cup of tea. Munford's original work was published in print by the Library Association, in a cloth binding of the sort that one could not now imagine Facet producing. Munford tried to cover chief librarians and their deputies, though he was sometimes inconsistent. As well as public libraries, his coverage of the British Museum Library and government libraries was good, though he was weaker on university and college librarians.

John first conceived of a digital version of Munford some years ago. To create this version he had Munford's text scanned and checked by a UCL student. Local authority boundaries, names and responsibilities have changed considerably, both in the period covered by Munford, and since.

John explored various possibilities. To build a database would have been an expensive solution and then he hit on the idea of a wiki. Equipped with a copy of Wikis for dummies, he set out to create the wiki, hosted on wikispaces, deciding on a page per person. He was nervous about depending on a site which could disappear, or whose owners might hold him to ransom, so he makes frequent back-ups.

From each page, back links allows the user to see related pages: thus, from a place-name or library authority page, one can find everyone who has been associated with that place or authority. John has added to Munford's information in several ways: where possible he has added to library authority pages the date of adoption of the library acts, taken from Kelly, and has also incorporated information from Greenwood's Library Yearbook and from the British Library Yearbook. He has made links out to Oxford DNB entries and to the BL catalogue for those who were authors. In the case of modern public library authorities he has links out to their websites, when possible.

Tasks awaiting attention include tidying up the names of library authorities and university libraries, adding links to university histories where these exist, and incorporating some of the local government changes since 1974, such as unitary authorities, including information not in Kelly, such as Robin

Alston's database, adding information from Library Association obituaries, and, at the suggestion of Kate Wood in the audience, adding information from LA membership records, now kept in the UCL archives.

John showed an interesting use of the wiki. In James Duff Brown's famous article, 'Where do we get our librarians?' in *Library World* 3 1900/01, Duff Brown analysed the patterns of training and influence in the public library world of the time, but without naming names. Using the wiki, it is possible, by searching for combinations of authority names, to find out which individuals Duff Brown meant.

John is keen for more volunteers to join the wiki, but made a plea for people to accompany their request to join with some explanatory material. He has had a lot of spam requests.

Join the wiki at:  
<http://newmunford.wikispaces.com/>.

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## Branch Finances

The financial position of the Branch is a major concern at the moment. Capitation funding has been halved and this is causing difficulties in maintaining our present level of activities. The two most significant areas of expenditure are meetings and London CLIP, and we are making reductions on each front, as well as in our international activities.

The Committee is not in favour of charging for meetings, but we cannot support as many as before. In 2010, there will be 7 Sekforde Arms meetings and 3 general evening meetings (including the AGM). Sekforde Arms meetings will not be held in the month when there is a general evening meeting, thus maintaining the existence of a Branch meeting in every month except August and December.

In future, CLIP will be issued twice a year in hard copy and will be printed only in one colour. Two electronic issues will supplement hard copy.

In previous years, the Branch has provided a bursary for a London librarian to visit one of the new EU countries, and a bursary for one of their librarians to visit London. Neither of these bursaries will be offered in 2010.

By these measures, we hope to be able to continue providing a broad range of services and support for Branch members, but further reductions cannot be ruled out.

We welcome your comments on any of this, or on Branch matters generally.

Peter Beauchamp, President

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## Handing over

We have edited London CLIP and the CILIP in London website since the Branch was formed. After six years on the CILIP in London Committee, we feel it is time to stand down. Lesley Randall has taken over the newsletter and Ian Gardner the website, and we wish them every success.

We would like to add a final editorial note to explain the change of colour in the last edition and for the future. The introduction of a black and white production was necessary due to a reduction in the budget of the Branch and this was one of several cost saving measures required at short notice.

Thanks to all who have contributed articles and information during this time; we hope that you will continue to do so for the new editors.

*Monica Blake and John Lake*

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## Meet the committee

This is the second of an occasional series introducing the committee of CILIP in London.



### Lesley Randall

In September 2009, an e-mail from CILIP confirmed that the portfolio I submitted for Chartership had been successful. My personal progression has been energising and empowering in ways that I couldn't have envisaged. A turning point has been in that by becoming a committee member of CILIP in London in December 2008, I have taken on an unexpected role of editing the newsletter, and this is my first issue. I am becoming more of a 'professional activist' to gain skills and experience in areas that I cannot achieve in the current job, and also to give something back to the profession and to the CILIP organisation.

## CILIP in London AGM

Guest Speaker at our Annual General Meeting this year will be Professor David Nicholas, Director of Library, Archive and Information Studies (SLAIS) at University College London. Professor Nicholas has written and researched widely within the Information sector specializing in; mapping behaviour in virtual spaces, the virtual scholar and the health information consumer. He has also investigated the use and impact of e-journals, open access publishing, e-books and scholarly research behaviour. You can hear what Professor Nicholas has to say on Wednesday May 12th from 5.30 onwards. Reserve the date in your diary for what should be a stimulating evening for learning and networking with serious refreshment.

Contact Steve Cook:  
[SCook@rcog.org.uk](mailto:SCook@rcog.org.uk)

CILIP's Gazette journal has started two new series, and is seeking contributors. One is called 'Library Heroes'. So if somebody has inspired you in your job, or even prompted you to enter the information profession, why not share it with others. The other one is called 'Informed Ideas', in which readers offer small ideas that could make a big difference to working lives.

Contact Gazette Editor Debby Raven at: [debbyraven@btconnect.com](mailto:debbyraven@btconnect.com)

## FUTURE EVENTS 2010

### EVENING MEETINGS

These meetings are held in The Sekforde Arms, Sekforde Street, London EC1, 6.30pm.

Contact [www.cilip.org.uk/london](http://www.cilip.org.uk/london)

9th March 2010

Topic and speaker to be confirmed

### OTHER EVENTS

25 March

Rewiring the Mind

[www.wellcomecollection.org](http://www.wellcomecollection.org)

19-21 April

London Book Fair

Earls Court, London. Contact:

[www.londonbookfair.co.uk](http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk)

24th April

Librarians Christian Fellowship

Annual Conference

Contact: Graham Hedges

[secretary@librarianscf.org.uk](mailto:secretary@librarianscf.org.uk)

20th May

Learning at Work Day. Contact:

[www.learningatworkday.com](http://www.learningatworkday.com)

## British Library Preservation Advisory Centre. Doing more with less?

*Steve Cook reports on the Forum on Preservation Skills Development at the British Library 30th November 2009*

Library and archive collections are growing: not only the size of collections but also the breadth, and range of materials they encompass. How do we develop the skills to look after sound, digital objects and modern materials alongside more traditional formats? What methods of learning can we use which maximise investment when resources are tight?

### **Helen Shenton, Head of Collection Care and part of the Senior Leadership Team of the British Library (BL)**

gave the first presentation and suggested that many researchers have not known a time without Google. They expect everything to be on the web. Wikipedia is the first port of call for them. This causes a problem because deeper research skills are not developed. Google eventually wants to create a universal library. This means that many users of the future will be accessing information in a different way. Libraries, should therefore not only consider their collections but also, their overall content. For instance, the future BL may not hold all sought after material. They may though, through collaborations and data sets, act as a portal for access to information. We should therefore adopt a mind set of connecting and collecting in trying to satisfy our future users' needs. Maybe collaborative collecting partnerships will develop and the BL can then adopt the role of host. Some institutions, including universities, may encounter problems here as they are in competition with one another, but physically the inside structure of their buildings is rapidly changing. Today there are designated zones, not reading rooms. These developments will affect decisions on what we preserve.

Guidelines recommend that we preserve our special collections first.

It is them that readers will want to physically see in the future. The BL has made great strides in advocating this policy. When it first opened 42% of their holdings were in environmentally controlled conditions, compared to 64% today. By 2013 it will be 74%. This strategy includes four objectives:

- Anticipating problems
- Preventing problems
- Acting on problems
- How to address: build capacity and balance resources.

Institutions will need to make informed decisions on whether to opt for physical or digital preservation. The forum went on to suggest how this could be achieved. A few of the participants' views are represented here.

### **Jane Arthur, Preservation Training Coordinator, BL**

referred to Preservation Training needs and that the BL have a Preservation Learning Programme from 2009-2012 involving practical and strategic elements constituting: Practical: handling; repair; cleaning; display; environmental controls; salvage; sourcing expertise; 'basics'; strategy; advocacy; prioritisation and setting policy.

The need is for an evidence-based training programme.

### **Vicki Marsland, National Trust**

**Conservator** advised that volunteers help you do more with less. The National Trust runs a Working Holidays Programme and matches volunteers to tasks. For example, they have volunteer schemes for Book repair teams as mould is a danger to books and human health. Days are held to help recruit, focus volunteers and connect people to their historical heritage.

### **Catherine Atkinson, Head of Conservation Learning and Development, BL**

emphasised the options of work-based learning. Book conservation, for example was not being practiced by many and the librarians that do have the knowledge are gradually retiring so there is a need to train new people to be capable of

carrying out the practice. Catherine advised that the BL by introducing hybrid methods of teaching and allowing public access to documents encourages people to get involved.

Digital preservation was touched upon by **William Kirkbride, Executive Director, Digital Preservation Coalition** who re-emphasised that digital data has value and creates opportunities but access depends on software, hardware and people. Technology and people change. New technology creates barriers for the reuse of data although setting in place 'watch services' can give advance notice of obsolescence. Storage media and allied devices have a short life. Digital preservation systems are subject to the same obsolescence as the objects they safeguard. Resources can be altered, corrupted or deleted without obvious detection.

### **Cordelia Rogerson, Acting Head of Conservation at the BL**

suggested that materials post 1850 are classed as modern and different materials bring with them different problems. Knowledge can be acquired from Continuing Professional Development Courses and other published literature.

Summing up the day **Caroline Peach, Head of Preservation Advisory Centre, BL** outlined what BL can offer those in need of advice and training. The BL runs a skills development programme which includes;

- a) A preservation assessment survey, which provides evidence of strengths and weaknesses currently adopted by institutions in their preservation practice.
- b) A training and learning programme.
- c) Information services. Includes; e-newsletter; enquiry service; website [www.bl.uk/npa](http://www.bl.uk/npa)

The BL wants to work in partnership with organisations that have a duty of care towards their collections. Caroline advised the best way forward in attempting preservation was multiple copies on multiple technologies.

## CONTACTS


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