



Chartered Institute of
Library and Information
Professionals

Yorkshire + Humberside

Supplement to
Library + Information

update

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Editorial

A very warm welcome to this our Spring Issue, although as I write this the temperatures outside have been anything but warm!

A rich mix of articles awaits you. We have another entertaining instalment from Hazel Martell—our 'Unintentional Librarian', followed by Bob Duckett's excellent piece on The Carnegie Centre at Hull. Ian stringer then takes us beyond our shores to Africa for his award-winning 'Caterpillar Project'.

I have also 'put pen to paper' (briefly!) on page 7) to describe a most interesting 'day out' to CILIP'S London HQ for an Editors' meeting. This was a first on two counts—one, I have never been to CILIP'S HQ before, and two, this meeting was the first of its kind to be held so far. For anyone who is an editor or aspiring to be one, listening to those who have been 'in the trade' for a while is a most instructive and entertaining experience. Many thanks to the Branch for supporting me.

Closer to home again for an update on what's been happening at the Branch. The minutes of our last meeting of the year, just before Christmas, will be on the web site, but my item on the meeting itself (on page 6) is not only an extension of those, but also to raise awareness of the importance of the Committee to, and what we try to do for, Branch members. Your support is vital to its existence, so please 'get involved' as much as you can by contacting the Committee via email or writing directly to me (address on the back page). We particularly want as many of you as possible to come to **Members' Day on 7th April**, and also to support the Committee's efforts for Bidy Fisher's CILIP Executive meeting in Leeds in June. See you there...!

Alison Harling, Editor

Issue copy deadline -

Friday 23rd April 2010

The Unintentional Librarian

Chapter Seven: Back behind the counter

In many ways it felt as if I'd never been away when I stepped back behind a public library counter for the first time in fifteen years. Computerisation was still in the future then and so most things were just as I remembered them. Borrowers' tickets still got crossed as a result of multiple copies of the same book – usually by Catherine Cookson! – being in the same day's issue and took just as long to sort out as they'd ever done, while some of the borrowers continued to use the alphabet in the most imaginative ways possible if they returned the books to the shelves themselves.

Other things had changed almost beyond belief, however. The first I noticed was the rate charged for fines on overdue books. When I'd started work in 1966, it was one (old) penny per week. When I joined the Relief Panel in 1990, it was one (new) penny per day. If only salaries had gone up in the same ratio, even the most junior library assistant would have been quite well paid!

The other big change was in the amount of large-scale vandalism some libraries suffered. The worst incidents I could remember from the early 1970s were a couple of thefts of reference books and someone making felt-tip pen drawings of a certain part of a man's anatomy round the edges of one of the tables. In my time on the Relief Panel, however, I was sent to work at one library where someone had used an air-gun to smash 22 out of the 25 double-glazed units which made up the whole back wall of the lending department. This was in the middle of winter and we all worked with our coats on as the units were taken out and replaced. Then later I went to another branch where someone had set fire to the counter and destroyed not only the issue, but also the membership cards. Luckily most of the books survived and the library was soon operating again in another part of the building while the damage to the original was repaired, but all the borrowers had to rejoin, everyone had to have new tickets written out and each returned book had to have a new hand-written charge-card made.

Mostly, however, I was standing in for people who were off sick or on holiday.

It fit in well with my writing, giving me extra money and also helping to keep me up to date on what people were reading. I also got the chance to earn more money when one of the library assistants I worked with was asked to set up a library for her GP. She didn't know where to start and so suggested that I did the job instead. The GP had great plans, including wanting to send me to one of the teaching hospitals in Leeds to find out how the library was organized there. But I had to tell him that this was a little over the top, as he only had about 150 books and maybe 10 different journals and what he really needed was a few magazine holders and a simple card catalogue, listing books by author and by subject, plus a jotter in which loans and returns could be recorded.

I stayed on the Relief Panel until the mid-1990s, then two things happened that made it difficult for me to carry on, much as I enjoyed it. Much more commissioned work started to come in and at the same time I moved into the Dales. It was too far to travel at short notice and so, reluctantly, I resigned...

To be continued...

Hazel Mary Martell

W e b b r o w s i n g	<u>Branch Website</u> www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/regional-branches/yorkshire-humberside
	<u>Professional Reading</u> www.facetpublishing.co.uk
	<u>Update + Gazette</u> www.cilip.org.uk/publications <i>New look, digital edition and blog</i>
	<u>Phil Bradley</u> <i>(internet guru and excellent practitioner of the World Wide Web)</i> www.philb.com/
	<u>JISC national e-books observatory Project</u> <i>National survey on electronic books and their use in education.</i> www.jiscebooksproject.org

Hull's Carnegie

The Carnegie Heritage Centre: A Brief History by Paul Green. (12pp, The Centre, 2008)

The City of Kingston-upon-Hull came late onto the public library scene, but it has some of our most striking historic library buildings – or ex-library buildings! The most attractive is surely the Anlaby Road library, a mile west of the city centre.

Opened in 1905 and built with the assistance of a grant of £3,000 from Andrew Carnegie, "The attractive half-timbered building was built in the Domestic Revival style, and is unusual in that it is partly timber framed and contains many unique architectural details".



Image courtesy of www.paul-gibson.com

The building has been spared major alterations and was awarded Listed Building status in 1994 (it already featured in Pevsner). The library closed in 2003 when a new Learning Centre opened in the nearby newly built 'KC' sports stadium. It was briefly used by Sure Start, but they left in 2006. The building was then declared 'surplus to requirements' by the local authority and put on the open market, but nobody wanted it.

Concerned at this situation, local volunteers and interested parties got together and formed the Carnegie Heritage Action Team. In January 2008, this team was successful in opening the Carnegie Heritage Centre.

The old Anlaby Road 'Carnegie Public Library' now houses a variety of heritage activities. It is home to the East Yorkshire Family History Society, the Hull & District Philatelic Society, and The Bindery, a commercial operation. It offers a collection of books on local and family history for

reference and for sale (the latter from a local book dealer), a family history help desk, a reminiscence group, courses, publications for sale, talks, local history quiz nights, exhibitions and a meeting space. Run by the Action Team, it has a 25-year lease from the City Council and is open three days a week.

This is an inspirational success story and one hopes 'The Carnegie' will survive: it is certainly a model that could be used elsewhere. While this booklet focuses on the 'Carnegie', it does flag up concern for other of Hull's historic library buildings.

One is pleased to note that the 1895, Grade Two listed, Western Branch, just off the busy Hessle Road, is still in use and is scheduled for renovation. The delightful Northern Branch Library on the Beverley Road (another 1895, Grade Two listed building), however, closed in 2005, and while it is currently used by a local school, this future of this arrangement is in doubt.

Saddest of all is the fate of Hull's oldest public library building, the former James Reckitt Library on the Holderness Road. This opened in 1889 after a lengthy battle fought by Sir James to convince the rate-payers of Hull to adopt the Public Library Acts (which he won when he offered to pay for it!). This is another Grade Two listed building. It closed in 2006 and now stands empty, forlorn, and for sale.

In addition to providing the heartening story of The Carnegie Heritage Centre, Paul Gibson's delightfully-produced little booklet draws attention to the importance of listing historic library buildings.

For further details contact
Email: enquiries@carnegiehull.co.uk
Web: www.carnegiehull.co.uk or
Tel: 01482 561216

Bob Duckett (Bradford)

More for the Library Historian:

See also Bob Duckett's excellent review in *Update Nov 09* on:
'Books, buildings and social engineering: early public libraries in Britain from past to present' by Alistair Black, Simon Pepper and Kaye Bagshaw. Farnham, Surrey/Burlington (VT): Ashgate, 2009. ISBN: 9780754672074. Price: £65.

The Caterpillar Project

In the last issue there was a short item on my receiving an Honorary fellowship. One of the reasons for awarding this to me was my work on the IFLA Caterpillar Project.

The Beginning

At IFLA World Library Conference in Berlin 2003 I was chairing of the mobile library section meeting when we received proposals to help with an idea for supplying books to rural African communities.

There were about four different ideas but the universal favourite was dubbed *the Caterpillar Project* as it envisaged using a folding box shelf system to transport books to isolated communities.

The term *Caterpillar Project* was coined from an existing project in Kenya.

So a small sub-group was formed for the project and a bid made for IFLA funding to do a pilot scheme. The group included, myself from the UK, Ruth Ornholt from Norway and June Baatjes from South Africa.

Funding

Ruth Ornholt and I did a short training programme on mobile libraries for Irish librarians in both Dublin and Belfast. We raised about USD1000 towards the project. We managed to pay for June Baatjes to join us.

In Ireland after each session, June gave the delegates a summary of our project. She presented the case, with passion and was unexpectedly rewarded with the donation of books to go with the finished product. This was from one of the delegates who had connections with a Catholic charity.

I had accurate drawings done by my son, Jonny, and at IFLA 2004. These were shown to the group, and June gave a personal presentation on progress in South Africa.

June then got the designs built by local labour, and showed them to various bodies.

In Oslo at the 2005 conference, the IFLA public libraries section raised more money for the project.

The design

The Caterpillar Book Box is a folding case, which is 1.8m high on castors for ease of movement, and the shelves accommodate approximately 100 books fuelled by a crate depot of approximately 500 books to replenish the stock in circulation.

The first box has been used by an Adult Basic Education group who are using it at night, and a very small school group in the daytime.

South Africa

The scheme was located in Koekenaap, which is a very poor farming area where 60% of the adults are illiterate and only 30% of nine year olds can read. They are too poor to travel the 20 miles to the nearest library. The adults are nomadic as they earn a living during the grape season, which lasts only three months a year before they move in search of other work.

The Caterpillar Book Box is the only access that this community of 70,000 people has to books. The children have been very excited by the existence of the first Caterpillar Book Box, which bears the IFLA logo.

June Baatjes advised in 2007 'I have been working for the minister of Education in the Western Cape since June. He was very impressed with the Caterpillar Project. He wanted one in every class, so the Caterpillar has undergone a metamorphosis into a BABY CAT.

Twenty of these very practical Caterpillars were launched in February and given to pre-schools attached to primary schools.

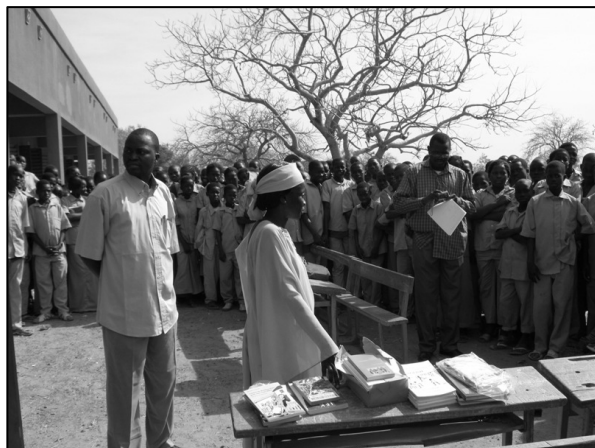
Burkina Faso

Following the IFLA website offer, we had some replies, which the committee sorted out into genuine applications and then made a choice on merit.

The successful applicant was Burkina Faso. thanks to a good proposal by librarian Oumou Ouedraogo. She received the drawings and has had some boxes built.

The Caterpillar Project....

....in Africa



Oumou Ouedraogo (pictured above) says,

Education for all is the master key for access to knowledge; however, we noted that in Burkina Faso the majority of the villages do not have libraries. The villagers do not have the means to reach libraries. The Caterpillar project is a means for them to reach books. The first library is established with the Secondary School of Dapelgo, a rural district located 35 km from the town of Ouagadougou. Using the books is free; the children do not have the means to pay for a subscription library.

The inauguration of the library took place on February 7 in the presence of local chiefs and of the population of Dapelgo who are delighted and they testified to the need for such a work. The books were bought by taking account of the expressed needs. We initially carried out the construction of the Caterpillar cases by the carpenters by taking account of the model described by Ian Stringer. Then we bought the books, which meet the needs of the population.

Finally, we proceeded to the provision of the case of books, which was received with enthusiasm. The population testified that it is a relief for them. Their pupils will be able to improve their knowledge at the school. It was also an occasion for us to make a display on hygiene and cleansing which constitutes a main issue in a rural environment. From February to June, the case is at the disposal of the pupils and as from August, it will be at the disposal of all the population.

The third phase of the project is now in Ghana . Lorraine Jackson of New Jersey USA is leading this phase. The idea is to make books available for adults and children living in remote villages in Ghana, using the IFLA Caterpillar Program and the circulating Presbyterian church pastors to deliver the needed materials.

As I write this I have learned that the money has reached Ghana having gone through Dutch (IFLA), Czech treasurer, US organiser and Ghanaian (recipients') banks!

Its hard work but see the faces of the Burkina Faso people and its all worthwhile.

Finally I have put forward Oumou Ouedraogo for an ILIG (International Library and Information Group) award to enable her to come to the UK for a study course. If successful I hope to take her to various Yorkshire Libraries and the **Mobilemeet** which is this year in **Dewsbury at the Rams Rugby ground on May 8th**, thanks to the hard work of Dianne Hird and Jon Davis at Kirklees Libraries.

Ian Stringer

For further details of the Mobilemeet at Dewsbury you can contact Dianne Hird at Kirklees Libraries via email at: dianne.hird@kirklees.gov.uk

Branch News

Branch Committee Meeting News in brief

The last Branch Committee meeting of the year took place at Sheffield Central Library on Friday 11th December 2009. Thank you to all who managed to make it — not a spare seat was to be had! —and a warm welcome to our new Committee Members and also those who came to observe.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is something the Branch is very keen to promote and support, working jointly with the Career Development Group (CDG) from time to time. James Kay from the CDG said that their 'reflective writing' courses delivered by Margaret Chapman had been very successful, as also were arranged visits to different libraries in the region.

With this theme (of CPD) in mind, Sue (our Honorary Secretary) reported that she is in talks with Marion Huckle at CILIP to bring about a pilot project for putting CPD training on the world wide web which the Yorkshire & Humberside Branch is to 'spearhead'. The reason behind this project is to try and address the rising costs of 'face to face' delivery of training in the face of increasing budget restrictions to Branch and Groups funding.

A potential topic for this project could be 'Copyright', but if anyone has any other suggestions, please send them to Sue—contact details on page 6 and the back page.

There will be no more reports from Daniel Park (our Chairman) concerning the Policy Forum. This body is to be restructured with reduced membership and the inclusion of selected 'co-opted' experts. When the document with the new proposals is sent out, our Branch will be voting.

Alison Harling thanked the Committee for supporting her attendance at an informal (but first) Editors meeting at CILIP HQ in London. (See post for report).

Gary Taylor (our Website Manager) reported that the migration by CILIP HQ from the old Microsoft Content Management System to the new MOSS environment has been successful and site visitors should not notice any difference. He would like to know, however, from Branch members what you would like to see on our Branch website pages.

Members' Day 2010

Please send your suggestions to Gary via email to gary.taylor@wypte.gov.uk.

Biddy Fisher (who is now President of CILIP) will be holding the CILIP Executive meeting in Yorkshire (for the first time!). The meeting will be held in Leeds Central Library in June/July this year (date to be confirmed).

It was decided by us as a Branch that it would be great opportunity to 'showcase' what we (both the Branch and the Special Interest Groups) do in the Yorkshire & Humberside region, what's going on etc.

We are therefore inviting all members (whether Branch or Special Interest Group) based in our region to get in touch (with the Committee) if you would like to provide a display for this important and unique event. (See page 6 for the Committee list and contact email addresses).

Last but not least—a 'plug' for Members' Day from Andrew Walsh (Honorary Treasurer).

CILIP YH Members' Day 2010

'Keeping your skills up-to-date'

Your Yorkshire & Humber branch are glad to announce that on 7th April 2010 we'll be holding another members' day in conjunction with as many local groups as possible, including the local Career Development Group (CDG).

This time the theme will be "keeping your skills up to date" and will include keynotes from Maria Cotera (President of CDG) and Biddy Fisher (CILIP President) as well as a range of sessions, and the AGMs of both branch and the local CDG.

We know that times are hard at the moment and hope that this day will help equip our members to weather these difficult times. We're also happy to say that we'll be able make the event free for students and the unwaged, or for a small charge of just £50 (£58.75 inc VAT) for everyone else.

More details will appear on our web pages (<http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/regional-branches/yorkshire-humberside>) and on Twitter using #cilipyh as they are firmed up.

Alison Harling, Editor

Editor's 'Day Out'

Editors' Meeting - CILIP HQ, London— Thursday 8th October 2009

This meeting was the first of its kind and attracted delegates from both Branches and Special Interest Groups. It was beneficial not only from its content but also from the point of view of 'networking' with other editors.

Elspeth Hyams (Editor of Update) and Debby Raven (Gazette) both gave insights on their roles within each of their publications and how they planned their content. 'Update', for instance, deals mainly with features and items of national importance, whilst the Gazette concentrates on CPD, training and recruitment, and 'stories' from Branches and Groups.

Guidance was given on advertising, and discussions ranged over what readers wanted from their publication, access to it, copyright, archiving issues and format (i.e. print or online).

The question was asked: Do readers prefer to receive a printed copy or are they happy to have online access only? For some groups there is only online access, owing to budget constraints, declining capitation and membership. Others have remained with the printed version (in line with the wishes of their readership), but do not know for how much longer.

The day concluded with a commitment to keep in touch and plan for another meeting, either in 2010 or at the next 'Umbrella' event. All in all it was a most useful and enjoyable day and a great chance to 'pool' our ideas and learn from the experts!

Alison Harling, Editor

Can you help?

CILIP's Gazette journal is starting two new series to kick off the New Year - and is seeking contributors.

One is called 'Library Heroes'. Everyone likes to read good news, especially something celebrating our choice of career. 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

Branch Committee

difference to working lives: practical, simple steps such as cutting out and passing on useful articles from Gazette...

Read the first two instalments in the first Gazette of the year, 14 January.

Get in touch or send your articles (up to 400 words for the heroes piece).

Contact Gazette Editor Debby Raven at:
debbyraven@btconnect.com

Lindsay Rees-Jones
CILIP Membership Support Unit
Branch & Groups

Honorary Officers:

Chair— Daniel Park
Email: DanielPark99@aol.com

Secretary—Sue Cook
Email: sue.cook11@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer—Andrew Walsh
Email: A.P.Walsh@hud.ac.uk

Website Manager—Gary Taylor
Email: gary.taylor@wypte.gov.uk

Newsletter Editor—Alison Harling
Email: alison.harling@sky.com

Members—

Andrew Jones
Email: a.jones@nationalstemcentre.org.uk

Ronan O'Beirne, Antonio Jimenez, Inga Kobzeva, Dominic Gilroy, Neil Dixon

Student Representatives from University of Sheffield — Paula Goodall, Liam Bullingham, Megan O'Reilly.

**Health Libraries Group Representative—
Alison Rae.**

Career Development Group—attendance rotated between Committee Members

Dates for your Diary..

Forthcoming Meetings....2010.

CILIP Y & H Branch and CDG

Joint AGM

Wednesday 7th April

**Venue—National Science Learning
Centre at York**

**Keynote Speakers—Biddy Fisher
(President of CILIP)
and
Maria Coteria (President of CDG)**

Branch Committee Meetings:

**Friday 12th February
Quarry House, Leeds**

**Friday 18th June
Scarborough Central Library**

**Friday 17th September
Sheffield Central Library**

**Friday 17th December
University of Huddersfield**

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

For further details please contact:

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

www.cilip.org.uk/yh

Next Issue

- Features, opinions, letters
- News and articles from around the region and beyond.
- Professional Updates.
- Dates for your diary.

CILIP in Yorkshire & Humberside

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Editor:

Alison Harling
Library Supervisor
Calderdale College
Francis Street
Halifax
W. Yorkshire HX1 3UZ
Tel: 01422 399350

Emails:

alison.harling@sky.com
alisonh@calderdale.ac.uk

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

**Member Services
CILIP
7 Ridgmount Street
London
WC1E 7AE
Tel: 020 7255 0500**