



Chartered Institute of  
Library and Information  
Professionals

**Yorkshire + Humberside**

Supplement to  
Library + Information

# update

## Contents

Editorial	1
'The Unintentional Librarian' <i>Hazel Mary Martell</i>	2
'Luxford of Luxor' <i>Daniel Park</i>	3
'Conversations, manifestos and retirements' <i>Biddy Fisher</i>	4
'Historical collection on display for honorary visit' <i>Neil Dixon</i>	5
'Libraries' impact on community health and well-being' <i>Inga Kobseva</i>	6
'Training and twittering' <i>Carl Clayton</i>	7
'...our Website Manager' <i>Gary Taylor</i>	7
Committee List, Dates for your diary etc.	8

## Editorial

A very warm welcome to this our Summer Issue. As you can see from the Contents list we have a diverse range of topics to entertain, enlighten and inform.

Hazel Mary Martell tells of her tussles with the publishing world, Daniel ventures to Egypt and finds a retired but redoubtable librarian from Yorkshire making her mark in Luxor, and Neil Dixon (one of our new Committee members) writes about a visit by the Government Minister, Andy Burnham, to an historical collection at the Department of Health, Leeds.

Biddy Fisher pays tribute to Bob McKee who after a distinguished career is now retiring from office. She also reminds us all to keep an eye on our future as a profession in the knowledge and information 'industry', and how important it is to support and contribute to the continuing debate or 'conversation' about this.

Inga Kobseva (another new member of our Committee) describes the success of her team's Reminiscence project in Leeds and its impact in terms of health and well-being.

If you are interested in training activities, Carl Clayton of SINTO can give you guidance, and last but not least our Website Manager, Gary Taylor gives us an insight into his career to date, and a question—what would you like to see on our Branch web pages?

This is my last Issue as Editor. If any of you are interested in taking up the role, please contact Sue Cook (our Honorary Secretary) at [suecook11@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suecook11@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible. Neil Dixon has kindly offered to be Guest Editor for the Autumn Issue (for contact see back page). We would like the new Editor to start with the Winter Issue (in October) so please make contact as soon as you can.

Finally, I would just like to say that it has been a great pleasure and privilege producing this newsletter for the Branch, and my grateful thanks to all who have supported me and contributed over the years.

**Alison Harling, Editor**

## Feature

### **The Unintentional Librarian**

#### **Chapter Eight: In Demand**

For the next few years, things went well with my writing. One of my children's information books, "What Do We Know About The Celts?", was runner-up for the TES Junior Information Book Award and also shortlisted for the Stockton-on-Tees Book of the Year Competition. This boosted my reputation – but, sadly, not my income! – and more commissions began to roll in. I seemed to do so many on the Vikings that at times I was in danger of plagiarising myself. Luckily each publisher tried to put a different slant on each series, so, although I was using the same information, it was presented differently. For example, one book told the story of the Vikings with the emphasis on their food and feasts, while another told their story through what archaeologists had found at a specific site.

It was one of these books on the Vikings that made me realise that sometimes who you know (or who knows you!) is indeed more important than what you know, for out of the blue a publisher contacted me from Italy, asking if I'd write a book on the Vikings for a series she was publishing called Myths and Civilisations. She added that I'd been highly recommended by the American publisher of one of my earlier Viking books, even though he'd never actually met me. And, when I'd written the book on the Vikings to her satisfaction, she went on to commission me to write the Greeks and the Celts for the same series.

Around the same time, I was commissioned to write three books for a UK publisher for a new series called Looking Back. The volumes I'd to write were on the civilisations of Ancient China, Peru to 1535, and the World of Islam to 1700 – though for some reason Amazon insists that I also wrote India Under the Mughal Empire for the same series. These books were different in two ways from anything I'd done before – firstly they were written in chapters, rather than double-page spreads, and secondly there was no input from the editor or the designer until the text was complete and the illustrations were chosen. Fortunately I managed to produce what they wanted at my first attempt and so could breathe a big sigh of relief.

By the middle of 1998 writing was providing me with a full-time income. With so many books to

## Web browsing

my name, I was up in the top 10% of PLR earners – and even the three novels which had been published in the 1970s were still earning a little bit each year. Life was looking good and I celebrated my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by going to the North Cape with an old school friend to see the midnight sun, my first holiday in six years. More work poured in, then unexpectedly my beloved Dad was taken ill and spent the next fifteen months in hospital and then in nursing home. Writing was put on hold as I drove a hundred miles a day every day to take Mum to see him. Then, on the day after Dad's funeral, Mum was taken ill and, though I'm glad to say she recovered, it was another four months before I could start writing again.

By that time my enthusiasm was beginning to wane and the world of information book publishing was beginning to change. Deadlines were getting tighter and the fees were getting smaller. On my last book, the expert commissioned to comment on my outline didn't reply until the day after the deadline for the text to be finished; then the editor changed her mind twice on how she wanted the information presenting. When she changed her mind again after the second re-write, however, I decided I'd had enough. It was once more time to find another way of making a living...

**To be continued...**

**Hazel Mary Martell**

W  
e  
b  
b  
r  
o  
w  
s  
i  
n  
g

#### **Professional Reading**

**[www.facetpublishing.co.uk](http://www.facetpublishing.co.uk)**

#### **Update + Gazette**

**[www.cilip.org.uk/publications—new](http://www.cilip.org.uk/publications—new)  
look, digital edition and blog**

#### **Phil Bradley**

**(internet guru and excellent  
practitioner of the World Wide Web)  
<http://www.philb.com/>**

#### **CILIP Communities**

**New networking space has undergone  
a significant upgrade. Share your  
views and connect with other  
professionals here.  
<http://communities.cilip.org.uk>**

#### **Digital Collections Online**

**JISC-funded repository of over 4,000  
images for teaching and learning.  
<http://collections.ex.ac.uk/repository>**

## **Luxford of Luxor'**

### **Luxford of Luxor – Daniel meets a retired librarian in Egypt**

A stone's throw from the shimmering River Nile in Luxor, Jean Luxford, former librarian at Bingley and Shipley Public Libraries and most recently Titus Salt School, now runs her own ethically sourced trade store and informal circulating library.



At 92, Jean moved to Egypt last April to be with her husband, deputy manager of a local factory and has succeeded in combining the high ethical ideals of her sales stock with her insatiable appetite for knowledge.

She is currently undertaking an Open University diploma, having completed her Masters in English Literature last year. On the desk of her store, she thumbs a large tome of poetry, and she memorises a new poem from it each and every day.



Her prodigious circulating library is but a tiny fraction of the boxes of books she had shipped over to Egypt in the last year. Nonetheless she is always on the hunt for more.

## **New from Facet**

"I'm sure a lot of school libraries in Yorkshire will remember me" Jean says, "If they're over in Luxor, I'd love to see them, and indeed any librarian who'd like to look me up. If they have a book they've read on their holiday that they'd like to donate to the library, then that would be terrific"

Jean is a warm and lovely person who has never given up her love of books and her quest for knowledge. It was a privilege to see her in her new store, and I hope other readers will feel inspired to visit and cheer her on.

Jean's store "Zahra" is in Rawda el Shariff street, opposite the Sonesta Hotel and Snobs restaurant. If you would like to contact her by email, her address is [jluxford43@aol.com](mailto:jluxford43@aol.com)

**Daniel Park**

## **New titles from Facet**

### *Libraries designed for kids*

Nolan Lushington

ISBN: 978-1-85604-657-2

Price: £44.95 (£35.96 to CILIP Members)

Nolan Lushington guides the reader through the complete design process from concept to 'grand opening'. Valuable practical tips and insights to help create an inviting place for children to enjoy their library.

### *Supporting research students*

Barbara Allan

ISBN: 978-1-85604-685-5

Price: £44.95 (£35.96 to CILIP Members)

With increasing numbers of postgraduate students requiring specialist support to assist them in their research studies, this book is a timely tool for the LIS student or professional working in higher education.

### *Guide to teaching information literacy: 101 practical tips*

Helen Blanchett, Chris Powis and Jo Webb

ISBN: 978-1-85604-659-6

Price: £44.95 (£35.96 to CILIP Members)

This easy-to-use book is an invaluable tool for the new or experienced librarian involved in delivering information literacy teaching sessions.

## **Conversations...**

### **Conversations, manifestos and retirements.**

***The first three months of my Presidential Year have been very eventful. It is quite true that I had no idea what was in store regarding the activities I would be invited to undertake. I anticipated talks to meetings and AGMs, maybe the odd conference paper but some things that have presented themselves are far more exciting!***

The new year began where the old one left off, with lots of comments about how inappropriate a title the 'Big Conversation' was and how the criteria required of potential project board members would discriminate against anyone 'young' or new' or even female. Trust seemed to be absent commodity among the vocal section of membership that posed these seemingly inevitable consequences of recruiting on the basis of proven ability and experience. I still hope that the consultation project, now part of a wider programme re-named 'Defining our Professional Future' will at least surface the changes which members wish to see brought about for the 'refreshed' CILIP. Since those busy tweet filled days though the lines are very, very quiet. The questions posed remain to be answered and commented on. What sort of Professional body is right for the Knowledge and Information domain?

Continuing on from Policy Forum work of 2009, the 'Make School Libraries statutory' campaign provided me with an opportunity to write to the Prime Minister. It goes without saying that he didn't respond beyond the standard holding letter but last week I did receive a response along the lines that his 'Public Communications Unit' had forwarded my letter to the Department for Children Schools and Families (as if we wouldn't have thought to write to them ourselves) and that whatever Diana Johnson had written would do for Gordon Brown as well. OK, I get the picture Gordon, but, do you? There are 19,000 voters in our sector.

## **...manifestos...**

Our own CILIP Manifesto development group was expertly led by Peter Beauchamp, Hon. President of CILIP London. (No, I don't know why some Branches and Groups have 'Presidents' and others 'Chairs', I'm sure there is a reason though.) What emerged from the writing group was an excellent set of easily understood and digested points about the main aspects of our work that politicians, the public and indeed ourselves can use to state the reason why society cannot do its job without Library and Information Professionals and the services they manage and develop. What I didn't realise that in sending out the Manifesto to all potential parliamentary candidates for the Westminster Government, I would be inviting a deluge of emails and letters putting the record straight and responses that were just plain vote winning. They have provided a fascinating insight into the seriousness with which our MPs view the public need for Libraries, and some even realise that 'other sorts of libraries are available' - not just Public Libraries.

For many people Bob McKee and CILIP are inextricably linked. Bob has now been in the job of Chief Executive Officer for 10 years and it was under his leadership that the LA and the IIS became CILIP. His announcement to retire when he reaches 60 later this year follows a quite outstanding contribution to the organisation. There will be all the usual forms of words applied to Bob when the time draws nearer. I mention it here because it is the third event that has occurred that has drawn me into spheres of activity that were quite unexpected as I took up the Vice President's role in January 2009. I feel very privileged to be joining Nigel Macartney, Ayub Kahn and Judy Broady-Preston and an external adviser to select a new Chief Executive Officer to take CILIP forward into its next phase.

And so on to the summer months. I am greatly looking forward to the Presidential event. As ever things do not turn out quite as you expect and hope for. Although the Council meeting, to be held in Leeds City Library from 0930 on Thursday July 15th will be open to as many as the room can hold (and I am not sure how many that will be!) the actual event at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park has to be by invitation

## **...and retirements**

only. I shall be totally honest, and it is because I have to pay for it and thus it just can't be as extensive as I had hoped. I am truly sorry to disappoint anyone who had hoped to come along, but I am still doing the history tours around the grounds at the weekend so if you do want an excuse to see me there then let me know and if I am doing a tour then come along. (2.00pm Saturday or Sunday, I don't do every one though).

The Branch Committee have, as ever, been a great support to me during this year. I also want to mention the support I've received from the Yorkshire and Humberside Career Development Group who have ensured a considerable amount of communications with good information about their perceptions of CILIP. I particularly appreciated Ned Potter's concept of the 'Echo chamber'. This has been followed this up with invitations to the New Professionals conference in Sheffield on July 5th. That event is closely followed by the Retired Member's Group AGM on July 7th. Yorkshire - a place for you no matter where you are in your professional career.

**Biddy Fisher** **CILIP President 2010**

### **'CILIP Conversation to begin'**

Biddy Fisher is chair of the Project Board which aims through four projects to define the future of the knowledge and information profession and ensure a sustainable future for CILIP.

'The Conversation' is one of these four projects and is open from April to June 2010. It begins with three main questions:

1. What will the knowledge and information sector look like in 2020?
2. Where will a professional association fit into this sector?
3. How will you engage with this professional sector?

You can join in the dialogue and discussion on these questions on social media using the tag *cilipfuture*, or *#cilipfuture* on Twitter, or posting a comment to Biddy's blog at:

**<http://communities.cilip.org.uk/blogs/biddy/default.aspx>**

## **Historical collection at the D.O.H.**

### **Historical collection on display for honorary visit**

The Department of Health Library welcomed the Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009. He decided our display to commemorate the department's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary was too good to miss.

Copies of health campaign posters throughout the decades were featured. These included everything from warning against the danger of unpleasant Venereal Diseases, to smoking as a health hazard, before this was the accepted opinion. We put our wealth of historical stock, such as the NHS Act from 1946, and the first Chief Medical Officer report by Dr William Duncan on display. Without doubt, the highlight was a cardboard, pop-up model of the building where the library is based, Quarry House in Leeds. This featured in Bulletin, an internal newsletter from 1989-1993 intended to keep staff up to date on the move from London.

The Secretary of State not only enjoyed the display, he was genuinely interested in our work, and asked many questions about our history and remit. We have no doubt the library will feature just as heavily in future anniversary celebrations.



Andy Burnham  
with Department of Health Library staff

**Neil Dixon**  
**Assistant Librarian**  
**Information Services**  
**Department of Health**

## **Libraries' impact...**

### **Libraries' impact on community health and well-being**

UK libraries are providing much more than information services, they are well-placed to contribute to a whole range of social and health-related national targets. They have a long standing tradition of promoting health and well-being and are also well-known for their ability to work across boundaries and establish partnerships with various organisations to provide a seamless service to potential stakeholders.

For example, such library outreach activities, like Reminiscence Sessions, can have a very positive impact on older people's health. According to many researchers, reminiscence is effective in improving older people's mood. There is also evidence that such sessions could be used as a therapeutic method in dementia care. Reminiscence Sessions are encouraging people to explore their memories through creative activities, listening to the music, looking at memorabilia, old photographs, books and museum's objects.

I would like to share my experience of being a member of a team, which delivered Reminiscence Sessions at two Leeds public libraries in 2009. Bronwyn Brady, Caroline Higson-Blythe and I were working in partnership with Feel Good Factor organisation and used reminiscence boxes and other great resources kindly provided by Abbey House Museum.

The aim of this project was to engage with older people living in Hunslet and Beeston areas of the city and to reduce their feelings of isolation, to explore new areas of interest, and to promote library services to this group. They have been invited to share their memories of the past during five themed fortnightly sessions: Childhood, An Evening Out in the 1940s, Weddings, House and Home, World War 2. The most popular themes, which triggered fascinating exchange of encounters, were Childhood and World War 2. Overall, participants found taking this trip down the memory lane very exciting and enjoyable.

Groups from both libraries joined together for a final 'Tea Dance' Celebration Event at the end of the year. Despite heavy rain the attendance was excellent. We all enjoyed a fantastic afternoon with a range of dance workshops, from ballroom

## **...in Leeds**

to rumba, and participated in an interesting quiz with prizes, food and drink.

To follow up on these sessions a reader group was set up at Beeston library and Leodis and Ancestry sessions were planned for Hunslet library customers, who are fond of local and family history.

There is no doubt that libraries, particularly working in partnership with health sector and other organisations, can be very effective and efficient in providing vital information for a whole range of concerned groups: people who are looking for health-related information, carers, community leaders, healthcare worker, as well as promoting health to general members of public and improving their well-being through library activities.



The 1940's music favourites - Vera Lyn and Glen Millar are still very popular! As the session ends everyone in Hunslet group waves for the camera and sings "We'll meet again".

**Inga Kobzeva**

**Librarian (Mid Area)  
Leeds City Council**

## ***Training and Twittering'***

### ***Training and Twittering***

With most library services facing cuts this year, training budgets are likely to be reduced and organisations will be looking for value for money. One way of achieving this is through local partnerships and co-operation. SINTO is a long established consortium which is used by library and information services in our region to provide low cost, local opportunities for workforce development.

In 2009 SINTO put on twelve training events for 235 people. In addition we ran the Next Generation management training programme - a series of 10 workshops for 22 staff from museums, libraries and archives. In 2010 up to the end of May we have offered four seminars and visits with a busy programme planned for the rest of the year. We are able to keep our prices low because we are a co-operative with low overheads and events are provided locally so you don't have to pay for a trip to London.

Information about our events is sent to training contacts in all SINTO member library services. If your library is not on our e-mail list then get in touch. You can also find information on the SINTO website ([www.sinto.org.uk](http://www.sinto.org.uk)) or by subscribing to the SINTO Twitter feed (@SINTOcarl).

Finally, don't forget that there is more to development than seminars and visits. The SINTO blog (<http://sintoblog.blogspot.com/>) keeps you up to date with professional news and issues.

If your library is not already a member of SINTO contact me for further information.

***Carl Clayton***

***Director  
SINTO - the information partnership  
c/o the LearningCentre  
Sheffield Hallam University  
Collegiate Crescent  
Sheffield S10 2BP  
0114 225 5739***

***sintoenquiry@shu.ac.uk***

## ***...Our Website Manager***

### ***'A bit about our Website Manager...'***

It's strange how things work out sometimes. Unlike many people my age, I've been working with computers of different kinds for almost 30 years (later this year, by my reckoning), so sitting down to write web pages and upload content is very natural to me - more natural than driving.

But having the skills to \*organise\* that information is something I've had to learn, and it all happened by accident when I was a student. Although I was following a media degree at Trinity and All Saints' College in the late 1980s, I was much more interested in presenting information rather than advertising or making a name for myself in front of the mic. And, thanks to a four-month placement with Kathi Poskitt at Bradford Council, I soon realised that librarianship was the way to go.

Having a few teaching skills, I ended up at Leeds Polytechnic's Computing Services department, and colleagues there suggested I look at this new-fangled 'world-wide web' as a way of highlighting information to staff and prospective student. That was in 1994... 16 years this summer. Crikey.

But all these skills combine rather well when building productive web sites. You need to know how to present content attractively, and interpret your visitors' needs. You also need to know how to organise the content logically behind the scenes. And if you have a modicum of IT/programming skill as well, so much the better.

I sincerely hope that I can help our corner of the Internet be exactly what our members want - partly because, after re-reading what I've just written, I realise I have a lot to live up to!

***Gary Taylor***

***Interested in becoming an Editor?  
Your Branch needs you!  
And it looks great on your CV!***

***To find out more, please contact Sue  
Cook (Honorary Branch Secretary)  
at:***

***suecook11@yahoo.co.uk***

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **Branch Committee Meetings:**

**Friday 18th June 2010  
Central Library  
Scarborough**

\*\*\*\*

**Friday 10th September 2010  
Central Library  
Sheffield**

\*\*\*\*

**Friday 17th December 2010  
University of Huddersfield**

\*\*\*\*

**All meetings start at 2pm  
Refreshments provided**

**For further details please contact:**

**Sue Cook, Hon. Branch Secretary  
suecook11@yahoo.co.uk**

### **Copy Deadlines**

\*\*\*\*

**Next Issue—Autumn 2010**

**Monday 9th August 2010**

\*\*\*\*

**Please send your contributions to  
Neil Dixon—  
Guest Editor for Autumn Issue —at:**

\*\*\*\*

**ndixon92@hotmail.com**

**[www.cilip.org.uk/yh](http://www.cilip.org.uk/yh)**

## **Committee List**

### **Honorary Officers:**

**Chair—Daniel Park**

**Secretary—Sue Cook**

**Treasurer—Vacancy**

**Website Manager—Gary Taylor**

**Newsletter Editor—Vacancy**

### **Members—**

**Andrew Jones, Neil Dixon, Inga Kobzeva,  
Ronan O'Beirne, Dominic Gilroy**

**Student Representatives from  
University of Sheffield —**

**Leam Bullingham, Megan O'Reilly, Paula  
Goodale**

**Health Libraries Group Representative—**

**Alison Rae.**

**Career Development Group—attendance  
rotated between Committee Members**

### **CILIP in Yorkshire & Humberside**

The official journal of the Yorkshire & Humberside Branch of CILIP.

Published 4 times a year.

Editor: Alison Harling

Email: [alisonh@calderdale.ac.uk](mailto:alisonh@calderdale.ac.uk) or  
[alison.harling@sky.com](mailto:alison.harling@sky.com)

**This newsletter is available in  
alternative formats on request  
from:**

### **Member Services**

**CILIP**

**7 Ridgmount Street**

**London**

**WC1E 7AE**

**Tel: 020 7255 0500**

**Textphone: 020 7255 0505**