

# Library and Information History Group

## *Newsletter*

**Summer 2011**



The Strahov Library in Prague

{Image by Jeffrey Martin, [www.360cities.net](http://www.360cities.net)}

# **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

In my last message I reported the suspension of Group capitation income from CILIP. I considered saying that we'd been decapitated, but I'm not sure that the guillotine is the appropriate metaphor. We're certainly facing a period of radical upheaval, if not quite a revolution. In February a meeting was convened at Ridgmount Street for representatives from all parties to discuss the future operation of branches and groups, and it became clear that, while fully recognising the role that Groups fulfil and the importance which members attach to that role, CILIP cannot continue to sustain the current group and branch structure. The finance is not there, and, perhaps more crucially, the administrative support is not there. Groups have been challenged to look at new ways of working, specifically at merger and collaboration, and it has been made very clear that maintaining the status quo is simply not an option. The number of groups must be significantly reduced.

This poses questions for the future of library and information history within CILIP. I am absolutely committed to ensuring that library and information history has a future, and that whatever structure emerges, our area of interest retains a clear identity, and that the activities which our members value continue to be fully supported. Many of you completed our member survey just last year, so we can be confident that we know what our members want, and can justify action to defend key areas of interest. We are an unusual group. Library and information history covers all sectors, all types of library and information unit, and may appeal not just to all levels of library staff, but to academics and students outside the professional library and information world, and to members of the general public with an interest in history and their local community. The LIHG works collaboratively with various organisations beyond CILIP: the Historic Libraries Forum, the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, the Association of Independent Libraries, our German sister organisation at Wolfenbuttel. We need to continue to be able to operate in this wider sphere, to continue to attract those working in history and English departments in fields of intellectual and cultural history, to support seminar series with wide appeal, to publish our journal and newsletter, promote and support research, to run events in locations our members can reach and at a price they can afford.

We also need to be able to take advantage of better ways of working afforded by technology, and to this end will continue to press CILIP to provide an infrastructure that will allow us to operate more efficiently. The current situation in which electronic communication with our membership is limited to one text-only email on a fixed date each month beggars belief for a professional information organisation operating in 2011. We have to be able to communicate in a more timely and effective way. I hope that a new group structure may force CILIP to address this issue.

The committee is in active discussion regarding options for our future. We are talking to other groups about possible ways forward. We are not ruling out any options at this stage, including the possibility of creating a library and information history organisation independent of CILIP, though this would pose very significant challenges, not least in legal issues such as ownership of the journal. The implications of any change in our structure within or outwith CILIP will be investigated thoroughly before any decision is made. Any step that we take will have to be consultation with the membership at large. We will obviously keep members informed of developments via this newsletter and the lis-libhist list and the monthly

e-bulletin. I would very much like to hear members' views.

In the meantime the usual work of the Group goes on. By the time you read this our annual conference should have taken place at UCL, with an impressive line-up of speakers, including three international contributions. Reports of the conference will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

The Group is also participating in Umbrella in July, where we hope to attract an audience from the wider CILIP membership beyond our regular attendees. I will be co-presenting a session with my colleague Ryan Cronin on the educational outreach programme here at St John's College. We're going to asking why on earth a seventeenth century college library should invite groups of primary school children in, how we manage the practicalities, and what both we and they get out of it. It's surprising just how much library and information history our younger visitors absorb without even realising it. Kids enjoy visiting old libraries, are fascinated by old books, what they're made of, what's in them, who's read them. That, at least, is positive news for the future of our specialty whatever organisational challenges we may face.

Kathryn McKee

Hon. Chair LIHG

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### **LIHG COMMITTEE MEETINGS & MEMBERS EVENTS 2011**

- May 24 – 'Libraries under threat': LIHG conference [full details below]
- 20 June – Committee meeting, Newcastle City Library
- June 24 – Historical libraries in London walking tour [full details under 'announcements']
- September 14 – Member event, visit to Hurd Library - limit of 24 for this visit [contact Shauna Barrett, [s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk) for details]
- November 8 – Committee meeting, AGM & member event, to be held at CILIP, Charterhouse Suite - other details TBC

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Page 15 of the last issue (Spring 2011) should have read: "Karen Attar is the Head of Special Collections at Senate House Library." We do apologize for the error.

Please see the LIHG website for more information on all forthcoming events: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/history>. The website also includes online access to the group's newsletters, from 2004 to the present.

### **LIHG NEWSLETTER COPY DATES 2011/2012**

- Winter 2011: 17 September 2011
- Spring 2012: 20 January 2012

### **LIHG NEWSLETTER ISSUE DATES 2011/2012**

- Winter 2011: 26 September 2011
- Spring 2012: 03 February 2012

Copy should be sent to the new Newsletter Editor: Renae Satterley, Middle Temple Library, Middle Temple Lane, London, EC4Y 9BT [r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk). The Newsletter would specially benefit from receiving updates, exhibitions, articles, etc... from outside of London.

Reminder: you can receive monthly email bulletins from the LIHG with updates on events, news, and notification of when this newsletter appears on our website. Register on the CILIP website (<http://www.cilip.org.uk/pages/default.aspx>), and in the ebulletins section of your profile tick to receive news from CILIP.

## **SEMINARS ON THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES** **SUMMER 2011**

A series of research seminars, which are freely open for anyone to attend, has been organized by the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. The venue is Senate House, Malet St., London, WC1E 7HU.

Meetings will take place monthly during term-time on Tuesdays at 17.30. Most meetings will take place in Room G 37, Senate House, except for the one on 5 July; details are below.

Seminar convenors: Giles Mandelbrote (Librarian and Archivist, Lambeth Palace Library); Dr. Keith A. Manley (The National Trust/Institute of Historical Research); Professor Simon Eliot (Institute of English Studies); Professor Isabel Rivers (Queen Mary); Professor Henry Woudhuysen (University College).

The seminars are jointly sponsored by The Institute of English Studies, The Institute of Historical Research, and LIHG.

**June 14 2011:** Christine Penney (Hurd Librarian): *A Bishop and his books: the Hurd Library at Hartlebury Castle*

Richard Hurd (1720-1808) became Bishop of Worcester in 1781 and moved to Hartlebury Castle, where he built a magnificent room to hold his fine library, which includes books belonging to Alexander Pope and William Warburton. It is the finest surviving Georgian Episcopal library and the only one still on its original shelves in the room built for it.

**July 5 2011:** Professor James Carley (York University, Ontario): *"All casualties unto which all things in this mortal life are subject": the libraries of archbishops John Whitgift and Richard Bancroft*

**This lecture and visit will take place at Lambeth Palace Library.** A drinks reception will be held afterwards. Anyone wishing to attend should notify the convenor: [giles.mandelbrote@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:giles.mandelbrote@c-of-e.org.uk).

By the terms of his will Archbishop Richard Bancroft (d. 1610) left his personal collection of books, a goodly portion deriving from his predecessor John Whitgift, to form the basis of an archiepiscopal library at Lambeth. He was deeply concerned about the preservation of the library and set strict conditions for its maintenance. This paper will look briefly at the unpublished catalogues of the collections both of Whitgift and of Bancroft and compare these with the modern-day library at Lambeth Palace. To what degree has Bancroft's collection passed, as he desired, "unto my successor and to the archbishops of Canterbury for ever"?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**11 March 2011:** Volunteers required at the UCL Library. UCL Special Collections are looking for volunteers to help prepare for a temporary move to The National Archives in July. Volunteers are invited to help prepare the manuscripts, archives and rare printed collections for the temporary move to The National Archives, based in Kew, in July 2011. The collections date back over one thousand years, and cover a vast range of subject areas, including early printed books, Latin American business archives, the world-renowned George Orwell Archive and the Bentham manuscripts, in addition to a large and historic Judaica collection. People can volunteer Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm and they can choose a morning, an afternoon, a lunch hour or even a whole day. No previous experience is needed and staff from Special Collections will be on hand to provide training and guidance. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Frederick Bearman at [f.bearman@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:f.bearman@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 5161.

**Nov 2010:** St. Deiniol's Library has changed its name to Gladstone's Library, in order to honour their benefactor. Further information about the library is available at: <http://www.st-deiniols.com/library-collection/> .

**11 June 2011 (14:00 – 19:00):** Dissenting Academies Online launch. Dr Williams's Library, 14 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0AR. This event marks the public launch of Dissenting Academies Online, an innovative digital resource for the history of the dissenting academies and the first major outcome of the Dissenting Academies Project, a collaboration between the Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies and the Sussex Centre for Intellectual History. The resource is in two parts. Dissenting Academies Online: Database and Encyclopedia, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, contains details of academies, students, tutors, and archives, with accompanying articles; Dissenting Academies Online: Virtual Library System, funded by the AHRC/ESRC Religion & Society Programme, is a reconstruction of some of the key academy libraries and their loans. The project team will explain how the two parts have been created, and demonstrate what they can offer users. Attendance is free but advance registration is required. The programme, and booking details, is available on the Centre's website: [www.english.qmul.ac.uk/drwilliams/events/l2011.html](http://www.english.qmul.ac.uk/drwilliams/events/l2011.html).

**24 June 2011:** LIHG is organizing its first ever walking tour. The tour will start at Dr. Williams Library at 6 pm. The address is 14 Gordon Square, WC1H 0AR. The walk is being conducted by a professional Blue Badge guide, and will cost £10.00 per person. The tour is limited to 20 people. Contact Renae Satterley for further details: [r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk) ; Middle Temple Library, Middle Temple Lane, EC4Y 9BT.

**1 May 2011:** According to the Dictionary Society, Dr. Susan Rennie has discovered the manuscript materials for Boswell's Scottish dictionary in the Bodleian Library. Dr. Rennie has a blog which updates her research, and provides more information about this exciting discovery: <http://boswellian.com/>.

## LIBRARY & INFORMATION HISTORY GROUP CONFERENCE 2011

As the newsletter was issued after the conference was held, a conference report will appear in the next issue. The one day conference was on the theme of: *Libraries under threat* and was held at University College London on 24 May 2011. Speakers included:

- Professor Andrew Stauffer of the University of Virginia: The preservation of the printed book in libraries
- Professor Laurel Brake, Professor Emerita of Literature and Print Culture at Birkbeck: Historical newspapers and periodicals in British research libraries
- John Crawford: What the Edzell library tells us about contemporary ideologies of public library provision and the library's potential as a museum of librarianship
- Christine Penney: The threatened Hurd Library at Hartlebury Castle
- Dr Sue Reynolds of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology: How the rules of an Antipodean library's foundation in 1851 threaten its existence today
- Simon Barron: Paul Otlet's ill-fated Mundaneum
- Zdeněk Uhlíř of the National Library of the Czech Republic: How digitisation may allow the reconstruction of historic collections
- Karen Attar of Senate House Library: The University of London Library during the Second World War
- John Powles of the Giving Voice Workshops: Library campaign songs

## CALL FOR PAPERS: LIBRARY & INFORMATION HISTORY

The international, peer-reviewed journal, *Library & Information History*, invites papers for a special Canadian issue to be published in 2012. Submissions may cover any chronological period and may be on any aspect of library or information history, but must have a geographical focus on Canada. Articles should be analytical rather than simple chronological narrative and should be c. 7,000 words long, with endnotes, and should conform to MHRA style of referencing.

Journal information: <http://maney.co.uk/index.php/journals/lbh>

Style guide: <http://www.mhra.org.uk/Publications/Books/StyleGuide/download.shtml>

Submissions should be sent in Word by email attachment to Dr Fiona Black at [Fiona.Black@dal.ca](mailto:Fiona.Black@dal.ca) no later than 1 August 2011. Queries are welcome at any time.

Dr Toni Weller

Editor, *Library & Information History*

## WEB RESOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES & INFORMATION

- The image used on the newsletter's front cover is that of the Strahov Library in Prague, and was created from 3000 individual photos, which allows you to view portions of the library in greater detail: <http://www.360cities.net/gigapixel/strahov-library.html>
- The European Library Exhibitions site contains more than 300 images of the architecture of the great national libraries of Europe: <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/exhibition/buildings/index.html>

- The Library Museum (Bibliotekmuseet) in Borås Sweden has produced a film (available in English) which gives an overview of this non-profit museum dedicated to the history of libraries and librarianship: [www.bibliotekmuseet.se](http://www.bibliotekmuseet.se)
- The new online resource, 'Reading: Harvard Views of Readers, Readership, and Reading History' contains a useful section entitled 'Using Libraries'. It is free to use and available at: <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/reading/libraries.html>. The resource consists of digitized commonplace books, diaries, scrapbooks, memoirs, library records, and other documents from Harvard's vast collections, including catalogues of private libraries, accounts of library histories, library guides, and library charging records amongst other resources.
- 'A Place of Reading: Three centuries of reading in America' is an online exhibition published by the American Antiquarian Society in order to engage scholars in the study of the history of the book. The resource specifically highlights the locations where individuals performed the act of reading in America.  
<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/Exhibitions/Reading/introduction.htm>
- IFLA now have a 'history corner' on their website, which provides access to publications, documents and websites about the history of the federation: <http://www.ifla.org/en/history>
- The National Library of Finland has launched an 'e-programme' called Digitalkoot, which engages the general public in its digitization of Finland's historical documents and materials. It essentially consists of a series of online games, which allow users to check and verify texts. WARNING! The games are addictive! <http://www.digitalkoot.fi/en/splash>
- At the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Seminar on the History of Libraries, Professor David McKitterick (Trinity College, Cambridge) spoke on 'Libraries at risk'. He looked at a number of recent cases concerning historic collections in British libraries which have either been sold off, often without warning, or were/are at risk of dispersal. This talk is now available as a podcast on the website of the Institute of Historical Research at: [www.history.ac.uk/digital/podcasts](http://www.history.ac.uk/digital/podcasts)



## THE HAMLYN LIBRARY

News has recently arrived of yet another library at risk. The British Museum intends to close down its Hamlyn Library and dispose of the books. The librarian and her staff are facing redundancy. This educative and informative collection was originally

formed after the building of the Great Court as a publicly accessible reference library, shelved within the British Museum's Round Reading Room. The books were later moved into the refurbished Sanskrit Room, adjoining the Enlightenment Gallery, after the Round Reading Room was requisitioned for exhibitions. Though a library of recent date, the Hamlyn Library consists of 50,000 volumes relating particularly to the history of the British Museum's own collections, including every BM publication and all of its 18th and 19th century guides. The library has proved very popular with schoolchildren and teachers, as well as with other visitors. Many of the books belong to the Hamlyn Trust, and it is unclear what will happen to them. The library also comprises the rare, mainly 18th century, books currently on display in the Enlightenment Gallery, and which are actually on loan from the House of Commons Library. Their fate too is unknown, since it is unlikely that that library has room to take back the books. Once again, fresh doubt is cast on what plans the Museum might have for the future of the Round Reading Room. Thanks to Panizzi, the reading desks cannot be removed, since he inextricably joined them up to the cast-iron central heating system! Anyone wishing to protest should write to Neil MacGregor, the Director of the British Museum, forthwith. The address is: Neil MacGregor, OM, FSA, Director of the British Museum, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG.

K.A. Manley

LIHG representative on the Historic Libraries Forum

### **A LIBRARY IN THE COMMUNITY**

In response to the threat by Milton Keynes Council to close the local library at Stony Stratford over 16,000 books were removed from the shelves by more than 1000 members. The action was taken to gain publicity, to show the strength of feeling and to involve local people in a peaceful and sociable event. The outcome of our action has been a year's reprieve while Milton Keynes Council, Stony Stratford Town Council and the Friends of the library negotiate a future for the service in the town.

Buckinghamshire's library service was not started until 1918 unlike the centres of industry, population growth and historic importance, such as Norwich, Winchester, Bolton, Oxford and Manchester, which eagerly adopted the powers allowed by the 1850 Library Act. A library appeared in Stony Stratford in 1925 voluntarily run in the County Mixed School until 1951 and then with paid staff in the Parish Hall until 1959 when it moved into the old fire station. In 1975 a new building was opened on a site in the town centre.

By this time the building of Milton Keynes was underway following the designation of the new town in 1967 and the approval of the Master Plan in 1971. Libraries had specific mention in the plan. Paragraph 931 reads 'The purpose of a public library service is to provide books, periodicals, related material and information to meet public requirements; for recreational and general interest, private study and research for students at all levels; for continuing vocational and professional interests and for business and industry'. In paragraph 933 a central library is described but in paragraph 934 it was noted that it 'will not be sufficient to cater for the needs of the whole city'. Local libraries were to be sited in activity centres, the generic term for the location of local and district amenities, with secondary schools, with lending and reference services for adults and children and with facilities for exhibitions and

meetings of local societies.

Although the Master Plan was written with the involvement of the local authorities, whose statutory responsibilities remained in place, not one library was built in the new activity centres. Until the large and well-used library in the city centre opened in 1981 the library in Stony Stratford was the only new library building in Milton Keynes while the population had increased by 57,000. The problem facing Milton Keynes Council is that the distribution of libraries does not relate to the distribution of the population, now nearing 250,000. All the local libraries, except two small spaces in new district shopping centres, are in towns pre-existing Milton Keynes. Buckinghamshire County Council, with one of the highest rateable values in the country, failed to provide most of the non-mandatory civil amenities one expects in a large urban community. As an example Buckinghamshire in the seventies was the only English county not to be affiliated to its regional arts association and deprived Milton Keynes of a variety of grants for arts activities. The situation was rescued by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation which paid Milton Keynes Borough Council the cost of affiliating.

Since Milton Keynes Council became a unitary authority in 1997 it has continued to show the same lack of support for local libraries as the County Council. The reason may be the lack of finance to sustain the growth of Milton Keynes. It is questionable whether a unitary authority the size of Milton Keynes Council has either the income or the breadth of professional competence to develop the complex multitude of components needed in a city. The library service does not appear to have a professional librarian amongst the most senior staff of the relevant department. It fails to use the potential available in new buildings, like secondary schools, to provide compatible services to the wider community. The Council ignored the advice of its officers and chose to close one of the busiest libraries in Milton Keynes without being able to provide a rationale for its decision.

Our successful campaign has gained a year's grace to put in place a programme to develop the library and with the Town Council to cost it and to persuade Milton Keynes Council to contribute to it. The Town Council has precepted for a budget to run the building which Milton Keynes Council has indicated it is prepared to hand over. At this stage the Friends are organizing a questionnaire to members to discover how the library is used, the profile and habits of its current users, what additional uses people would welcome and what people are prepared to do themselves. We hope that a thousand people will fill in the questionnaire. At the same time we are carrying out research of good practise in libraries elsewhere. The next step is to involve people in decisions to provide and resource new activities. The existing staff of the library will be involved in this process. They already work hard and imaginatively in services for children and parents and support the Friends who put on a programme of talks and help the exhibition case to be fully used. The library staff have considered how the space in the building can be put to better use, for example room for more than an audience of sixty people, which is the fire regulation maximum at the moment, and quiet and sociable areas. If the Town Council owns the building then it will make the decisions on any re-organization of the space. Fortunately the Town Council and the Friends enjoy a constructive relationship.

Government, national and local, continues to refer to community libraries meaning

run by volunteers; that is not how we see it. Our phrase is 'Library in the Community', a service engaged with local needs, social, educational and recreational, attracting local resources but not excluding the library profession or the contribution of the local authority.

The Friends of Stony Stratford Library was formed in 2004 after public meetings and a working party and a threat by the Council to let part of the building for commercial use. It has not always attracted the resource needed to be very active but a programme of events has been well attended and is self funding and has included visits from local schools which are important partners. It was never far from our minds that the library would be threatened but we had an organization in place that could act quickly. The proposal to close it was not expected and the result has been the recruitment of committed, younger people with professional skills including internet 'know how' without which our campaign would not have been successful.

Peter Waterman, Chair of the Friends of Stony Stratford Library  
3 May 2011

### **UPDATES ON UPSHAW COLLEGE AND WESLEY COLLEGE, BRISTOL**

I have previously reported on the decision by the Upshaw College trustees (announced on 8 October 2010) to close Ushaw College, the Roman Catholic seminary for the North of England, in June this year, and on the consequent implications for its very important heritage assets, including archival and library collections built up over a period of four centuries.

The closure process has already begun in practice, with the cessation of commercial activities on 31 December and the commencement of redundancies. Notwithstanding, there continue to be various attempts to stave off the closure, with (for example) an online petition, a Facebook campaign and an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons.

Efforts are also being focused on safeguarding the College's historic buildings and heritage collections. These involve a number of interested parties, Roman Catholic and otherwise.

Among the latter, the University of Durham and Durham Cathedral have made it clear that they are especially committed to working with the trustees to ensure that the library and archives remain in the North-East.

It is understood that the College's trustees have now agreed to establish a steering committee, chaired by Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury, to explore options for maintaining the College's heritage assets.

A spokesperson for the College also said last week that: 'We are aware there has been some debate among the wider community about the future of the historic collections of Ushaw College and of the buildings. ... We are acutely aware of the historical importance and heritage value placed upon the buildings, collection of books, manuscripts, letters and other items we have within our various collections and we are committed to ensuring that they remain intact.'

The best source of information about the archives and manuscripts held by Ushaw College is a series of essays by Dr Michael Sharratt. These include:

- The Lisbon Collection at Ushaw, *Northern Catholic History*, 8, 1978, 30-6
- The Lisbon Collection at Ushaw, *Catholic Archives*, 1, 1981, 36-9
- The Ushaw Collection of Manuscripts, *Catholic Archives*, 4, 1984, 4-14
- The origin and growth of the Ushaw library, *Northern Catholic History*, 24, 1986, 22-34
- The Lisbon Room at Ushaw, *British Historical Society of Portugal Annual Report*, 28, 2001, 21-9
- Theology and philosophy at the English College, Douai: a handlist of sources, *History of Universities* 18/2, 2003, 197-225
- Jan T. Rhodes, *Ushaw College Library* (Ushaw: the College, 1994)

Wesley College, Bristol is being closed by the Methodist Church, with implications for the long-term future of its important library and archive collections.

Although the process of wind-down of the College is well under way, and valedictory events have been scheduled for this summer, the current plans are for the Methodist Church to retain limited occupancy of the College site during 2011/12, which would enable the library and archives to stay where they are for this period, thus avoiding a temporary move.

The thinking behind this is explained in a paper which went to the meeting of the Methodist Council last weekend, and which can be read at:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/coun-MC1130-Wesley-College-Bristol-120411.doc>

The paper is silent about the options which are under consideration for the long-term future of the library and archive collections.

Dr Clive D Field, OBE

### **SCOTLAND IS MORE DIFFERENT THAN YOU THINK!**

Recently, and specifically in connection with the closure of the splendid library building in Edzell, Angus, some confusion has arisen within the Group over which national bodies to approach for support in connection with library closures or changes to historic library buildings. Some organisations which appear to cover Great Britain or the UK operate only in England. At the suggestion of a committee member from England, this is an attempt to de-mystify the situation with regard to Scotland.

Even before devolution and the re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, much of the administration of Scottish affairs, most notably, law, education, the church, and the National Health Service, was quite different from that in England and Wales. This dates back to the arrangements made at the union of the Scottish and English Parliaments in 1707. Frequently, separate legislation to cover Scotland was required in the UK Parliament. Readers of this Newsletter, for example, will be familiar with the Public Libraries Act of 1850 in name, at least, if not in substance. The similar Act relating to Scotland was not passed until 1853.

One consequence of this is that charities, professional organisations, cultural bodies and other societies established in England and which appear to be UK national bodies, either have semi-independent Scottish offices or simply do not function at all in Scotland. Usually there are Scottish equivalents or near equivalents. LIHG

members will no doubt be aware that CILIP in Scotland is, somewhat confusingly, called CILIPS (formerly the Scottish Library Association). The following, entirely independent organisations, are relevant to the built heritage. The English equivalents are given in parentheses.

#### OFFICIAL BODIES

Historic Scotland is responsible not only for major historic monuments such as Edinburgh Castle, Linlithgow Palace or Melrose Abbey but also for “listing” buildings and intervening when planning permission is sought for alterations. [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk) (English equivalent: English Heritage)

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) Scotland’s national collection of buildings, archaeology and industry. Excellent library and publications. (English equivalent: National Monuments Record, now part of English Heritage)

#### OTHERS

Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS). For the study and protection of Scottish architecture. Local offices throughout Scotland. [www.ahss.org.uk](http://www.ahss.org.uk) (English equivalent: Various, eg. Georgian Group, Victorian Society)

National Trust for Scotland. [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk) (English equivalent: National Trust)

*AND* All animal lovers should be aware that the RSPCA does not function in Scotland. You need the SSPCA (Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)!

Antonia Bunch

### **REPORT ON THE WILTSHIRE LIBRARY VISIT: Summer 2010**

I am a Project Librarian at the University of the West of England (UWE), and last summer, a small group of colleagues visited the English Heritage National Monuments Record (NMR) Office and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre.

Morning: English Heritage National Monuments Record (NMR) Office. The visit began with an introduction to the archive collection – we had an informative half-hour presentation, and we were introduced to three open access NMR websites that would be of interest to students or anyone who enjoys local history; these are:

Viewfinder: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder) : a database of old photographs dating from the 1840s to the present day that is especially strong in the areas of: industrial heritage; social history; architecture; archaeology.

Images of England: [www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk) : a database of England’s listed buildings; users can search by place, building type or material

Pastscape: [www.pastscape.org/homepage](http://www.pastscape.org/homepage) : a database of national historic environment records, including maps and aerial photographs

We then had a tour of the archive, and this included some free time to look at holdings on Bristol and several special collections, including the air photographs archive and a collection documenting English stained glass windows.

We had an opportunity to look round the library; the building has newly installed rolling shelves, and a substantial reference area containing Victoria County

Histories, Kelly's Directories and other important material. There is a large collection of regional texts, antiquarian documentation is available on request, and members of the public may use the library for reference purposes.

The National Monuments Record Office welcome pre-arranged visits, and the library is open to all as a reference collection – individuals are advised to call ahead before their journey to check the availability of material etc.

Afternoon: Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre

We were given a tour of the History Centre, which includes a comprehensive local studies library and a rich collection of historical material, including local newspapers, maps and parish registers.

We then had an opportunity to see the Wiltshire Community History Page: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/). I would recommend this resource to anyone with an interest in local history; the site is arranged by community and contains detailed histories with information on churches and schools, and there are links to local maps and photographs. There is also a popular Folk Arts section, listing traditional songs that originate from Wiltshire and the surrounding counties.

Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre has developed strong community links; an Education Service provides teacher training courses and research visits for primary and secondary school pupils and there are public afternoon lectures on a variety of subjects. Please see the website for further information: [www.wshc.eu/](http://www.wshc.eu/)

As someone who is relatively new to the library and information profession and from a career development perspective, I can strongly recommend visiting libraries and record offices that house material of local and national historical interest. Doing so has allowed me to develop a knowledge of the sources and services offered to both researchers and to the local community; I therefore have an improved awareness of how vital these resources are, and I have a greater understanding of the necessity to promote and protect public access.

I have also developed a greater understanding of the skills that could help me to secure employment within the library history sphere. For example, although I had an awareness of the main historical sources held by record offices and local history centres, this visit enabled me to become better acquainted with the variety of online resources developed by local and national bodies. As someone with no experience of creating and maintaining an Internet page, I can now appreciate how useful this skill could be to future employers. In addition, I have a greater understanding of the benefits to creating and maintaining positive community relationships. For example, the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre has achieved greater participation through the development of school visits and public lectures. This demonstrates the importance of being able to confidently liaise with community organisations and individuals, and I can also appreciate the significance of being able to communicate a passion with enthusiasm and flair.

Miriam Walters

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) Project Librarian  
University of the West of England

## EXHIBITIONS

### **4 May 2011 – 25 June 2011**

*70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Polish School of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh*

Exhibition Room, University Main Library, The University of Edinburgh, George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LJ

Tue – Sat 10:00 – 17:00 ; Sat 18 & 25 June 10:00 – 13:00

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Polish School of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. Once again some of the School's surviving graduates will gather in Edinburgh from all across the globe to celebrate the memory of their School from 2-4th May 2011.

The history and celebration of the Polish School of Medicine has given rise to an extensive archive of documents, photographs and historical objects. Much of this material can only be seen or consulted by appointment. To mark the 70th anniversary of the School, a special exhibition is being mounted in the Main University Library Gallery for the months of May and June 2011. This will allow members of the public access to some of this wonderful history and give them an opportunity to learn about the achievements of this unique wartime academic initiative, past and present.

Artefacts on view include documents, war medals, photographs and other material belonging to some of the School's graduates, a striking and powerful group of 5 bronze sculptures by the last Dean of the Polish School of Medicine, Professor Jakub Rostowski, Polish commemorative medals and one of a set of enchanting pen and ink drawing by Josef Mynarski, a Polish artist whose drawings have been used as illustrations in a number of books written about the School by the late Dr Wiktor Tomaszewski. Viewers will also be able to learn about the role that the Paderewski Memorial Hospital played in the education of these Polish students and doctors.

A programme of Wednesday talks -Curator Insights - and Saturday curator- led tours of the exhibition has been arranged. For further information, see: <http://docstore.mvm.ed.ac.uk/Events/PSM/English.pdf>

### **14 May 2011 – 26 June 2011**

*Linguistic geographies: three centuries of language, script and cartography in the Gough map of Great Britain*

Proscholium, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG

Mon – Fri 9:00 – 19:00 ; Sat 9:00 – 16:00 ; Sun 11:00 – 17:00; entry is free

One of Britain's truly outstanding medieval maps will be on public display in the Proscholium, Bodleian Library. The 'Gough map' is a remarkable English depiction of Great Britain, created sometime during the later fourteenth century and subsequently amended during the fifteenth century.

The precise origins of the Gough map have long been uncertain despite much scholarly interest. Only recently has the map received careful palaeographical study, and this has yielded a great deal more insight into the map's making and its use. The map was donated to the Bodleian Library in 1809 by the great antiquarian, Richard Gough, in whose volume on British Topography the map gained its first modern study. This exhibition includes both the Gough map – a unique manuscript – as well as Gough's Topography, as two key documents of English cartographic history, providing viewers with a rare opportunity to see close-up the fine details of

the map, and in particular the writing that appears on it. The map's script is a key to understanding its making and use, and the exhibition offers new interpretations based upon an on-going research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The exhibition is organised by the Linguistic Geographies project team. For more information on the project please visit [www.goughmap.org](http://www.goughmap.org)

**14 May 2011 – 3 July 2011**

*Spotlight: Thomas Wright of Durham; Astronomer, Architect & Garden Designer, 1711-1786*

Wolfson Gallery, Special Collections, Palace Green Library, Palace Green, Durham, DH1 3RN

Tues – Fri 10:00 – 16:45 ; Sat – Sun 12:00 – 16:45

The remarkable Thomas Wright was born in Byers Green, County Durham in 1711. Throughout his life his natural talent and abilities led him to excel in a wide variety of ventures, including astronomy, mathematics, architecture and philosophy. He was also recognised as an accomplished maker of scientific instruments, garden designer, teacher and author.

Wright is best known for his studies of the Milky Way, in which he pondered the arrangement of the stars paving the way for future discoveries about the galaxy and the solar system. Closer to home, his numerous architectural achievements included the prestigious commission to add minarets to Durham Cathedral, and the design of the eye-catching deer shelter at Auckland Park for the bishop of Durham.

This small exhibition, marking the 300th anniversary of his birth celebrates the life and achievements of this true local hero.

**20 May 2011 – 25 September 2011**

*Out of this World: Science fiction but not as you know it*

PACCAR Gallery, British Library, 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB

Mon – Fri 9:30 – 18:00 ; Tues 9:30 – 20:00 ; Sat 9:30 – 17:00 ; Sun 11:00 – 17:00; entry is free

Science Fiction is revealed not merely as a popular literary genre but as a way of looking at today's world and presenting alternatives: radical ideas about science, politics, society, the future... and the nature of reality itself.

**2 June 2011 – 20 September 2011**

*To Make a Good One Better: Translating the Bible. An exhibition to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible*

The Weston Room, Maughan Library & Information Services Centre, King's College London, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LR

Mon – Sat 9:30 – 17:00 until 30 July ; Mon – Fri 9:30 – 17:00 from 1 August

The exhibition has been conceived to mark the 400th anniversary in 2011 of the publication of the King James Bible. Drawing on the College's world class holdings of printed Bibles, ranging in date from the 15th century to the present day, it will tell the story behind their creation - the struggles and setbacks faced by translators and publishers and some of the dilemmas involved in the act of translating an ancient sacred text into a spoken language of today. The exhibition will also illuminate the part which King's College London has played - and continues to play - in the advancement of Biblical scholarship. Further details available at: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/iss/archivespec/learn-exhib/exhibitions/>.

## **16 July 2011 – 11 September 2011**

*Spotlight: The Return of the First Folio*

Wolfson Gallery, Special Collections, Palace Green Library, Palace Green, Durham, DH1 3RN

Tues – Fri 10:00 – 16:45 ; Sat – Sun 12:00 – 16:45

Shakespeare's First Folio is a cultural icon. First printed in 1623, it contains 36 plays, many of which had not previously been published. Of the 1,200 copies believed to have been printed, around 230 are known to survive.

Durham's First Folio is unique. It was bought by John Cosin, and remained in the library that he founded in Durham in 1669 for over 300 years.

The Folio was thought to have been lost forever, when it was stolen from Palace Green Library in 1998. Ten years later, a British man asked staff at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC to identify and authenticate a book that he claimed to have found in Cuba. It was quickly recognised to be the Durham First Folio.

The copy was returned to Palace Green Library in 2010 . It was first exhibited when the Wolfson Gallery opened in January 2011 and this exhibition telling the remarkable story of its theft and recovery is back by popular demand.

"Like Shakespeare himself, this book is a national treasure, giving a rare and beautiful snapshot of Britain's incredible literary heritage." Bill Bryson, Chancellor of Durham University and Exhibition Guest Curator

## **1 August 2011 – 31 January 2012**

*al- Ghazzālī : Celebrating 900 Years*

McGill University Library, McLennan Library, 3459 McTavish St., Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 1Y1

Abu Hamid al- Ghazzālī was born in Tus in modern day Iran. al-Ghazzālī is one of the most significant and prominent (Islamic) philosophers. He was a prolific writer, writing extensively on four main subjects: philosophy, theology, law, and Sufism. His influence resonates even to this day and amongst some of the great Western philosophers of yesterday.

The exhibition in the McLennan Library of McGill University celebrates the life of al-Ghazzālī on this 900th year since his passing in 1111 A.D. The exhibition highlights some of the unique holdings of the Islamic Studies Library (ISL) as well as Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC). The exhibition will include manuscripts, rare books, lithographs, and monographs of unique bindings.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Every Monday Morning and Wednesday Afternoon**

Guided tours of the National Library of Wales

Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Wales, SY23 3BU

Free weekly guided tour and presentation to the Library's collections and history every Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon. The tour lasts approx 90 mins.

Exact times available at:

[http://drwm.llgc.org.uk/cgi-bin/go.pl/show\\_event.html?uid=1423;LANG=en](http://drwm.llgc.org.uk/cgi-bin/go.pl/show_event.html?uid=1423;LANG=en)

## 6 June 2011

Seminar on Textual Bibliography for Modern Foreign Languages  
Meeting Room 4, Conference Centre, The British Library, NW1 2DB

### PROGRAMME

10.30 Registration and Coffee

11.00 John goldfinch (British Library), *Tirant Lo Blanch* (Valencia, 1490): a bibliographical reconsideration

11.45 Alison Walker (British Library), 'Mr Sloane's library...[is]...the most complete in Europe for books on medicine': reflection of European knowledge networks in Sir Hans Sloane's library.

12.30 Lunch (Own arrangements).

1.45 Ian Magedera (University of Leeds), 'NO UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY!' collaborative bibliography in the permissive age of Wikipedia

2.30 Bettina Wagner (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek), Blockbooks in Bavarian collections - a project for cataloguing and digitization

3.15 Tea

3.45 Charlotte Berry (University of Edinburgh), The road to the North: the methodology and initial findings of a bibliographical and archival study of the UK publishing and translation of Nordic children's literature

4.30 Renae Satterley (Middle Temple Library), Unique books, hidden corners: examples of Continental printing held at Middle Temple Library

Contact Barry Taylor ([barry.taylor@bl.uk](mailto:barry.taylor@bl.uk); tel 020 7412 7576) or Susan Reed ([susan.reed@bl.uk](mailto:susan.reed@bl.uk); tel 020 7412 7572) if you would like to attend the Seminar.

## 6 – 8 June 2011

Historic Libraries in Context Conference: The Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Library: Past, Present and Future  
University of Ulster, Magee Campus

This conference, organised by the University of Ulster, coincides with the conclusion of the Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Library Project, a 3.5 year project to conserve and publicise a collection heretofore relatively unknown to modern scholarship. The aim of the conference is to engage with bibliographers, historians and conservators, each with their own understanding of book culture, to identify future avenues for research within the collection, and within similar collections in general. We hope to generate an interdisciplinary discussion about the current and possible future uses of such libraries and the curatorial and preservation issues that have been raised over the course of the project. More information available at: <http://www.derryraphoelibrary.org/conference.html>.

## 26 – 27 June 2011

Library History Round Table at the ALA Annual Conference  
Morial Conference Center, New Orleans, USA

26 June 2011: The Round Table will consist of the Executive Committee meeting, a speakers panel (speakers TBC- consisting of previous winners of the LHRT awards and will be in honor of the 135th Anniversary of the founding of the ALA) and a research forum with the topic *The History of Library Services and Collections for Business, Industry, Labor, and Artisans*. The speakers for this forum will be:

- Ellen Pozzi: The History of the Business Branch of the Newark Free Public

## Library

- David Hovde and John Fritch: Reading for those who, 'labor with their hands and earn their living by the sweat of their brows
- Sterling Coleman, Jr., English Public Libraries, Parliament & the Working Class: A Not-So Subtle Censorship Debate within the British Parliamentary Debates of 1834 and 1850
- Joyce Latham, Collective Collections

June 27 2011: The Round Table will consist of the Edward Holley Lecture, given by Sarah Wadsworth, Associate Professor of English, Marquette University on "Ghosts and Shadows: Reading Race in the Woman's Building Library of the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893". Further information is available at: <http://www.alaannual.org/>.

## 1 July 2011

Conference: *Book Encounters, 1500-1750*

Corsham Court, Bath Spa University Centre, Corsham, Chippenham, SN13 0BZ

<http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/schools/humanities-and-cultural-industries/research/book-text-and-place>

Bath Spa University's newly formed Book, Text and Place (1500-1750) Research Centre is pleased to announce its inaugural conference, 'Book Encounters, 1500-1750'. In keeping with the Centre's focus on early modern literary culture, place, and the history of the book broadly defined, this conference invites exploration into early modern encounters with the book. The central theme of the conference will be the role that the book as material vehicle played in the transmission of ideas. The aim of this conference is to consider a wide variety of encounters with the book: not only from different cultural and geographical sites of production, circulation and reception but also from various periods within early modernity. Different disciplinary perspectives are particularly encouraged.

Plenary I speaker: Mark Towsey (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in History, Liverpool) *Putting Ideas in their Proper Places: Commonplace Books and the Practice of Reading in Georgian Britain*

Tessa Whitehouse (Queen Mary) *Isaac Watts's philosophy books: textual forms and sites for enquiry*

Abigail Williams (Cambridge) *Secrets and swirls: the material difficulties of Jonathan Swift's text*

Joseph Marshall (Edinburgh University Library) *Words and Workes: reading the writings of King James VI & I*

Emma Smith (Hertford College) *'Such readers we wish him': early modern readers of Shakespeare's Folio*

Gillian Wright (Birmingham) *'Loose' and Godly Books: Women Readers and Female-Authored Texts*

Elizabeth Upper (Cambridge) *Printing Colour in Early Modern German Book Illustrations: The Significance of Johann Gruninger's Failed Experiments of 1517-1518*

Tracey Hill (Bath Spa) *Finding John Robinson: a man and his books* Helen Smith (York) *Bodies of knowledge: print and practice in Joseph Moxon's Mechanicall exercises*

Michael Gale (Southampton) *Marketing a musical self-tuition manual in early seventeenth-century England: Thomas Robinson's Schoole of Musicke (1603), autodidactic learning, and the politics of the early modern music lesson*

Elisabeth Giselbrecht (Cambridge) *Crossing boundaries: The printed book and the dissemination of Italian music north of the Alps*

Plenary II speaker: David Pearson (Director, Libraries, Archives & Guildhall Art Gallery) *The importance of material evidence for understanding the social impact of books*

For more details please contact: Dr Christopher Ivic, Senior Lecturer in English, Bath Spa University, [c.ivic@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:c.ivic@bathspa.ac.uk)

### **7 – 9 July 2011**

*'Documenting the Early Modern Book World': Inventories and catalogues in manuscript and print.* University of St Andrews

[http://www.ustc.ac.uk/?page\\_id=722](http://www.ustc.ac.uk/?page_id=722)

It has become customary in documenting the world of early printed books to rely primarily on surveys of survivors: that is, books that have weathered the buffeting of history to reach the comparative safety of modern library collections. Most national bibliographical catalogues are aggregates of the holdings of library catalogues; *faut de mieux* these are taken to offer a reasonable account of the original output.

But the urge to list, catalogue and advertise the wealth of the new printed book culture was just as strong in the first age of books. Printers made lists of their available stock; owners proudly catalogued their libraries; assessors inventoried collections and stock as part of the settlement of estates, or legal proceedings. In an age of religious discord censorship required the publication of lists of forbidden books (though at the risk of advertising their contents); book-sellers' shelves, private and public libraries were examined for forbidden material.

These various classes of list contain indispensable material on various aspects of the 16th century book trade: on cost, retail pricing, second hand values, binding and library practice. They allow the reconstruction of lost or dispersed libraries. They also document many thousands of titles and editions that have now disappeared altogether.

The third St Andrews book history conference will engage a wide-ranging discussion and analysis of contemporary book lists, manuscript or printed.

### **18 – 20 July 2011**

*'Communication and Exchange': The Reading Conference in Early Modern Studies.* Early Modern Research Centre, University of Reading

[http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/DEAL/EMRC\\_Conference\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/DEAL/EMRC_Conference_Programme.pdf)

The Reading Early Modern Conference continues to establish itself as the place where early modernists meet each July for stimulation, conversation and debate. As in previous years, proposals of individual papers and panels are invited on the most interesting developments and research in any aspect of early modern studies relating to Britain, Europe and the wider world. This year we will be joined by Professor Andrew Hadfield (Sussex) and Professor Howard Hotson (Oxford) as our plenary speakers. The informal theme of the conference this year will be Communication and Exchange.

## **19 – 21 July 2011**

*Print Networks Conference 2011: Religion and the book trade*

National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

<http://www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/>

The Twenty-Ninth Print Networks Conference on the history of the British book trade will take place at the National Library of Wales on 19th-21st July 2011. En-suite accommodation will be provided on the attractive campus of Aberystwyth University overlooking Cardigan Bay. In addition to a full programme of papers, there will be a Conference dinner and a visit to the Roderic Bowen Library in Lampeter.

## **14 August 2011**

Conference Session: *IFLA General Conference and Assembly – Library History Special Interest Group Open Session – Libraries in Central America and the Caribbean Region*

Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 13:45 – 15:45

Convener: Hermina G.B. Anghelescu, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

Stephanie L. Maatta, School of Library and Information Science, Wayne State University: *El Lector's canon: Social dynamics of reading from Havana to Tampa*

Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis, Alvin Sherman Library, Nova Southeastern University: *Overview of library services in the English-speaking Caribbean—Management, innovative services and resource sharing*

Beverley Y. Hinds, University of the West Indies, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES), Audine Wilkinson Library: *Historical overview of library development in the English-speaking Caribbean*

Beverley A. Wood, University of West Indies Library: *Using Web 2.0 technologies to build communities: a Caribbean perspective and historical context*

Full conference details are available at: <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla77>

## **CALLS FOR PAPERS**

### **1 September 2011**

*Dynamics of Value Reporting: A Special Issue of Libraries & the Cultural Record*

Libraries & the Cultural Record, a peer-reviewed journal of history published by the University of Texas Press, invites submissions for a special issue devoted to exploring historical perspectives on the reporting of the organizational performance and value created by libraries, archives and museums. Contributors are encouraged to consider the topic in diverse ways. Possible themes might include (but are not limited to):

- The historical role of organizational performance and value reporting by agency type, appropriate to a geographical area, or within a segment of time
- Comparison of organizational performance and values being reported in terms of types (i.e. cultural, economic, and social), perceived need, or effectiveness over time
- Biographical sketches of significant individuals, including organizational performance and value reporting leaders, innovators, or advocates
- Relationships between the business sector and libraries, archives, and/or museums regarding organizational performance and value reporting

developments and schemas

- Cultural factors influencing the organizational performance or value reporting of libraries, archives, or museums
- Impacts of organizational performance and value reporting by libraries, archives, or museums on rural, diverse or underserved communities
- History of the development and/or implementation of a specific organizational performance or value reporting schema within libraries, archives, and museums
- Comparative histories of two or more agencies using different organizational performance or value reporting schema
- Measuring the value of the library's or archives' collections or resources
- Determining the value for / impact on the library or archives over time when its collections and resources are sold for operating revenue
- Successes/failures, and their causes and effects, of value reporting to resource allocators from senior administrators to policy makers (particularly legislators)

Proposals should be prepared using Microsoft Word and submitted electronically to the guest editor, Larry Nash White (whitel@ecu.edu). Submissions will be acknowledged via e-mail, indicating that the proposal has been received. Authors of proposals will be notified by February 1, 2012, regarding the status of their submission. Proposals that are accepted will receive an invitation to submit a manuscript for peer-review by November 1, 2012. Following peer-review, manuscripts will be returned to authors by January 15, 2013, indicating any revisions required. Final revised manuscripts are due to the issue editor no later than March 15, 2013. The special issue will be published in early 2014, as volume 49, number 1 of the journal. For more information about the journal's submission requirements and peer review process, see L&CR's web page for submissions at <http://sentra.ischool.utexas.edu/~lcr/submissions/index.php>.

### **31 December 2011**

Call for papers for a special issue of the *Journal of Information Technology Information Systems* on why history matters. Senior Editors are: Antony Bryant, Alistair Black, Frank Land and Jaana Porra.

Any discipline or field of professional practice has a history. A proper understanding of the discipline needs to be based on a widespread awareness of that history. The field of information systems (IS) is no different in this regard. As the IS field matures, it needs to evolve a historical perspective on its own subject matter.

Although there has been some significant work within IS studies that relies upon and uses historical data, there is little by way of information historiography to guide further work and future research. This is ironic given that information systems themselves are now the *fons et origo* [source and origin] of contemporary (richly demonstrated by the recent WIKILEAKS affair) and future archives. In addition, there is significant reliance upon case studies, and other forms of historical narrative, in IS research and general IS literature. So it is essential that those working within IS studies understand the role and nature of archives and other historical sources, both in terms of a resource for research into information history, and as a topic for discussion amongst archivists, historians, and other information and information system researchers and professionals: Also developing an awareness of the

processes underlying the development of archives as social artefacts.

The interest in producing IS history encompasses many disciplines and varying perspectives on IS. The IS discipline itself is closely related to other disciplines or research domains, such as information studies, information science, library history, organizational studies, business studies, software engineering (including requirements engineering), HCI, AI, CAD/CAM, criminology, social studies, behavioural sciences, economics and communication studies – although all too often these links are ignored or simply forgotten. In so doing, the IS community is missing an opportunity to engage with, and learn from, others with differing perspectives on topics of common interest. Furthermore, this engenders an uneasy feeling that many current IS issues and concerns might be at least partially resolved with a better knowledge and understanding of ‘information history’ in its broadest sense.

The purpose of this special issue is to provide a broad based platform for an IS historical discourse. Thus, we welcome contributions from all fields that are concerned with the IS subject matter. While many aspects and areas of IS studies rely on historical data, evidence and archives, the common goal is to produce a body of IS history. In this spirit, we invite contributions on a variety of topics related to IS history. Such topics may touch upon fundamental philosophical questions such as: What is IS history? At a more practical level, they may include areas such as:

- the development of information history as a multidisciplinary research effort
- an analysis of historical approaches and methods and what these can provide for the IS researcher
- the existence of primary sources for IS history, and associated problems of access and methodology
  - the nature of the archive
  - good examples of the use of historiographic approaches to IS studies
  - previously unpublished histories
  - the study of the evolution of the IS disciplines
  - how the boundaries of the discipline were set and defined
  - the study of the evolution of IS organization, practice and management, including such practices as outsourcing
  - the study of the evolution of the IS profession
  - the study of the evolution of the role of information systems and professionals in organizations
  - the study of the evolution of IS design methodologies
  - the study of evolution of IS applications
  - exploring the management of change
  - the importance of understanding the pre-history of IS as currently defined, including continuities or contrasts with earlier pre-computer phases, technologies and systems
  - the study of IS innovation and diffusion including: stages of growth models; the study of IS success and failure; use and policies around public and private archives
  - information archives in the age of Freedom of Information legislation, PR and spin
  - the use of history as an instrument for understanding the present and planning the future; and the consequent dangers of ‘presentism’

- the inevitability of the 'double hermeneutic' in unravelling the historical record
- Information about JIT, including formatting requirements, can be found at <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jit/index.html>. Questions about the special issue can be directed to Tony Bryant: [a.bryant@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:a.bryant@leedsmet.ac.uk). Papers should be submitted to JIT: [JITedoffice@lse.ac.uk](mailto:JITedoffice@lse.ac.uk) with the title of the Special Issue in the Subject Line by 31 December 2011.