

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 chairman

CILIP Council met on Thursday 7th December for what was undoubtedly its most important meeting since CILIP was created in 2002. There were three main agenda items:

- The report of the Governance Review Task Force
- The report of the New Business Model Working Group
- The estimates for 2007 which were essentially a product of the New Business Model

Governance Review Task Force

The Governance Review Task Force was appointed earlier in the year to review the current large and unwieldy council structure and propose a completely new governance model. It was chaired by Derek Law, Head of the Information Resources Directorate and University Librarian at Strathclyde University.

The three main recommendations were:

- A Council of 12 nationally elected members
- A Policy Forum of about 40 members representing Branches, Groups and the Home Nations
- A new (largely ceremonial) role for the President

Other recommendations included:

- The abolition of the present structure of committees including the Executive Board
- The appointment of short term 'Task and Finish' Groups by Council
- The appointment of 4 panels – Audit; Disciplinary; Elections; Ethics
- Council may appoint Boards with mainly administrative functions

The aims of the report were to achieve a simple, democratic and accountable management structure with activities being devolved to Branches and Groups where possible.

After a lengthy debate the report was unanimously approved. I was happy to support it as it followed LIHG's evidence and should create a simpler more democratic structure. An interesting provision is that the

membership opt in principle should be extended to Branches and membership of branches will no longer be automatic.

The report of the New Business Model Working Group

The essential aim of this Group is to achieve a balanced budget and bring CILIP into surplus, something not achieved for several years. Many of the recommendations are not new; having been surfacing in Council papers for some time and again, after lengthy debate, the report was unanimously accepted.

The main point, from our point of view, is the reduction of capitation for Branches and Groups by 50% which for us in 2007 will mean a reduction of about £3000 to about £1500. Although this recommendation was for 2007 only, it is unlikely that capitation will ever be restored to its current levels. The Estimates reflect the New Business Model Working Group recommendations.

An important theme in both reports is the emphasis on advocacy and the role of Branches and Groups in specialised areas. This is an area where we should be doing more as two incidents this year have shown: the impending closure of the BM Reading Room to house an exhibition and the closure of the Scottish Museum of Leadmining at Wanlockhead whose collections include Wanlockhead Miners' Library.

The implications of the report of the New Business Model Working Group

Kathryn McKee, LIHG treasurer, has kindly prepared a report on our financial position covering 2004-6 and a financial projection for 2007 and 2008. This proposes a deficit for 2007 of £2050 and a deficit for 2008 of £550.

While we have reserves of £6000 the experience of our parent body is that we cannot live off reserves. If projected trends continue LIHG will become insolvent and cease to exist early in the next decade. The experience of the parent body, CILIP, also is that putting off difficult decisions only makes things worse.

Every management course I have been on says you should always be guided by your aims and objectives. Ours are very clear.

Aims of the Group:

- to act as the historical conscience of the profession in Britain
- to raise awareness of the importance of library and information history both in the UK and abroad
- to promote activities – conferences, regional meetings etc. in support of objectives 1 and 2
- to communicate research and publication in library and information history

Perhaps to these we should be adding advocacy on behalf of historic library collections and physical spaces.

Clearly we have to make economies. Our two biggest areas of expenditure are committee meetings and the newsletter. Committee meetings which are held three times a year are our means of meeting members around the country. LIHG members are welcome to attend committee meetings as observers and the visits to historic libraries are increasingly well attended, thanks to vigorous publicity by our secretary. Although we transact as much committee business as we can electronically, face to face meetings are essential .

The newsletter is our biggest item of expenditure. It costs over £2000 a year. I think the time has come to make the newsletter a largely web based product, appearing on our website. I know all the arguments against – it gives the members a physical service product and it is the unique service which members receive. I have made these points many times in the past myself but if we make the newsletter web only it will allow us to maintain our existing levels of activity and continue to meet our objectives. Currently we are spending money we can't afford subsidising the Post Office which is not one of our objectives.

About five years ago I did a membership survey which showed that most members (about 85% of respondents) would be happy to receive the newsletter electronically. Of course the few people without access to a computer would receive mailed printout copies. I think that the web based newsletter will have to be generally available to all, but I will investigate with CILIP whether it is possible to restrict it to the passworded section of the website. Ideally it should be e-mail based, but CILIP only has about half of the members' email addresses so far.

I hope that members will still continue to support LIHG although the newsletter will become a virtual product. Although we are one of CILIP's smaller groups we are still one of the largest groupings of our kind in the world. We punch well above our weight and I hope we can continue to do so.

Address alert

To help us to make a decision and plan for a possible electronic newsletter could all members who would not be able to access a possible electronic newsletter please contact our secretary as below indicating that they will require a posted, paper copy of the newsletter.

Ms Anna Jones,
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E-mail: ahr23@cam.ac.uk

If we go for the electronic newsletter option we will try to issue email alerts when it appears via electronic discussion lists and if possible using CILIP held email addresses. If you have not already supplied your email address to CILIP it would be a good idea to do so.

Informal name for LIHG

The request for suggestions in the last newsletter for an informal name for LIHG has produced only one suggestion so far: **Aestil**. I am told by the person who suggested it that this is the Anglo Saxon name for the 'Alfred Jewel' which I am sure many of you have seen in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. It may have been part of a writing instrument, rather than a brooch or a clasp and therefore points the way to books libraries and reading. Having seen it myself I know that it is certainly is a beautiful object.

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Library and Information History Group

Analysis of financial situation as of 31 December 2006, with projections for next two financial years under new funding model.

This is an updated version of a paper which was circulated to the LIHG committee in early December, following confirmation that CILIP would be halving Group capitation from 2007. There follows a summary of income and expenditure for the last three years with my best guess at projections for 2007 and 2008. All figures are based on the assumption that capitation income will be halved, but that other factors will remain steady.

INCOME

	2004	2005	2006	2007 (est.)	2008 (est.)
Capitation	3,172.00	3,096.00	3,033.00	1,516.00	1,516.00
Conferences	712.00	42.56	1,042.83	0.00	500.00
Sales of books	0.00	10.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
Royalties & editorial expenses	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,309.20	2,300.00	2,300.00
Membership subscriptions	42.55	8.51	34.04	34.04	34.04
VAT	401.20	442.99	473.23	450.00	450.00
Bank interest	6.89	7.79	4.66	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	6,584.64	5,857.85	6,911.96	4,300.04	4,800.04

Notes:

Income from Umbrella is distributed in the year following the conference. In 2003 and 2005 the Group ran 3 sessions for which we received just over £700 in 2004 and 2006. We will have 2 sessions in 2007, so I have estimated an income of £500 for 2008.

We have 4 non-CILIP members, each paying a subscription of £10 inc. VAT.

The Group's bank account ceased to pay interest from mid-2006.

EXPENDITURE

	2004	2005	2006	2007 (est.)	2008 (est.)
Committee	1401.71	1838.90	1325.09	1500.00	1500.00
Conferences	106.13	106.06	724.36	500.00	250.00
Stationery/Admin	0.00	12.40	96.67	100.00	100.00

Newsletter	2069.02	1754.09	2203.59	2100.00	2100.00
Fees/Honoraria	250.00	100.00	215.00	250.00	250.00
VAT	1274.96	448.10	444.02	450.00	450.00
Misc	818.58	392.09	243.33	700.00	700.00
Research projects	0.00	750.00	0.00	750.00	0.00
TOTAL	5920.40	5401.64	5252.06	6350.00	5350.00

Notes:

- The Group has already committed £500 to support a conference at Leeds Metropolitan University in 2007.
- I have assumed that we will wish to hold an event of some sort in 2008, but that expenditure will be very modest, and/or sponsorship sought.
- The VAT figure for 2004 included back payments for 2002-3. It's usually about £450 a year.
- Miscellaneous includes up to £500 for Ollé award, assuming that the award is made in 2007 & 2008. No award was made in 2005 or 2006, though smaller conference bursaries were given to students.
- In 2005 the Group made £750 available for the Munford Project, earmarking a further £750 subject to satisfactory progress. Even if this project is not supported further, it is likely that the Group will wish to support some form of research activity to this sort of level in 2007 or 2008.

SUMMARY

	2004	2005	2006	2007 (est.)	2008 (est.)
Income	6584.64	5857.85	6911.96	4300.00	4800.00
Expenditure	5920.40	5401.64	5252.06	6350.00	5350.00
Profit/deficit for year	664.24	456.21	1659.90	-2050.00	-550.00

The projected deficit for 2007 is a little daunting. However, we have been increasing our reserves steadily over recent years, and can cover this level of loss for the first year under the new regime. The estimated deficits in 2007 and 2008 are more than balanced by the profits in the previous three years. If these projections are reasonably accurate, then at the end of 2008 the Group will have about £200 more than we had at the start of 2004.

We have maintained a balance of £6000 or more in the bank for the past two years.

2008 shows a much smaller deficit than 2007, as there is no research funding going out (£750 in 2007) and we should have some income from Umbrella 2007. It is worth noting that we don't know to what extent any profits from Umbrella will continue to be distributed to the Groups in future years (or indeed if Umbrella will make a profit). If this source of funding were not forthcoming, the deficit in 2008 would increase to £1000+.

Things we need to consider:

- We do have reserves, and I don't think we need to panic during the transition period. It's going to take at least a couple of years for the full implications of the changes to take effect and for membership levels to settle under the new regime, particularly once branches are included in members' two free 'groups' from 2008.
- However, if we continue to maintain the current level of expenditure, without significantly increasing our income, we could consistently run at a loss of £500-1000 per annum.
- Even with reserves of over £6000 the Group cannot realistically maintain its current level of activity for more than about 8 years without making some major changes to the way it does things.
- We need to formulate a sustainable financial strategy within the next 2-3 years and within five years to have reorganised our income and expenditure so that the annual accounts consistently break even or even show a small profit.

Potential sources of income:

- Running events to make a profit (this is not easy to achieve).
- Wherever possible obtaining sponsorship for events.
- Seeking sponsorship for the Ollé award (assuming it continues).
- Improving our profile within CILIP to attract more members and so increase capitation.
- Marketing membership of the Group to non-CILIP members.

Decreasing expenditure:

This is much harder to achieve whilst still fulfilling all the objectives of the Group. Expenditure falls into three broad areas:

Education/Research/promotion of library history: Currently we promote library history through activities such as support for research projects, the Ollé scholarship, and holding conferences. Bursaries encourage an interest in library history from students and new entrants to the

profession. We may want to be more rigorous in ensuring visible outcomes (publications etc) from such expenditure, and could possibly make awards less frequently, but it's hard to see how we could reduce costs while continuing to fulfil core objectives.

Meetings: Our strategy of holding meetings around the country can mean high committee travel expenses, but it encourages regional membership involvement and promotes library history to the local community, particularly if we can collaborate with groups such as the Friends of Norwich Cathedral to organise talks and events. The dispersed location of current committee members makes some high travel costs inevitable wherever meetings are held, so I'm not sure that there are savings to be made here.

Newsletter: The newsletter is the most expensive thing we do, but is also a key benefit of membership. If we were to switch to electronic distribution, removing printing and postage costs, this alone would put the Group back on a sound financial footing, more than making up for the loss of capitation, but we would need to ensure that any such action did not alienate members and that all who wished to read the newsletter could continue to do so easily. Maintaining membership levels is crucial to the long-term viability of the Group. If we wish to continue to support other core activities, we may have to consider newsletter options seriously, in consultation with members, in the not too distant future.

Kathryn McKee
Hon. Treasurer, LIHG
January 2007

LIHG Committee Meetings 2006-2007

Spring Meeting

Wednesday 21st March 2007

Committee Meeting at Norwich Cathedral Library, followed by public talk at The Library Restaurant, 1A Guildhall Hill, Norwich

12 noon Committee Meeting at Norwich Cathedral Library observers welcome, but please contact Hon. Secretary by Friday 9th March if you wish to attend).

3.00pm ‘The Old World and the New: Norwich Subscription Library and the Provincial Establishment’

Talk by Dr Clive Wilkins-Jones, of the Norwich Heritage Centre, on the history of Norwich Subscription Library. By special arrangement this event will take place in the subscription library building at 1A Guildhall Hill, Norwich, recently opened as a restaurant. This event is open to all, and we are keen to attract a good audience.

Please contact Anna Jones, Hon. Secretary (ahr23@cam.ac.uk) for further details.

4.00pm Close (approx.)

Norwich is well served by rail links from London, and from the north via Peterborough. The Library Restaurant is situated in the city centre, approx. 10-15 minutes’ walk from the cathedral. Further information about the venues is available from the Secretary.

Summer Meeting & AGM

Friday 29th June 2007

Umbrella 2007 – De Havilland Campus, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield.

(<http://www.umbrella2007.org.uk/>)

The LIHG will be hosting 2 sessions during the morning of Friday 29th June (precise times have yet to be published):

- Alistair Black on the history of Knowledge Management

- Geoffrey Forster on Joseph Priestly and the early public library movement.

The Group AGM will be held at **1.00pm** on the same day, followed by a committee meeting at **1.30pm**.

At **4.00pm** the LIHG will co-chair with the Government Libraries Group a session on copyright, by Graham Cornish.

We are particularly pleased that all LIHG events are to be accommodated on one day, and would urge as many Group members as possible to support the sessions.

For further information about Umbrella 2007, please visit the dedicated CILIP website (<http://www.umbrella2007.org.uk>), where the full programme will be published in due course. For further information about the LIHG events, please contact Anna Jones, Hon. Secretary (ahr23@cam.ac.uk).

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn meeting will be held in London in November. A venue is currently being negotiated. Further information will be provided in the summer issue of the *Newsletter*, and on the Group's website: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/history>

Forthcoming Events



Making Connections Between Library, Book, Reading and Information History

Hosted by

Innovation North: Faculty of Information & Technology
Thursday 7th and Friday 8th June 2007

A Conference Organised by the Information History Group, Leeds Metropolitan University, in association with the Library and Information History Group of the UK's Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) and HIBOLIRE (The Nordic-Baltic-Russian Network on the History of Books, Libraries and Reading).

Scholars researching in the history of print culture, communication and knowledge organisation often confine themselves to niche colleges of scholarship within what is a broad, developing and, it might be argued, increasingly integrated area within the humanities. This conference aims to bring scholars from these distinct yet overlapping colleges together to exchange ideas and explore synergies. The conference is especially aimed at those researching in a UK, Nordic, Baltic or Russian context.

Papers will be considered, if offered by speakers, for publication in the international journal *Library History*, edited by the chief conference organiser Alistair Black.

Professor Alistair Black (a.black@leedsmet.ac.uk)

Conference fee: £20. (Concessions: please apply).

12th-14th April 2007

Censorship, Persecution and Resistance in Marian England

Newnham College, Cambridge

The Stationers' Company charter was created in 1557. Nearly 450 years after the foundation of that charter, proposals are invited for papers (20 mins. in length) for a conference on censorship, persecution & resistance in Marian England.

Papers on the book trade, the Marian regime, martyrdom, and religious/political control or resistance during Mary's reign are particularly welcome.

For further information contact: Dr Elizabeth Evenden, Newnham College, Cambridge. CB3 9DF / ee236@cam.ac.uk

Edinburgh Bibliographical Society (2006-07)

Board Room, National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
Thursdays - 5.45pm. Tea is served from 5:15 p.m. All are welcome.

12th May 2007

(11.30am) Annual Visit: The Royal Observatory Library, Blackford Hill, Edinburgh - please tell the secretary if you wish to attend

For further details, please contact:
Warren McDougall
EBS Honorary Secretary
53 Ladysmith Road
Edinburgh, Scotland EH9 3EY
warrenmcdougall@aol.com

23rd-27th July 2007

London Rare Books School

Institute of English Studies, University of London

Courses on Offer for 2007

1. **The Medieval Book**
(Course Tutor: Professor Michelle Brown)
2. **The History of European Binding 1500-1800**
(Course Tutor: Professor Nicholas Pickwoad)

3. **A History of Writing 3000BC-1900AD**
(Organising Tutor: Alan Cole)
4. **The Italian Book to 1600**
(Course Tutor: Professor Jane Everson)
5. **The History of the Printed Book in Europe 1450-2000** (Course
Tutor: Professor John Feather)
6. **A History of Maps and Map Making**
(Principle Lecturers: Catherine Delano-Smith & Sarah Tyacke)

Each course will consist of ten two-hour seminars spread between Monday lunchtime and Thursday afternoon. There will be a full evening programme with an opening reception and talk, a major book history lecture given by a celebrated scholar, and a reception hosted by a major London antiquarian bookseller. For those able to stay on to the Friday there will be a guided visit to the libraries of Oxford.

http://ies.sas.ac.uk/cmeps/events/courses/LRBS/LRBS_courses.htm

24th-26th July 2007
University of Chester

The twenty-fourth annual *Print Networks* conference on the History of the British Book Trade will take place at the University of Chester on 24-26 July 2007. The theme for the conference is *Print culture in the provinces: the creation, distribution, and dissemination of word and image*. Provincial-metropolitan inter-trade connections will be acceptable or on aspects of trade relations with any part of the former colonies & dominions.

A selection of the papers will be published in July 2008 as part of the *Print Networks* series, published by the British Library and Oak Knoll Press. Papers should be of up to 30 minutes duration. An abstract of the offered paper and a brief CV, (no longer than one side of A4 in total) of the likely contents should be submitted by **28 February 2007** (extended deadline and final call for papers) to:

Dr Lisa Peters
Learning Resources
University of Chester
Parkgate Road
Chester CH1 4BJ
e-mail: l.peters@chester.ac.uk
<http://www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/PrintNetworks.htm>

19th-23rd August 2007

IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Durban, South Africa

IFLA Section on Library History open session: *The history of Libraries and Librarianship in Sub-Saharan Africa*

The open session, of 2 hours, will take place at some stage during this event. The date of the open session will be assigned in March 2007.

Contact: Professor Alistair Black, Chair of the Library History Section
a.black@leedsmet.ac.uk

1st-2nd September 2007

Beyond the Book: Contemporary Cultures of Reading

University of Birmingham, UK

This conference will explore the diverse formations, mediations, practices and representations of reading and readers in the contemporary moment. Cultures of reading are dynamic and complex: they involve not only readers reading, but also multiple agencies including publishers, booksellers, broadcast networks, national, regional and municipal governments, and educational institutions. The aim of the conference is to interrogate the relations among these agents and their investment in the meanings of reading. The study of readers and reading encourages, maybe demands, multi- and interdisciplinary analysis.

Beyond the Book is a three-year collaborative interdisciplinary AHRC-funded research project investigating contemporary cultures of reading. Find out more about our research at: www.beyondthebookproject.org

3rd November 2007

Books on the Battlefield: The Reception, Use, and Appropriation of Books in Warfare, 1450 to the Present Day

King's Manor, University of York, York

The relationship between books and war appears self-evident: books have acted as potent weapons in ideological warfare and war has provided literature with one of its most enduring themes. Yet the reception, use, and appropriation of texts in a military context has remained relatively unexplored. While the work of Paul Fussell, Samuel Hynes and others has raised important questions about the literary dimensions of soldiers' narratives, the ways in which combatants' reading shaped their experience and understanding of war deserve further examination.

We also need to consider texts targeted specifically at soldiers, from the pocket bibles and catechisms produced for the Parliamentary forces during the English Civil War to the vast range of literature published through the US armed services editions in the twentieth century. Papers which look beyond the Anglo-American experience of war will be particularly welcome.

Please send proposals of up to 500 words to Catriona Kennedy (calk100@york.ac.uk) and Helen Smith (hs25@york.ac.uk) by 30th April, 2007.

For further details and registration (£12/£17 for staff; £5/£10 for students/unwaged; free/£5 for members of the University of York) please visit the conference website at <http://www.york.ac.uk/conferences/battlefield2007/>

7th-8th July 2008

Collecting Revolution: The History and Importance of the Thomason Tracts

British Library & University College London, London

The pamphlet collection amassed by the London bookseller George Thomason is of unparalleled importance, and has helped to ensure that the civil wars and interregnum remain central to the study of British history. Nevertheless, this is generally reflected in scholarly exploitation of the tracts, rather than in critical analysis of them. This conference seeks to explore a variety of approaches to the Thomason collection, including the man and his milieu, his role as a publisher and bookseller, his aims and methods as a collector, the fate of his collection, and its significance to subsequent generations of scholars.

Contact: j.peacey@ucl.ac.uk