

SUNRISE



Newsletter of **CILIP** East of England Branch

2008 : 1



Children enjoying the magic at St. John's College Library, Cambridge. Photo courtesy of MLA East of England.

See www.cilipeoe.org.uk for further information on the Branch and forthcoming events.

Chartered

CONTENTS

Outreach and Access	2
Acquire, Retain and Avail – My visit to the British Library	4
Information Commons	6
2008 National Year of Reading and Other Events in Libraries in our Region	8
The Hollywood Librarian: a look at librarians through film	11

“I saw all the old books that was cool”

It's what every Librarian dreams of hearing, isn't it? For staff at St John's College Library the dream has come true. Following a successful outreach and access programme in 2007-8, we have been lucky enough to read words to that effect on numerous letters from young visitors.

The Library is part of St John's College within the University of Cambridge. As well as a six-floor modern working library it encompasses MLA Designated special collections of national importance, housed in the seventeenth-century Old Library. The Library's main aim is to provide a modern, efficient and welcoming library service for all members of the College, however, since receiving designated status it has sought to encourage more diverse user groups to benefit from the special collections.

Our work with schools took off with a successful bid for a Learning Links grant from the MLA, the agency promoting the region's museums, libraries and archives. The funding paid for supply cover, enabling teachers from St Matthew's Primary School and Newnham Croft Primary School, in Cambridge, to visit the Library. There, they worked with staff to design modules of work based on the collections.

Year Four teachers at St Matthew's Primary School decided to take a wand to their dull explanatory texts module. They were inspired by *Hocus Pocus Junior*, 1638, the first illustrated book in English entirely devoted to demystifying the art of magic, and pulled an improved module of work out of the hat.

For the visit itself, the classes walked to the Library where they explored in groups of ten. A professional magician amazed them with tricks, the Librarian took them on a College tour through the history and architecture of a part of their town that they rarely see, and they engaged with an exhibition in the seventeenth-century Old Library.

During a classroom visit with the Librarian's Assistant the children created and decorated their



own magic books. When they returned from the Library they were ready to fill them with practical magic. The classroom visit was an invaluable chance to introduce pupils to the Library, using images on e2bn online gallery. This allowed them to think about questions they wanted to ask in advance and thereby get the most out of their visit.

The project was a success. One parent wrote that her son 'came back bubbling with enthusiasm...and saying how interesting it had all been'. The teachers felt their teaching of the module had been improved and the classes will be returning in July to explore Tudors, maps and monsters.

The Library's work with schools in 2007-8 proved that we can promote access and outreach without compromising other users. It also galvanised the Library's involvement with the local community: both schools have booked visits for next year, and we are taking part in the Festival of Ideas, a related manuscript competition run by Cambridgeshire County Libraries and Council, and, hopefully, The Big Draw.

Teacher contacts and knowledge of funding were gained through attending regional education officers' meetings, and MLA events. We learned that a library, particularly a historic one, should be aware of initiatives that are billed for archives and museums as well as those for libraries. As any one who has worked in a library where the eclectic collections include bizarre items as well as books and manuscripts will understand, museums, libraries and archives can fulfil

remarkably similar roles, despite the tendency to differentiate.

At a time when collections are moving online, becoming independent of the library building, the unique special collections and historic buildings of libraries like those in many Cambridge Colleges are a great strength. The scale of outreach and access projects need not be vast. It can be tailored to suit the institution. By taking part in university-wide, regional or even national initiatives, small institutions can make a valuable contribution to a big project, which in turn provides them with a ready-made framework. Relationships with schools and other organisations take time to build but they are rewarding.

Some of the rewards of this project have been the opportunity to bring together groups who would not normally be in contact, such as school children and academic staff, and the positive attitudes about the Library and libraries in general it has promoted. 'Where are you going?' asked a Fellow we met as I led our visitors through the College. 'To the library,' replied one of the children. 'It's the best place to be,' confided the Fellow.

In the end, the thank you letters from children at St Matthew's Primary School say it best.

Naomi Herbert

Librarian's Assistant. June 2008



Useful links and contacts:

St John's College Library outreach pages: www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/library_exhibitions

MLA East of England: www.mlaeastofengland.org.uk

E2bn gallery: <http://gallery.e2bn.org/gallery1169-.html>

The Big Draw: www.thebigdraw.org

Cambridge Festival of Ideas: www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/communications/community/arts/

Elly Wright, secretary of the eastern region education officers' meeting:

education@farmlandmuseum.org.uk

Acquire, Retain and Avail – My visit to the British Library

For me, the British Library was a building I walked past on the way to St Pancras and somewhere that we sometimes secured inter-library loans from. I decided to attend an organised tour to satisfy my curiosity about the inner workings of this institution. The piazza leading to the main entrance past the titanic library building gave rare open space on the Euston Road. This gave a real sense of calm and a space to sit. I explored the “1968 on Record: A year of revolution” display whilst waiting for the tour to start. The display made the most of limited space by having several PCs loaded with interactive images and information, all to the sounds of the sixties.

The tour guide, Kevin, was incredibly knowledgeable about the history and workings of the Library. He also seemed pleased to have a self confessed library-geek on his tour to enthusiastically share his plentiful facts, figures and descriptions of cataloguing systems.

Kevin explained in 1951 the LCC offered to build the British Museum a new library to house its book collections. Plans and budgets were wrestled with and whilst this was happening the British Library Act was passed by Parliament in 1972. The Act effectively separated the Museum and Library. At this point the British Library was charged with its three statutory obligations: to acquire a national bibliographic archive, to keep it forever, and to make it available.

The upper ground floor proudly displays the busts of the four founding fathers: Banks, Cotton, Grenville and Sloane. I was most interested in Sir Robert Cotton and Sir Hans Sloane. Their collections formed the majority of the original British Museum collection, which became the basis for the British Library. Cotton assembled a wealth of national treasures in his personal collection including the only known mediaeval

manuscript of Beowulf. His collection was presented to the nation by his grandson in 1700. Sloane was an advocate of shared knowledge and believed his collection should be shared and used - revolutionary thinking in the 18th century. These two men to me embody the ethos of the British Library, now stated in law – acquire, retain and avail.

The building as we now know it was finished in 1997 and opened in 1998 but even this site cannot house all the collections. Two additional sites in London store items deemed less likely to be accessed, and there is also the depository at Boston Spa and the Newspaper Library at Colindale. I discovered that the piazza I so admired is in fact a fire-fighting feature that would allow smoke to escape from the stock housed in the 24.5 metre subterranean tower block below. The building at St Pancras is a working research library, not the largest but reputedly the busiest and employs over two thousand staff. It was built with the book in mind. Books are stored in optimum humidity and temperature conditions, and a sophisticated flood management system coped easily when the surrounding Tube stations flooded last summer. Impressive contingency plans exist that include storing frozen water damaged books until they can be repaired.

The three statutory obligations pose many challenges. The Library must acquire and retain any British publication. This includes anything for public distribution. So once a local residents’ newsletter has been circulated beyond the membership group, it has been publicly distributed and therefore needs to be acquired by the library and retained – forever. The stock can never be edited as all items must be retained. In addition to this the Library also collects and houses many international volumes too. There is currently 800 linear miles of shelving and this is growing at a rate of 8 miles a year. Books are shelved according to size to fully

maximise space; what look like classmarks are actually grid references to locate the items.

In my mind, the most difficult statutory obligation is to retain and therefore preserve the stock, but also to make it available for use. About 20% of items can only be accessed with the express permission of a curator on the grounds that unique research is being carried out. For some items only copies are made available. However most items can be used, including the King George III library housed in the central glass tower, and this impressive collection is frequently used. Orange tickets mark the place where a book currently in use will be returned to. As a working library balancing the need to support research with the need to protect the stock during use is difficult. The Library has strict rules about membership, and employs security guards and bag searches to achieve this balance. The logistics of retrieving books used on average once every 50 years from such an immense collection was eye opening; I was lucky enough to see the Automated Book Retrieval System (ABRS) in action.

The British Library catalogue does not subject index. To use the stock, the onus is on the customer to know very specifically what they are looking for and to be very self-sufficient. Managing the customer's expectation is a key part of the Library staff's role. This is also where public libraries can play a supporting role. We can assist at a local level to search for items, identify bibliographies and check the British Library catalogue online. If an inter-library loan is not a option the customer wants to pursue, we can advise if the item is available at the Library and give details on membership procedures from its website www.bl.uk.

I had a fascinating afternoon at the British Library. It was a welcoming and impressive institution, full of treasures open to public view. I must thank our guide for such an interesting tour. In two hours I saw a Penny Black, the Magna Carta, listened to part of



Beowulf, admired the George III collection and even listened to the sounds of Jimi Hendrix. I also saw the inner workings of a national institution that I feel is worthy of our pride.

Jo Smith

Customer Services Librarian
Hertfordshire Libraries, Culture and Learning
26 April 2008



British Library Further Information

Information about content

Almost all the British Library's catalogues are now freely available from its web site: The British Library Public Catalogue (BLPC). This is a web interface to the main British Library catalogues. These are divided between material available in our reading rooms and that available for remote document supply as photocopies or loans. Searching is free and the BLPC can be used by anyone anywhere in the world with Internet access. There is an order facility for users to order copies of material held by the Library's Document Supply Centre. Individuals can pay by credit card.

Making content available

Clearly for some time yet the vast majority of the British Library's collections will only be accessible through personal visits to the reading rooms or by remote document supply. However, the Library is embarking on a major digitization program designed to make as many items as possible accessible in digital form via the web. The Library is also in the process of digitizing its Picture Library: 17,000 images will shortly be made available on its web site. While there will be free access to view the images, license fees will be required for commercial use.

considered and what changes we might expect in the future. I was pleased to think that at least some of what I had to say would fit right in with him, as yours truly was on next for about 50 minutes. At Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, we had used the Information Commons ideas of creating social and collaborative learning spaces, and of introducing more technology services and resources to suit user needs to influence our decisions on a re-design of our library space in summer 2006. Our three goals were to support student learning, to match resources and services to user needs, and to change the image and bring the students back into the Library. The project was described in some detail from start to finish with plenty of images and graphs to support the ideas. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the delegates liked it – or at least, as I say, they are all so good at making you feel as if you had something worthwhile to offer that I still can't think they were being completely superficial and false. One delegate was so delighted to hear that we had managed to do something with hardly any money, as it gave her hope for the situation she was in! Another responded to my joke that the carpenter kept on schedule because of all the cookies and sweets that I plied him with, and agreed that food worked wonders with workmen and students alike. She was moving beyond food to getting a ping-pong table into her Commons for her medic undergraduates. Wow – did that get ME thinking!

The other two presentations were small (American-style) examples of creating a Commons environment in university libraries and I picked up a lot of interesting ideas and thoughts, especially from the presentation by the staff at Wesleyan University, Rhode Island.

All the presentations were interspersed with loads of coffee, snacks, an enormous two-course lunch in the lovely surroundings of a Sheraton hotel in Norwood, Massachusetts, just outside Boston. Americans are also terribly proactive about introducing



themselves so I met people from the Earth and Planetary Sciences Library at Harvard University, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Marine Science Library, and many others as well, and sadly had to forego the many invites for visiting their libraries as I had a flight booked for the following morning. I shall plan my visit better ... next time.

Saying 'yes' to something won't always produce a nice quiet life – it certainly hasn't for me this last year. However, the professional learning that accompanies such ventures is well worth the effort it takes. Perhaps not many of us will be 'invited' out of the blue to speak at a conference or course, but there is no reason why we shouldn't be a bit pushy and submit abstracts at calls for conference papers or try our hand at posters. Despite the angst it often creates, I would recommend it.

Elizabeth Tilley

June 2007

(formerly Librarian at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge and now Librarian at the Faculty of English, University of Cambridge)

The Powerpoint slides of the presentation are available on Providence College's Digital Commons repository at <http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/>



2008 National Year of Reading and Other Events in Libraries in our Region



It is the National Year of Reading, as I am sure you are all aware. Public libraries in our region, and maybe some others, are running events throughout the year along with the Summer Reading Challenge, “Team Read” with a sporting theme. We have listed below some of the activities happening but there are lots more – check your local libraries especially for the summer reading events for children. If you are involved as a member of staff or as a participant why not send us a short review and we will put it in Sunrise, pictures are welcome too.

Bedfordshire

- 19 July - Summer Reading Challenge – “Team Read” Launch at Biggleswade Library
- 23 July – The Launch at The Pavilion on the Green, Houghton Regis
- 4 August – Family history taster sessions, Sandy Library

Check out future events at

http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.books_reading/nat_year_reading_events.htm

Cambridgeshire

Magical tales from around the world, read by storyteller Andy Hawkins in August.

For news and events check out:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/news/>

Essex

- 19 July – 30 August – “Team Read” and “Global Backpacker” challenges for children.
- 12 September – What kind of reader are you? Quiz, Rayleigh Library
- 27 September – Big Bug Experience, Chelmsford Library

Find your local library then check out the events:

<http://os.essexcc.gov.uk/libraries/library/>

Hertfordshire

- 17 July - Dragonflies and Damselflies of Hertfordshire - talk at Hoddesdon Library, 7.30 pm
- 19 July - Kaleidoscope Festival including storytelling at Welwyn Garden City

Further events for the National Year of Reading at:
<http://www.hertsdirect.org/libsleisure/libraries/NYR08/>

Norfolk

- 24 July – Roman Evening with Lindsey Davis, Norwich Millennium Library
- 14 August - The 3 serpents of the North Door story & activities, Great Yarmouth Library
- 28 August – Teddy Bear Picnic, King’s Lynn Library

Check out events at:
<http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/> (choose libraries in Leisure and Culture)

Suffolk

- 5 July – “Team Read” launched at Ipswich Town Football Club
- Author visits throughout the year
- Top time events for older people and Bookstart for pre-school children

Check out:
<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LeisureAndCulture/Libraries/ActivitiesAndEvents/>

Luton

- 9 July – Make a Noise in Libraries Event, Central Library

Check out what’s on in the libraries and for the National Year of Reading:
http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/leisure_and_culture/libraries

Peterborough

- 24 July – Author visit, Central Library
- August – “Read the Game” theme for the National Year of Reading (different theme every month)

For other regular events and activities, check out:

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/page-6018>

Southend-on-Sea

- 7-20 July – RNIB Make Noise in Libraries Fortnight
- 8-22 August - Sit & Fidget – opportunity to participate in the Arts

Check out events at:

<http://www.southend.gov.uk/content.asp?section=318&content=1765>

Thurrock

Information on libraries at: <http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/libraries/libinfo/>

If you're interested in finding out more about The National Year of Reading and events being held throughout the country, the web pages are at: <http://www.yearofreading.org.uk/>

CILIP Umbrella 2009

*Making Connections
The Power of People, Partnerships & Services*

14 -15 July 2009

A date for your diary – Umbrella 2009 confirmed and once again in our region at the University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield.

Following feedback the event is now midweek over 2 days, but still with a choice of 56 sessions across 9 subject tracks.

If you have thought about attending in the past but couldn't find the money then why not apply to our Small Grants Fund, details on our web page. There are usually a number of events for newcomers as well to help you if it is your first visit or why not go with a group of colleagues.

Further details on the Umbrella web page <http://www.umbrella2009.org.uk/>

The Hollywood Librarian: a look at librarians through film

Recently I attended a showing of the documentary film *The Hollywood Librarian* at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. I wasn't sure what to expect especially having read the mixed review in *Update*. There was certainly a positive atmosphere as the lollipops were passed round and we waited for the film to start. I am glad I saw it, although afterwards I did wonder whether it met its aims of creating "a new-found empathy for the profession by revealing the diversity of individual librarians and the importance of what they do. This documentary will increase the public's awareness of the complex and democratic nature of librarianship in the age of technology ..." (taken from the "About the film" section of the Hollywood Librarian website <http://www.hollywoodlibrarian.com/>).

Obviously the film was about librarians in America but also, although they interviewed a wide range of different types of librarians, I felt it was mainly about public libraries and how they serve the community. This isn't a problem but highlights how different the jobs are within our profession and there is no single type of librarian either in fiction or reality.

I enjoyed the film and it made me laugh, but think it's because I am a librarian and could see how ridiculous some of the images were in the film, both good and bad. I would be interested in hearing what non-librarians thought but can't imagine that many will go and see it! I think it would be a useful tool at a careers event, and it would be fun to see a British equivalent – perhaps it's time for us all to get out our camcorders and start interviewing!

If you haven't had the opportunity to see the film yet I think it is worth going. After all, as the film clips showed, it is not that often that librarians are featured as the stars.

Screenings are listed at <http://www.hollywoodlibrarian.com/> and there are a few left in this country, and a DVD is to follow.

Lyn Bailey

Librarian

Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

If you have seen the film, let us know what you thought of it. We'll publish them in the next issue of Sunrise.

The Next Issue

The next Issue will be about the Branch – what it does or can do for you, and a look at some of the committee members. If you have any questions you want us to answer then please send them through to the editors.

Just to recap for those of you who may be new to the Branch, our aims and objectives are:-

- to act as a communication channel with CILIP and to assist with the local implementation of policies
- to be a source of advice to appropriate regional bodies, and a focus of expertise
- to coordinate and stimulate professional activity by liaison with Groups and through the provision of meetings, training courses, publications etc.
- and to promote personal development, inclusion and equality of opportunity.

The Branch serves the eastern region consisting of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk, and includes the non-metropolitan districts of Luton, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

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