

Library and Information History *Newsletter*



Summer 2008

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the Library and Information History Group, a special interest group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

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News from the Chair

Dear Members,

Welcome to this issue of the Library and Information History Group Newsletter. The committee has been very busy behind the scenes since the last Newsletter in May and the inclusion of the 2007/2008 annual report below should make interesting reading for Group members. You are all welcome to attend the LIHG Annual General Meeting at the Royal Astronomical Society on 12th November and tell us what you think of these developments, and indeed, make any suggestions you may have for taking the Group forward.

This year has been a positive, if challenging, one for the Group with a number of changes to its committee and direction. This year, 2008, has mainly been one of refocusing the Group's strategic direction and aims for the future, and we hope that these developments will become evident to members from 2009. We are taking steps to address the declining membership problem that has been an issue for many CILIP special interest groups. We are increasing the number of events we run each year and continuing to develop on regional meetings to ensure as many members as possible can attend and benefit from Group activities.

The addition of a Publicity Officer to our committee last year is already reaping rewards with much more focussed promotion of Group aims and activities. We are in the process of rejuvenating the LIHG website and also now have an online presence on Facebook. Relationships with like-minded bodies have continued to be developed and the Group's journal, *Library History*, is also being renamed *Library and Information History* to reflect the Group's own recent name change and to encourage consistency.

We are working to ensure the Group continues to offer its members a diverse, varied and relevant platform for library and information history. As always, we welcome any thoughts or contributions from Group members so please do get in touch or come along to an event!

Would you like to become part of the LIHG Committee?

Our current Group Secretary, Anna Jones, will be stepping down from the role at the AGM on 12th November. Expressions of interest are currently being sought for the role of Secretary. Please feel free to contact Anna Jones (ahr23@cam.ac.uk) for any informal discussion.

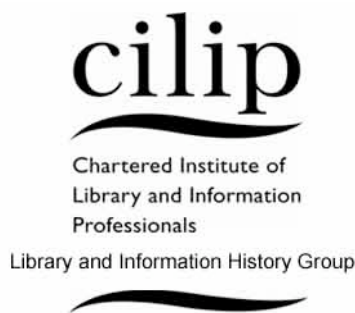
If you would like to put yourself forward for the position, please send a short piece stating why you would like the post, what you would bring to the role and the Group, and your relevant credentials to me at toni.weller.1@city.ac.uk by **30th September**. There is no set template, you may pitch it however you wish, although we ask that it is no longer than one side of typed A4 (12 pt font).

All the candidates' statements will be put on the LIHG website so Group members can see them before voting during October via a dedicated email address. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Anna Jones to receive hard copies of the candidates' statements. You may also vote by post directly to Anna at:

Anna Jones
Lee Library
Wolfson College
Barton Road
Cambridge
CB3 9BB
(01223) 335965

Voting will end on 31st October, ready to announce the result at the AGM on 12th November. Good luck!

Dr Toni Weller
Chair,
LIHG



Notice of 2008 LIHG AGM

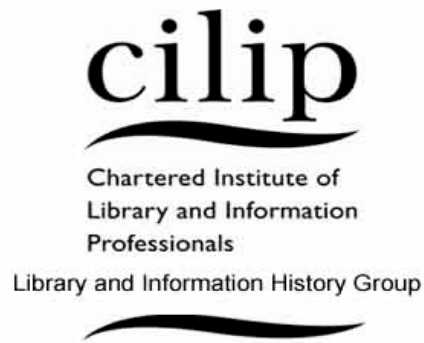
The 2008 Annual General Meeting of the CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) Library and Information History Group will take place at **2.30pm** on **Wednesday 12 November 2008** in the Lecture Theatre at the Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BJ. The meeting is expected to finish by 3.00pm.

The business of the AGM will be:

- to receive the minutes of the 2007 AGM, held on 29 June 2007 at *Umbrella 2007*, University of Hatfield
- to receive the annual report for the year 2007-8 (copy in LIHG *Summer Newsletter* online at <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/history/publications/newsletter.html>. Advance paper copies are available on request from the Secretary, Anna Jones, c/o Lee Library, Wolfson College, Barton Road, Cambridge CB3 9BB)
- to receive the annual accounts for the year 2007
- to appoint two independent examiners of accounts for 2008
- to announce the result of the election to Honorary Secretary (details of vacancy, nomination and election procedures provided in *Summer Newsletter*, on LIHG website, and in *CILIP Gazette*)
- to discuss any further motions proposed.

Motions must be made in writing, signed and sent to the Honorary Secretary (Anna Jones, c/o Lee Library, Wolfson College, Barton Road, Cambridge CB3 9BB) by **15 October 2008**.

Attendance at the AGM is free to all members of the Library and Information History Group.



Annual Report 2008/2009

For presentation to 2009 AGM

**To be held on 12th November, 2008
At the Royal Astronomical Society Library, Piccadilly,
London**

NB. The annual returns period covers only until the end of March 2008, but since the AGM is being held later this year, the report will also mention developments to the Group since that period.

Overview

This year has been a positive, if challenging, one for the Group with a number of changes to its committee and direction. This year, 2008, has mainly been one of refocusing the Group's strategic direction and aims for the future, and we hope that these developments will become evident to members from 2009. We are taking steps to address the declining membership problem that has been an issue for many CILIP special interest groups. We are increasing the number of events we run each year and continuing to develop on regional meetings to ensure as many members as possible can attend and benefit from Group activities. The addition of a Publicity Officer to our committee last year is already reaping rewards with much more focussed promotion of Group aims and activities. We are in the process of rejuvenating the LIHG website and also now have an online presence on Facebook. Relationships with like-minded bodies have continued to be developed and the Group's journal, *Library History*, is being renamed *Library and Information History* to reflect the Group's own recent name change and to encourage consistency.

Continuing aims of the Group

- To act as the historical conscience of the LIS profession in the UK
- To continue to demonstrate in its concern for threatened libraries, from the British Museum Reading Room downwards. The Group is represented on CILIP's Preservation & Conservation Panel, which is the main focus for this within CILIP centrally
- To raise awareness of the importance of library and information history both in the UK and abroad
- To promote activities – conferences, regional meetings, lectures – in support of these aims
- To communicate research and publication in library and information history

The LIHG aims to emphasize that library and information history is not just about historic collections and buildings. It is also about how:

- Information and knowledge were used and thought of in the past
- Information is preserved and collected in contemporary society
- New technologies may be changing the way we interact with the past and how we safeguard the modern record

Areas of concern from last year's annual report

- Falling membership
- Income generation

Committee changes

The Group had a change of Chair at the end of 2007 with John Crawford stepping down after seven years in the role. As new Chair I am excited to be able to build on the work he has done, and in an article in the *Library and Information Gazette* earlier in the year we argued that this year is a defining moment in the Group's history.¹ Our Web Officer also changed this year as Natalie Pollecutt stepped down from the Committee. We welcome Hannah Thomas who has taken over the role and who is in the process of rejuvenating and updating the Group website. We hope members will be pleased with the developments when they go live. Anna Jones will be stepping down as Honorary Secretary at the end of this year and will be very much missed from the Committee. The position has been advertised and a replacement is currently being sought. Sarah Bromage has been a strong addition to the committee as Publicity Officer. We hope to continue to build on Group publicity and promotion to increase awareness of both the Group's role and the continuing importance of library and information history.

Membership

The Group's membership stood at 621 on 22nd May 2007, plus four non-CILIP members. As of 31st March 2008, the LIHG has 656 subscribing members. This is a modest increase and one I hope to improve upon as we begin to see the impact of more focussed publicity and events.

A new Publicity sub-committee met prior to the York meeting in April where we discussed ideas and strategy to continue to attract and develop membership, particularly targeting library and information historians who may not be working within LIS but other areas of book, literary, social and cultural history. We also have plans to try and attract more library and information students by working more directly with the relevant University departments in the UK.

¹ John Crawford & Toni Weller (2008), Group takes history into an exciting future, *Library & Information Gazette*, 4-17th April, p. 12.

The start of the year also saw the creation of an LIHG presence on the social networking website, Facebook. This online group has 35 members as of 11th August 2008, and has been a useful forum for promoting meetings, events and publications. LIHG on Facebook has also been directly responsible for helping us find our new Web Officer, and also for expressions of interest about the current vacancy of Group Secretary. This is clearly a resource that can be developed with minimal outlay of time and money, and it offers an additional tool to complement the Group's existing forums of lis-libhist, newsletter and journal.

The discussion list lis-libhist continues to develop and to be a useful resource. The list now has 267 members, an increase from 256 in 2007 and 253 in 2006. The site is fully archived, has discussions going back nine years to 1998 and forms a useful research resource.

Website

Hannah Thomas to discuss at AGM

Publicity

This year has been one of the most successful in the Group's history in terms of publicity and self-promotion. For the first time we have a dedicated Publicity Officer, Sarah Bromage. New LIHG brochures were designed and printed to be included in delegate packs at the annual conference for the Society for Authorship, Reading and Publication in Oxford in June. More publicity items are in discussion and we hope that they will be ready for our 2009 events. The 2008 year card that went out in our annual mailing at the start of the year has proven to be very popular and we will be continuing this for our events and meetings next year. We want to develop greater links with CILIP branches and University departments, and are looking for local contacts to help support the LIHG in these areas.

The Group website is in the process of being overhauled, and a publicity sub-committee is working on some of these key issues of promotion and publicity.

Newsletter

Following the transition to electronic newsletter we have seen significant reductions to Group expenditure. Only 27 of our members still subscribe in hard copy. Although we are now publishing online there is still work to

be done in ensuring the style and format of the Newsletter is as 'electronic' as possible. As always we welcome contributions from Group members and are working to ensure the Newsletter is as dynamic and varied as possible.

Library History / Library and Information History

Alistair Black to give details at AGM

Library History Award

Dorothy Clayton to give details at AGM

Events, Research and Publications

The LIHG participated in the 2007 Umbrella Conference held at the University of Hertfordshire, with papers on the early days of knowledge management, Joseph Priestley and Benjamin Franklin as early promoters of public libraries, and Graham Cornish on the ethics of copyright (the latter session shared with Government Libraries Group).

The Historic Libraries Forum (with which the LIHG has close links) had its annual meeting in November 2007, on the theme "Writing the History of Your Library", partly inspired by the publication of the *Cambridge History*.

The first meeting of CILIP's Policy Forum was held at the Ibis Hotel in Birmingham on 19th March 2008. As Chair of the LIHG I was there to represent the Group's interests, although much of the focus of the day was on the concerns of professionalisation. The LIHG also commented on CILIP's draft advocacy strategy, emphasising the need for historical advocacy and awareness.

The LIHG acted alongside the Historic Libraries Forum to oppose the British Museum's recent proposals for an extension to the temporary listed building consent application relating to the Round Reading Room, originally submitted in August 2006. Although the consent was passed by Camden council in July, there are plans for a public consultation on the future of the reading room, with which the LIHG hopes to be involved.

A series of Library History seminars have been run this year at the Institute of English Studies at the University of London, with the purpose of encouraging further discussion and research into all areas of library

history following the publication of *The Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland*. The seminars were convened by Giles Mandelbrote and Keith Manley, who sits on the LIHG committee. Speakers included David Pearson, the Director of the University of London Research Library Services, Mark Purcell of the National Trust, Wallace Kirsop of Monash University and Karen Attar of the Senate House Library.

Several books on library and information history involving LIHG members were published this year. *The Early Information Society: Information Management in Britain Before the Computer*, by Alistair Black, Dave Muddiman and Helen Plant (Ashgate) focuses upon early information management and information professions in the period 1900-1960. Also published was *Information History: An Introduction - Exploring an Emergent Field*, by Toni Weller (Chandos, Oxford), which explores the historiography of information and the key schools of thought in the field, of which library history is clearly one. Research in library and information history remains vibrant.

Meetings Report 2007-2008

The Group continued its pattern of changing regional venues for the three committee meetings with events following the formalities. This will be the last year we have committee meetings and events combined since it was felt that time constraints restricted opportunities for both. From 2009 we plan to explore the option of having three committee meetings a year plus three separate events. All of which are open to all members, and will continue to be regionally diverse.

Last year's AGM was held in June 2007 at Umbrella at the University of Hertfordshire. A London meeting at the Wellcome Trust in November 2007 offered Group members a chance to see the historic library and collections of the Trust. In April 2008 the committee met at the Minster Library in York where we enjoyed a talk by Peter Freshwater on the Yorkshire Philosophical Library in the Yorkshire Museum. In fact, the efforts of our new Publicity Officer and popularity of our speaker meant that the event was oversubscribed, although a version of the talk has been published in our Spring 2008 LIHG Newsletter.

Future direction of the Group 2008-2009

As you will be able to tell from this year's Annual Report, the Group is undergoing a real period of change. We hope that by 2009 these changes and developments in publicity, promotion and direction will become more evident to members and that the LIHG can continue to increase its position and role within the library and information history arena. We hope to see a growth in membership and, just as significantly, more involvement from our members at events and within the pages of our Newsletter. We hope to have a rise in the number of events the Group holds, as members will see when the 2009 year card is mailed out at the end of the year. We hope to expand our relations with CILIP branches and relevant university departments across the country. We are also planning a one-day conference in March 2009 on library and information history. These are all positive developments for the Group, although they will require a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment from the LIHG committee and Group members.

Dr Toni Weller
LIHG Chair, 2008

LIHG Committee Meetings 2008

AGM & Autumn Meeting (Booking Essential)

Wednesday 12 November 2008

Royal Astronomical Society Library

Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BQ

<http://www.ras.org.uk>

- 11.30 am** LIHG Committee meeting
Lecture Theatre, Royal Astronomical Society²
- 2.30 pm** LIHG Annual General Meeting
Lecture Theatre, Royal Astronomical Society
- 3.00 pm** Talk by Peter Hingley:
'Astronomers and Oddities: The Royal Astronomical Society
and its Library'
Open to all (advance booking essential)
- 4.00 pm** Tour of Royal Astronomical Society Library, with display of
treasures
- 4.30-5.00 pm** Close

Members are welcome to attend the Committee meeting as observers, and all are warmly invited and encouraged to attend the AGM. To book for all or any part of the day, please contact the Hon. Secretary, Anna Jones (ahr23@cam.ac.uk; c/o Lee Library, Wolfson College, Barton Road, Cambridge CB3 9BB)

² http://www.ras.org.uk/images/stories/ras_pdfs/building/LECTURE%20THEATRE%203.pdf



Chartered Institute of
Library and Information
Professionals

Library and Information History Group

Vacancy for Honorary Secretary

The LIHG invites nominations for the post of Honorary Secretary to the Library and Information History Group, with effect from 12 November 2008. Further details about the work involved are available from the outgoing Secretary, Anna Jones (ahr23@cam.ac.uk; c/o Lee Library, Wolfson College, Barton Road, Cambridge CB3 9BB. Tel. 01223 335965).

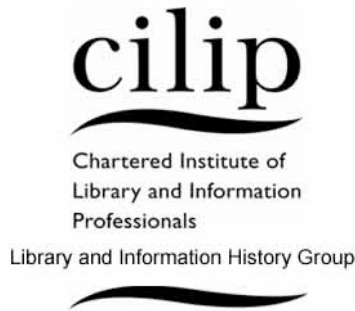
Nominations, to be counter-signed by two members of the Group, together with a brief CV, should be sent to the LIHG Chair, Dr Toni Weller, Department of Historical and Social Studies, Clephan Building, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester LE1 9BH by **30 September 2008**. Prospective candidates are asked also to contact Dr Weller by email, if possible, to register their interest: **Toni.Weller.1@city.ac.uk**

In the event of multiple nominations, an election of LIHG members will be held. In the interests of efficiency and economy, the default method for voting will be by email. A list of candidates and brief biographies will be posted on the LIHG website (<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/history>) on **1 October**, and voting will remain open from that day until **31 October**.

The result will be announced at the AGM on 12 November. The email address to use to vote for the new Honorary Secretary is **lihgsecretary@googlemail.com** (available from 1 October 2008 only).

Members who do not wish to vote by email are asked to contact the Hon. Secretary, Anna Jones (details above), to request a list of candidates and a ballot paper as soon as possible. Please provide details of the postal address to be used.

Ballot papers should be returned in an envelope clearly marked '**LIHG election**' to Anna Jones c/o Lee Library, Barton Road, Cambridge CB3 9BB to arrive by **31 October 2008**.



The LIHG (Library and Information History Group) currently seeks an Honorary Secretary to support its work as a Special Interest Group of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).

The current Secretary will step down at the AGM on 12 November 2008, but expressions of interest are invited now to encourage a smooth hand-over of responsibilities.

The role includes:

- Receiving and passing on information communicated by CILIP HQ in Ridgmount Street to committee members, and to the Group membership at large via the Newsletter Editor and Web and Publicity Officers, as appropriate (*primarily by email*)
- Arranging dates and booking venues for committee meetings (3 per year: Spring – March/April; Summer – June/July; Autumn – November), and organising refreshments
- Arranging additional events to coincide with committee meetings, *e.g.* library tours, speakers, and passing on details for publicity purposes
- Taking minutes of committee meetings and AGM, and circulating to committee
- Contributing to annual postal mailing, including Yearcard of events to all members in December/January
- Printing hard copies of the *Newsletter* to members without web access (approx. 27), and arranging postal delivery
- Maintaining a current record of the Group's activities for future archival purposes

- Acting as the primary point of contact for members of the public with enquiries about library history (sourced by letter, email, or via the LIHG website), and forwarding requests for information as appropriate

This is a challenging and rewarding role that offers much potential for CPD. The workload is concentrated around committee meetings, and can comfortably be accommodated around other commitments. Regular access to the internet and email is essential.

Expressions of interest in the post are welcome to Dr Toni Weller, Hon. Chair, Library and Information History Group (toni.weller.1@city.ac.uk).

Informal enquiries about the post are welcome to the outgoing Secretary, Anna Jones (ahr23@cam.ac.uk).

For more information about the Group, please visit <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/history> where you will find information about recent meeting venues, projects the Group has supported, and an archive of Group newsletters.

6 August 2008

LIHG Summer Meeting ~ Brighton, Tuesday 8th July 2008

The University of Sussex Special Collections

Members of the Group from all over the country, including those from Birmingham, Manchester, Cambridge and nearby Brighton University enjoyed the visit to the collections at Falmer. We appreciated the welcome by staff and the display of items set out for us to see.

The Director of Special Collections, Dorothy Sheridan, introduced us to the rich resources and gave us a brief history of the Mass Observation Archive, now a charitable trust which came into the care of the University in 1970. It was in the late 1930s that Tom Harrison (based in Bolton), Charles Madge and Humphrey Jennings (both London based) and a network of friends had the idea of doing a 'mass observation' of their own society. Coverage of the World War II years is particularly valuable. In recognition of the importance of such a record of everyday life in Britain, Mass Observation was re-launched in 1981, the original project having faded out during the 1950s. Questionnaires are sent out and people invited to contribute, aiming to encourage a wider variety of people to get involved. Contributors remain anonymous, but details such as their age and sex are made available to researchers. With the launch of a new dedicated website (www.massobs.org.uk) information can also be collected electronically.

There are publications based on items in the collection being made available. Some might remember Victoria Wood's television series, *Housewife, 49*, based on Nella Last's diaries. These are now also available as a book. It is diaries such as these and letters with other contemporary accounts which bring to life a period so vividly in a different way to recollections, which can become distorted by time.

Among the items we were shown were 'observations' about public libraries and also library-related ephemera. I seem to accumulate that sort of paper myself so it is good to know it might be of interest in years to come!

Other special collections at Sussex range from the University's own archive to Bloomsbury material, the Sussex folk-singing Copper family to the New Statesman archives. Information on these can be gained through the University website (www.sussex.ac.uk/library/speccoll) Among the things displayed for us were a Kipling

letter from the collection deposited by the National Trust and a letter from Enid Blyton about children and television.

Rare books are also held in the Department (e.g. The Travers Collection of books from 15th to the end of 19th Century, and the Baker Books comprising 18th and 19th Century publications including those on travel and costume.) We had the chance to see some of these too. I remember particularly an edition of Dr Johnson's Dictionary and a volume from the journal 'the Repository of Arts, Literature, Commerce, Manufacture, Fashions and Politics' dated 1809.

The Special Collections are a public resource, but researchers should make an appointment if they wish to visit, bringing with them proof of identity and address.

I did not attend the committee meeting held at noon, although open to ordinary members as observers. Instead, I took the opportunity to explore the University of Brighton site the other side of the Lewes-Brighton railway line and the Sussex University Campus itself. It was interesting to see the Basil Spence library, where the special collections are held. As was mentioned to us there are problems being housed in a listed building, but recent adaptations have enhanced the reading area and staff offices. I noticed the University library itself had been experimenting with 24 hour opening. Will restricted hours become history? The Special Collection Department is currently open Mon – Thur 9.15 – 5, leaving Fridays available for educational group visits. It will be interesting to see how plans for a new purpose-built archive centre “The Keep” on a nearby site progress; this is a collaborative effort involving East Sussex Record Office and others. Let us hope funding will be made available and in a few years time we can visit the new Centre and spread the good news!

Bella Hobson,
London Metropolitan University Library, City Campus

Conference Report
Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence
21st-23rd July, 2008

Organised by the READING EXPERIENCE DATABASE, 1450-1945, a joint initiative of the Open University (UK) and the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London

Kate Flint opened *Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence* with a Keynote Lecture examining the representation of books in photographs: books as props to keep the sitter posed; books conferring respectability or suggesting intellectual weight; books as aesthetic objects presented on a shelf as in Fox Talbot's 'Scene in a Library' or contorted and manipulated by Cara Barer into abstract compositions; Candida Höfer's libraries outliving the spectral forms of readers whose images are barely smudged in the long exposure; books neglected; books consumed; books as fantasy as in Jean François Rauzier's hyperphoto of an ideal library. The diversity of the images and the uses, or abuses, to which books may be put (occasionally including reading) provided an inspiring and stimulating introduction to a conference which explored different modes of reading and evidence of reading experiences left by readers from the Middle Ages to the present day.

Examination of the records left by individual readers or groups of readers provided valuable insights often challenging current academic assumptions: for example women readers were not always resistant as is commonly thought, but might have been quite receptive; the transition from oral to print culture was not always as clear cut as sometimes represented. Initially a tension seemed to emerge between the weight of evidence from particular, and often extraordinary, readers, which contradicted general reading trends. Problems and questions relating to the particular and the general might perhaps be the defining note of the

conference summoned as they were by Jonathan Rose in his Keynote Lecture, ‘Altick’s Map: The New Historiography of Reading’ which, whilst comparing the ‘Reading Revolution’ with the Industrial Revolution in its scale and variety, emphasised the difficulty of making broad, sweeping judgements based, for example, on class or gender. The issue was taken up by Helen Small in the final Round Table Discussion when she sought patterns which could be traced in the history of reading amongst the many accounts of different readers. Does a close examination of the history of readers elude or defy Theory? The answer perhaps lies with a comment by Simon Eliot who, whilst introducing the launch of the **Reading Experience Database Version 2**, felt that the database had now reached a critical mass, a point at which the sheer number of its over-17,000 individual records constitutes a valuable research tool.

The *Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence* Conference, too, seemed to attain a similar ‘critical mass’, drawing together trends and patterns from its diverse range of papers, offering the chance to explore themes spanning centuries and continents. The panel ‘Reading in Prison’ presented the opportunity to consider the constraints and pressures facing a particular group of readers as it set Archie L. Dick’s paper exploring the role of memory, books and other material and reading spaces in the South African liberation struggle alongside Helen Rogers’ account of the work of dressmaker, Sarah Martin, a prison visitor who taught readers in a small prison in Yarmouth, and Casie LeGette’s reading of William Godwins’ *Caleb Williams* in the light of its significance to prisoners.

Isabelle Lehuu and Mark Towsey presented particularly interesting pictures of community reading habits drawn from library records from the Charleston Library Society during the nineteenth century and private libraries in South East Scotland in the eighteenth century, respectively,

illustrating ways in which libraries and reading met various imaginative and information needs within their communities, providing social ‘glue’ and stimulating conversation.

Robert Fraser chaired an intriguing panel tracing the transition from orality to literacy including John C. Ford’s examination of the formulaic phrases common to oral tradition within written verse romances in medieval Europe, Anindita Ghosh’s analysis of the blurred boundaries of print and performance in modern India and Caroline Sumpter’s exploration of the complex interdependent relationship between the press and folk culture in nineteenth-century Ireland. Whilst highlighting the problems involved in defining the moment of shift and categorising participants in oral and print culture too rigidly, the panel nevertheless drew syntheses between three apparently very different moments in history.

In these and other panels, discernable patterns emerged with varying degrees of definition suggesting that, whilst the minutiae of individual experiences seem to repel classification, with imagination and flair, such as that demonstrated by the organisers of the *Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence* Conference, it is possible to bring together individual studies and experiences which do contribute to broader thematic structures, casting nets of significance and bridging the gap between the general and the particular. The Reading Experience Database can continue to contribute further to this process and its value will only grow as more volunteers add to it.

Sophie Bankes, Open University

1641 – 1861 – 1958 : *Timeline of the Library at The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple*

The nature of this piece is twofold: both to celebrate an important anniversary in the history of Middle Temple Library, and to promote, in some small way, the antiquarian collections held by this society. In November, 2008, Middle Temple Library celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its re-opening. To celebrate, the library and archives have put together a small exhibition charting the history of the library through its various physical locations in the Inn. It will run from late September to January, 2009.

The first mention of a library at Middle Temple is in a sixteenth century record which states: “*that library by meanes that is stood always open.. was at last robbed of all the bookes in it.*” This document highlights the fact that there was a library established at the Inn since at least Tudor times, albeit an insecure one. The library was formally re-established in 1641, when Robert Ashley bestowed his own personal library to the Inn in his will. This significant collection of books was originally stored in presses in the lower Parliament Chamber until “*a Librarie or place convenient ... be provided.*” Sometime in the seventeenth century, a portrait of Robert Ashley was commissioned by the Benchers, and painted by Thomas Leigh. It was not until 1650, however, that a set of chambers was converted into a library, and the collections made available for use.

By means of various donations and purchases, by 1697 the library had outgrown its premises and was moved to a new location. A reference in 1708 states: “*Here is a good Library near the back steps of the Hall, to which Sir Bartholomew Shore [i.e. Shower] and several others have contributed books ; it is open for all persons about 6 hours in a day.*” It is likely that this description refers to its location at the east end of the Hall, extending southwards along Middle Temple Lane, and means that today’s library is located just adjacent to its eighteenth century location. The eighteenth century library was in a building originally erected in 1625. Samuel Ireland, in 1800, refers to the state of the library collection thus: “*the casual observer cannot fail to remark, from their extreme dirtiness, that they have been little perused in the present aera.*”

The library remained in this location until 1824, when it was moved to a room in the newly constructed addition to the south side of Middle Temple Hall. This room now serves as the Parliament Chambers, and had a mezzanine running around the room to accommodate the

shelving (since removed). *The Times*, in 1824, referred to the previous site as that “miserable dirty hole in which [the books] have long been concealed.” Unfortunately, therefore, it seems there has been a cyclical history of neglect with regards to the collections!

By the mid-nineteenth century, the introduction of mechanization combined with a simultaneous explosion in legal publishing meant that library’s collections had once again outgrown their space, to the point where books were being shelved on (and under) the stairs.

The Inn considered building a new library on various sites, including the relatively small garden. This caused some concern to members and students, who petitioned the Inn against destroying the gardens. Luckily, by the time the architect, H.R. Abraham had completed his drawings, the Inn had purchased a parcel of land known as Essex Wharf, which was located on what was then the riverfront (i.e. prior to the building of the Victorian embankment). Construction began in 1851. It was built in the Gothic style, was 96 ft. long, 42 ft. wide, and 70 ft. high, with a timbered roof of American pitch-pine, which was treated with boiling oil; the floor was of Portland stone. It had a bay window giving a view over the Thames, and stained glass windows. It was completed in 1861, and officially opened by the Prince of Wales, who had been called to the Bar and made a Bencher just prior to the ceremony. It was situated at the present location of the Queen Elizabeth buildings, where its entrance stairway is still visible to this day.

The Victorian library was “damaged beyond repair” on December 8, 1940, a victim of Germany’s Blitz Campaign. The majority of books were removed to a country estate for safekeeping, but a small working library was maintained in the Common Room. Once the war (and more importantly the bombing) ended, a temporary library was built on the sites of Nos. 2 and 3 Brick Court and Essex Court, whose buildings had also been destroyed by bombing. This temporary library was opened on 21st November, 1946, by Her Majesty the Queen (later Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother).

The bombing of the Victorian library, although tragic, was not necessarily a great loss. By the early twentieth century the collections had once again outgrown their space, and the library was generally considered a dark and gloomy place to work. The new library, in contrast, designed by Sir Edward Maufe, the architect of Guildford Cathedral, was light, airy, and had ample space for growth. This is best evidenced by the fact that both the basement and loft were converted and expanded in the early

twenty-first century to house more books and archives. In addition, Sir Edward deliberately designed the building to withstand potential future enemy action.

Although now primarily a legal library for members of the Inns of Court, Middle Temple library is also an important resource of early printed books, both English and Continental. Ashley's original bequest comprised more than three thousand titles, and covered a wide range of subject matter. It is particularly rich in the sciences, early exploration, witchcraft, and theology. It also holds the largest proportion of John Donne's personal library. Since 1641, the collection has been greatly increased, most significantly, of course, in early legal printing, but also in a wide range of complementary subject matters. I have been working at Middle Temple since 2006, and part of my mandate has been to make these collections more useful to researchers. This is a difficult task, first because it is a private library, and secondly because few researchers realise that we have such a rich collection of early printing, with particularly strong holdings in Continental printing. In fact, we often have copies of obscure works not available elsewhere in the UK. Examples of this include: *Instruction du devoir de preseeverence en la persecution a ceux qui sont tombez* (1573), or *Vier Rathschlag von dem pestilentizischen Fieber*, by Michael Schirnhag (1606). Although all of the books and manuscripts are catalogued in the online catalogue, they are not linked to any union catalogues. It remains to be seen how we can make these important collections useful to outside researchers, or whether the collection will remained untouched, and thus better preserved for future generations.

If any members of LIHG would like to visit the exhibition and the library, please contact me for arrangements:

Renae Satterley, Rare Books Librarian, Middle Temple Library, Middle Temple Lane, London, EC4Y 9BT.

Tel.: 020 7427 4830

Email: r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk

IFLA Library History Section

Survey of the Archival Holdings and Policies of the World's Library Associations

August 2008

Alistair Black

Chair, Library History Section, 2003-7

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Libraries are in essence 'history institutions', preserving and making accessible the knowledge and written culture of the past, which is instantly and perpetually created by the flow of time.

Consequently, more than many professions, the library (and information) profession has a keen awareness of the importance of the past and of the need to study it, not least in terms of excavating and preserving its own history.

Yet too little attention has been paid to the *means* of studying the profession's history, an activity which is founded on the research of primary historical sources – that is to say, sources created during the period that a historian is studying.

Sources relating to the history of libraries and librarianship are manifold. One of the most important is the archives of the national library association. But to what extent do library associations around the world retain records, in the form of archival collections, of their activities? If collections are preserved, what are the physical arrangements for doing so, who manages them, are they controlled by a written policy and what is the level of accessibility to them?

To answer these various questions, in 2005 IFLA's Library History Section began a study of the archival holding and policies of the world's library associations. With the help of a small grant from IFLA's Professional Committee, a research assistant, under the direction of Alistair Black, the Section's Chair, was appointed. The assistant was attached to Leeds Metropolitan University's School of Information Management, the Chair's 'home' institution.

In February and March 2005 an analysis was conducted of the websites of all the world's library associations. Surprisingly, the subject of the association's archives had an obvious presence on only two websites: those of the Australian Library Association and the American Library Association.

In July 2005 a questionnaire (printed in Appendix below), in English, was sent to all national library associations (defined for the purpose of this study as the institution in a country with prime responsibility for the professional accreditation and representation of librarians); and, in addition, to the Special Libraries Association (USA). The archives of IFLA itself did not form part of the investigation. Just 10 replies to the questionnaire were received, these being from:

- Icelandic Library and Information Association
- Association of Library and Information Association of the Czech Republic
- Special Libraries Association (USA)
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (UK)
- Malta Library and Information Association
- Indonesian Library Association
- Polish Librarians Association
- Swiss Libraries and Librarians Organisation
- American Library Association
- Australian Library and Information Association

The Library History Section is grateful for the time given by the respondents in these institutions.

The following findings in this preliminary report are based on the 10 replies received.

2.0 FINDINGS

2.1 Existence and Nature

All associations reported that they retained archival holdings relating to their history, dating from the inception of the association. Holdings included the papers of various internal bodies, reports, newsletters and correspondence; annual reports, news releases, financial records and personal papers; as well as membership lists and diploma/chartership dissertations. Some associations considered public-domain organs such as association magazines, journals and year books to form part of their archive. Some associations held archives relating to the

history of other organizations – for example, the papers of the Council of National Library and Information Associations 1941-1995, held by the SLA. Generally, the responsibility for archiving the records of special interest groups, branches, chapters and divisions attached to associations was not seen to be the responsibility of associations. However, the Australian Library and Information Association reported that: ‘Groups will negotiate with State/territory repositories to deposit agreements for their archival records. Divisional archival records should be sent to the State/Territory archival repository when no longer needed for administration. It is preferred that records are sent in batches every two to three years.’ In the UK, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals does not keep the archives of its branches or special interest groups. However, as a pilot study, it has recently taken deposit of the archives of the Library and Information History Group, one of its oldest special interest groups.

2.2 Location

Six associations kept their archives in-house. Four associations out-housed most of their archives (current records and semi-current records being kept, naturally, in-house). The associations that out-house material are (with the ‘deposit’ institution given in brackets):

- Icelandic Library and Information Association
(deposited with National and University Library, Reykjavik)
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, UK
(deposited with University College London)
- American Library Association
(deposited with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
- Australian Library and Information Association (deposited with National Library of Australia; and various state archival repositories)

2.3 Finding Aids

Seven associations said that they had created finding aids and lists for their archival collections. However, one of these reported that its list was in draft form as the collection was in the process of being organized; while another said that its list was not available to the public.

2.4 Access

Seven associations reported that their holdings were, in appropriate circumstances, accessible to individuals other than those employed by the Association. Two associations denied access to the public, and in another association conditions of access were unclear from the reply given.

2.5 Management

Nine associations reported that a specific person (or body) was responsible for managing the archives. However, none employed an archivist directly. The four associations that out-housed material employed an archivist effectively indirectly.

2.6 Electronic Records

Four associations reported no arrangements for archiving electronic documents, although one of these made print-outs of significant documents to add to paper files. The remaining six associations did have such arrangements in place but in some instances these appear not to go beyond the type of 'ordinary' digital archiving that individuals and departments carry out in the normal course of events. One association reported that: 'At present [in regard to electronic records] different departments make different arrangements. There is no overall strategy.'

2.7 Policies

Four associations said that they had no written archives policy and one of these saw 'no need to make a detailed written policy'. In replies from two associations it was unclear if a written policy existed. Four associations reported that they had a written policy, but of these one was in draft form, one was under review and one was in the form of guidelines. Written policies included instructions and advice for special interest groups, chapters and divisions within associations.

3.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Notwithstanding the fact that the issuing of the questionnaire to national associations in English reduced the rate of reply, the response was disappointing. Arguably, this reflects the low priority given by associations to their archives and, it follows, to their heritage.

Yet, for a number of reasons, archives are crucial instruments for management in associations. Semi-current records (such as financial documents) may need to be retained for legal reason. Records of a more historic nature also have value, as a means of, for example:

- Marketing the profession and its association
- Celebrating the anniversaries of important past professional events and landmarks
- Illuminating policy formulation
- Exploring professional identity
- Reminding negotiators of past encounters with other bodies, including government

Associations need to take meaningful responsibility for their archival holdings. Meaningful responsibility means:

1. Appropriate arrangements for storage and preservation
2. Systematic organization, including listing, of material
3. Creating good accessibility
4. Ensuring, through the formulation and implementation of an archives policy, that the collection is replenished for future use

It is recommended that associations take note of best practice, which is especially in evidence in those institutions that out-house material (see 2.2).

Appendix: Letter and questionnaire distributed to Library Associations worldwide

On behalf of IFLA

Survey of the Archival Holdings and Policies of the World's Library and Information Associations

The Library History Section of IFLA is conducting a survey concerning the archives and archival policies of the world's library and information associations. (The word 'archives' is used here in the sense of the past internal records of the work of an association. These records may include the records of special groups in the association.)

The retention of records by associations is of interest, of course, to those who research the history of library and information services and

professionalism. Retention may also be important in terms of the general management and marketing of associations, as well as the meeting of certain legal requirements to archive records over the short and medium terms.

The survey aims to establish the extent to which associations have retained archives and how they intend to deal with ‘current’ and ‘recent’ material that may require archiving in the future. The survey also aims to discover the level of access that associations give to their archival collections – that is to say, if, and how, archives are organised, listed and made available to researchers who are not employed by the association. Some associations may have directly addressed these issues in an archive policy document or in the allocation of a responsibility for archives in their administrative structures.

The results of the survey will be communicated to IFLA in the form of a report and in a paper to be presented to a forthcoming IFLA World Congress as well as to the IFLA Journal. The report will be made available on ‘IFLA-net’.

If you could spare a small amount of time to answer the questions attached, I would be very grateful. The questions can be answered either in the spaces provided; or you may find it more convenient to prepare a document yourself, organised around the issues we are attempting to address. Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours Sincerely,
Alistair Black

Chair of the Library History Section (IFLA)
Professor of Library and Information History, Leeds Metropolitan
University
School of Information Management
Leeds Metropolitan University
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS6 3QS
United Kingdom
(a.black@leedsmet.ac.uk)

Questionnaire

1. Does your organisation have archives relating to its history? Please indicate broadly the nature of these archives. What years do they cover?
2. Does your organisation have archives relating to the history of other organisations? Please indicate broadly the nature of these archives. What years do they cover?
3. Where are your archives kept? Are they kept 'in-house' or are they 'out-housed/out-sourced'?
4. Is there a finding aid, or listing, for the archives? *(If there is a finding aid, or listing, would you be able to supply a copy? If the finding aid, or listing, is online, please supply the web address)*

5. Are your archives available to researchers other than those employed by your association?

6. What are the administrative arrangements for managing the archives? Is there an archives committee? Is there a person with responsibility for managing the archives? Do you employ an archivist?

7. What arrangements are in place for the management of the current records of the association?

8. What, if any, are your arrangements for archiving electronic documents generated in your organisation?

9. Do you have a written archives policy? *(If you do have a written policy would you be able to supply a copy?)*

Please return the questionnaire to: Professor Alistair Black, School of Information Management, Leeds Metropolitan University, Leeds, LS6 3QS, United Kingdom.

Or email your answers and statements to: a.black@leedsmet.ac.uk

Dunedin Public Library Centenary Exhibition 2008

2008 is the centennial year of the Dunedin Public Library. The establishment of a public library in Dunedin was not quickly accepted by the City Fathers, with library supporters losing out in 1901 to those supporting a statue of Queen Victoria as a suitable memorial to the late monarch. The Dunedin Public Library Association, however, succeeded three years later (thanks in large part to a donation of 10,000 pounds by Andrew Carnegie) and the Dunedin Public Library opened its doors to an eager public in December 1908.

The latest Reed Gallery exhibition 'How We Began: the First Six Years of the Dunedin Public Library' commemorates the Library's rapid development from December 1908 to the generous donation in 1914 by Dr Robert McNab, an historian and MP who presented the Library with a collection of over 4,000 books on New Zealand and European exploration of the Pacific. Today the McNab Collection numbers more than 100,000 items. Between 1908 and 1914, the Library also saw the establishment of both a children's reading room and lending collection in 1910 and an adult lending collection the following year.

The majority of books on display are the very copies consulted and borrowed during those early years. The highlight from the reference collection is the first item purchased by the Library - a very fitting four-volume edition of the poetry of Robert Burns, still proudly displaying its accession number (No. 1) on the front pastedown. A signed first edition of 'Maoriland Fairy Tales' by Edith Howes (1913), the first significant children's author in New Zealand, is the centrepiece from the children's collection. Among the books from Dr McNab's donation are: the first published grammar of the Maori language (1820), a first edition of Walter Buller's 'Birds of New Zealand', which includes over thirty stunning hand-coloured lithographic plates, and accounts of New Zealand from the early 1800s to 1840s. The archival material on exhibit includes ephemera dating to 1891 when debates over whether or not to establish a public library in Dunedin were being carried out in the Town Hall.

The exhibition runs until 31 December, and is part of the Library's centenary events. Do stop by and join in the celebrations if visiting during the holiday season. Please contact me with any questions, or if an item list is desired.

Anthony Tedeschi
Rare Books Librarian
Heritage Collections, Dunedin Public Libraries Dunedin City Council

230 Moray Place, Dunedin; PO Box 5542, Moray Place, Dunedin 9058,
New Zealand

Telephone: 03 474 3690; Fax: 03 474 3660

Email: anthony.tedeschi@dcc.govt.nz; www.dunedinlibraries.com

LIBRARY HISTORY

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 2 JUNE 2008

Special Issue

Making Connections Between Library, Book, Reading and Information History: Proceedings of the Conference on Hosted by Innovation North, Faculty of Information and Technology, Leeds Metropolitan University, UK, 7-8 June 2007

Part 1

Edited by Alistair Black and Ah-Lian Kor

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SEMINAR ON THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES

A series of research seminars, which are freely open for anyone to attend, has been organized at the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Venue: Senate House, Malet St., London WC1E 7HU.

Meetings will take place on Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m. in Room NG 16, located off the main ground floor corridor of Senate House North Block.

Seminar convenors: Giles Mandelbrote (Early Printed Collections, The British Library, London); Dr. Keith A. Manley (Institute of Historical Research, University of London).

AUTUMN TERM 2008

October 7 Dr. *John Screen* (University College, London): From Helsinki to Irkutsk: Finnish military libraries from 1812 to 1918.

November 4 Professor *Alistair Black* (Leeds Metropolitan University) and Professor *Simon Pepper* (University of Liverpool): Buildings, books, and social engineering: the architecture of early public buildings in Britain.

November 25 Dr. *Keith A. Manley* (Institute of Historical Research): Love, blood, and teddy bears: twopenny libraries, parliament, and the law of retail trade in the 1930s.

NB No teddy bears will be harmed during the course of this lecture

SPRING TERM 2009

February 3 *Alison Walker* (British Library): Re-creating Sir Hans Sloane's library.

March 10 Prof. *David McKitterick* (Trinity College, Cambridge): Waste management or selling the family silver?: libraries and the second-hand book trade since the 16th century.

Further seminars will take place on **Tuesdays March 31, May 5, and June 2 2009**. Details will be available soon.

Information concerning the Institute of English Studies may be found on its website, or email ies@sas.ac.uk.

This series of seminars is financially supported by the Library & Information History Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

Forthcoming Events

15th October 2008, 5.30-8pm

Sloane Printed Books Project Launch

British Library Conference Centre, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

The British Library in association with the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL announces the launch of the Sloane Printed Books Project

The Sloane Printed Books Project has created an online catalogue which lists books which belonged to Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753), whose collections were one of the foundation collections of the British Museum. Bibliographical records are enhanced with Sloane's own numbers or other identifying marks, and with information about previous owners. The catalogue can be used in many different ways, including identifying individual books from his library, displaying a range of items in the order in which Sloane organised them, or searching for the previous owners of books in Sloane's library.

Presentations on the historical background to Sloane's book collection will be followed by a demonstration of the online catalogue and an opportunity to search its content.

Programme:

17.30 Kristian Jensen (Acting Head of British Collections, British Library): Welcome and opening remarks

17.40 Professor Hal Cook (Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, UCL): Collecting information and advancing medicine in the time of Sir Hans Sloane

18.00 Arthur MacGregor (Ashmolean Museum): Sir Hans Sloane and the collection of knowledge

18.20 Giles Mandelbrote (Early Printed Collections, British Library): Sir Hans Sloane, founder of the British Museum Library

18.40 Alison Walker (Lead Researcher, Sloane Printed Books Project): An Introduction to the Sloane Printed Books Catalogue

19.00 Questions and discussion

19.15 Drinks reception

Attendance is free but please register your name with Teresa Harrington at the British Library teresa.harrington@bl.uk

11th-12th November 2008

Minding the Gap: Information Exchange and Tracing Provenance in Early Modern Europe

Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

The amount of information in the world – and its availability – increased vastly and continuously throughout the Early Modern period. As the mechanisms for its exchange improved, so did its variety and the opportunities for shaping and manipulating, as well as simply transmitting it. These exchanges can be traced at every magnification and in overlapping categories, ranging between governments, churches, trading companies, universities, scientific societies, families, friends, casual acquaintances and reputations, operating across empires and within shires.

The Centre for Editing Lives and Letters at Queen Mary, University of London, will organise a two-day conference on these themes. Twenty-minute papers are sought from researchers with interests in the intellectual histories of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, and the exchanges that form, inform and reform them. Topics might include, but are by no means limited to:

- antiquarianism
- book collecting
- censorship
- correspondence networks
- data protection
- excise controls
- false provenances
- fictional exchanges
- gifts
- intelligence
- libraries
- loss in transmission
- mapmaking
- the market
- material culture
- museums

- public and private spheres of exchange
- scientific cliques and correspondence
- technologies of exchange and the exchange of technologies.

Please send titles of proposed papers, together with abstracts of about 250 words, to: Noah Moxham: n.j.moxham@qmul.ac.uk and/or Tom Parkinson: t.m.parkinson@qmul.ac.uk

20th November 2008, 6-8pm

Grand Re-opening of the Reading Room

St Bride's Printing Historical Library

St Bride Library, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London

Following the relocation and refurbishment of the Library Reading Room an evening reception, hosted by St Bride Foundation on the eve of the Library's 113th anniversary, will be held to thank all funders, supporters, friends and benefactors who have helped achieve this milestone in the Library's history.

23rd-25th January 2009

Reading and the Age of Gladstone

St Deiniol's Library, Flintshire, North Wales

Several recent and ongoing projects have sought to provide new histories of the book and examine the role and position of readers within that history. This conference not only aims to explore the issues that surround reading in the period c1830-1901, it also seeks to explore the ways in which the Victorian period is read today.

Increased literacy, unprecedented developments in publishing, the widespread availability of texts through periodicals and a new library culture: all mark out the nineteenth century as one of the most active in terms of the 'reading experience'. But how did readers of the time set about their task, and how should the modern critic or teacher set about theirs? What engagement did readers in the period have with the whole machinery of producing and disseminating books, with publishing houses, with libraries, with periodicals, and how do such material considerations affect our reading of the Victorians today? What did the act of reading mean for them - and what does it mean for us?

Possible themes might include, but are not limited to:

- the Victorians and book collections, libraries, literary institutions
- the Victorian periodical

- nineteenth century bibliomania
- mass literacy
- readers at the margins, or annotators of books
- readers as editors - collation of scrapbooks/manuscript volumes
- public readings
- the publishing of Victorian literature and criticism today
- circulating libraries and the public libraries
- writers writing about reading
- book clubs/associations/exchanges between readers
- 'proper' reading/censorship of texts
- reading the Victorians in the university environment, and outside it
- how to record acts of reading - the use and suitability of new technologies in research on the history of reading/readers

Confirmed speakers for the conference include David Bebbington, Philip Davis, Simon Eliot, and Kate Flint.

The conference will take place at St Deiniol's Library, which was founded by the Victorian statesman and polymath William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898). The Library is the National Memorial to Gladstone and is both the only residential library and purpose-built prime ministerial library in the United Kingdom.

Part of the programme will consist of the official launch of the Gladstone's Reading Database. The research for this project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (2006-09), has been conducted at St Deiniol's, and the database represents a virtual recreation of Gladstone's library, and a unique and comprehensive record of his reading of each item. For further details about the database, please contact m.d.bradley@liverpool.ac.uk.

March 2009 (exact date tbc)

CILIP Library and Information History Group one day conference

7 Ridgmount Street, London

Proposals for 20 minute papers are invited on any topic of library or information history for the Group's annual one day conference.

Accepted papers may be considered for publication in the Group's peer-reviewed journal, Library and Information History (formerly Library History).

Proposals welcomed from all chronological periods and from scholars at all stages in their careers.

Abstracts of no more than 150 words should be sent to Dr Toni Weller at toni.weller.1@city.ac.uk by 1st November 2008.

14th-15th July 2009 CILIP Umbrella, Hatfield

LIHG Newsletter Copy Dates 2008

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