



## **Annual Report: January-December 2009**

### **Introduction**

2009 was another good year for The Network, including:

- Developing, running and participating in some 24<sup>1</sup> courses and conferences
- Being invited to chair one of the mornings at the Public Library Authorities Conference
- Being invited to give two papers at the AUSLIB Conference in Australia
- Producing newsletters for January-December 2008
- Producing the irregular Ebulletins
- Adding events, resources and new features to the website.

Further information about these – and other – areas of work are in the report that follows.

Increasingly, The Network is being seen as one of the places to make contact with other people to share and develop good practice, to ask for information, and as a way in to libraries, museums and archives. We are also being asked to contribute to writings about this whole area of work.

Tackling social exclusion, creating community cohesion and developing approaches to community engagement are all still at the top of the Government agenda: it is increasingly clear that libraries, museums and archives have a key role to play in this, and The Network is contributing to the spread of good practice and the raising of our profile. This is going to be crucial in an Election year, especially when the Parties are talking about cuts – we must make sure that people are fully aware of the contribution that our sector makes.

2010 has been designated the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, and The Network has been confirmed as a formal partner by DWP (which is why we are allowed to use the logo on our website and Newsletter).

Finally, my thanks to all those who shared good practice, made enquiries, and generally contributed to The Network – please continue doing so!

John Vincent  
December 2009

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<sup>1</sup> 30 in 2008.

## Membership, contacts and enquiries

### Organisational members at December 2009

There are 136 organisational members (plus the MLA Partnership).

Here are the new joiners and leavers.

#### Joiners

Bedford Borough/Central Bedfordshire, replacing Bedfordshire  
Cheshire East, replacing Cheshire  
School Library Association.

#### Leavers

Neath Port Talbot  
Newham  
St Helens  
Wolverhampton.

### Individual members

At December 2009, The Network had 17 individual members.

### Partners

The Network is working in partnership with a number of key organisations and individuals, including Anne Harding, Bookscan, CILIP Scotland, CILIP Wales, CyMAL, DCMS, Margaret Sloan, NAAN [English Heritage's New Audiences and Access Network], NALD [The National Association for Literature Development], the Quality Leaders Project, RNIB, The Reading Agency, Sound Delivery, and the Time To Read network, and they also receive copies of the newsletter.

### Membership of JISCMail lists

The following lists are open to anybody:

List	2009	2008
LAC [people working with looked-after children]	364	325
LGBT [people working with LGBTs]	104	63
Network ebulletin [combining WTYL & Newsletter subscribers]	936	794
Older people [people working with older people]	70	14
Travellers [people working with Travellers]	166	139

The following are for Network members only:

List	2009	2008
Network Newsletter	510	485

The Network [for circulation of general information and enquiries]	279	272
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The following is for Network and Prison Libraries Group members only:

List	2009	2008
Prisons	85	65

## Contacts abroad

We have had a number of enquiries about The Network (particularly the newsletter) from people outside the UK, and now email the newsletters to:

- Albert Arko-Cobbah (Vista Campus Library, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa)
- Marcia Aronson (Manager, Adult & Readers' Advisory Services, Ottawa Public Library)
- John Gehner (Coordinator, Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force, ALA Social Responsibility Round Table)
- Liza Harrington (InterFuture Scholar, Suffolk University, Boston, Mass.)
- Anne Berit Helland (Bergen Public Library, Norway)
- Nick Jones (Nacka Library, Sweden)
- Raj Kumar Gandharba (Executive Director of the Jana Utthan Pratishan (JUP) in Nepal)
- Rajashekhar Kumbar (Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Goa, India)
- Marian Morgan-Bindon (Queensland)
- Bern Nolen (Eastern Regional Libraries, Victoria, Australia)
- Fidelma O'Brien (Victoria, Australia)
- Lorraine Seeger (Eastern Regional Libraries, Victoria, Australia)
- Ken Williment (Halifax Public Libraries, Canada)

## Enquiries

2009 [January –December 2009]	108 <sup>2</sup>
2008 [January-December 2008]	87
2007 [January-December 2007]	75
2006 [January-December 2006]	122
2005 [January-December 2005]	83
2004 [January-December 2004]	102
2003/4 [April-December 2003]	50
2002/3	46
2001/2	15
2000/1	8

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<sup>2</sup> An increasing number of enquiries is coming from students – 8 of the 107 were from students of librarianship and information studies, requesting information for and help with their dissertations.

## The work of The Network, 2009 – Report by the Networker

I worked some 1,225 hours for the Network between January-December 2009. This is an outline of what that has involved.

Activities	Hours 2009	% 2009	Hours 2008	% 2008
Preparation, delivery and follow-up to training courses [self-financing]	269.75	22%	321.00	24%
“Welcome to Your Library” Phase 2 and further work	12.75	1%	113.25	8%
Writing advocacy paper for Neighbourhoods NW	35.25	2.9%	-	-
Work on social exclusion & botanic gardens for RCMG	7.00	0.6%	-	-
<i>Externally-funded work</i>	<i>324.75</i>	<i>26.5%</i>		<i>c41%</i>
Managing The Network, including new members, adding to JISMAIL lists, filing, etc (21.50); enquiries (22.50); accounts (55.25); maintaining our website (22.00); responding to reports etc (12.25)	133.50	10.9%	169.00	13%
Emails	197.25	16.1%	221.75	17%
Work on newsletters	238.25	19.5%	214.50	16%
Other writing	136.25	11.1%	12.25	1%
Other activities (eg attending meetings)	148.75	12.1%	157.75	12%
Supporting work with older people	5.00	0.4%	-	-
Supporting work with looked-after children	33.00	2.7%	-	-
Trustee of the Jodi Awards	8.00	0.7%	-	-
<i>Paid for from subscriptions, income from courses, etc</i>	<i>900.00</i>	<i>73.5%</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>c59%</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1224.75</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1325.25</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Initiatives and Developments

- Contracted by Neighbourhoods North West to research and write a paper on the role that public libraries in the NW play in their local neighbourhoods
- Contracted by RCMG to produce policy background for their research on botanical gardens and social exclusion
- Invited to become a Trustee for the Jodi Mattes Trust
- Invited to join the National Literacy Trust Early Years Advisory Group
- Invited to co-write, with John Pateman, a book on public libraries and social exclusion for Ashgate (due July 2010)
- Approached by Develop, a website portal representing a consortium of local organisations, mental health services, and people with mental health problems and their families in Bromley (<http://www.developbromley.com/>), to be listed in our links section on the website
- CSV contacted The Network to assist them with sending out a survey to museum, library and archive services in ten local authority areas

### Attendance at seminars, formal and other meetings, etc

- Meeting with the Fostering Network, NCH and the Who Cares? Trust to discuss potential bids for funding (January 2009)
- CSG meeting (January 2009)

- CILIP CSG “Libraries Change Lives Awards”, shortlisting meeting (March 2009); visits to shortlisted projects (4 days in May 2009); Award-giving at Umbrella (July 2009)
- Meeting at English Heritage to discuss “Our Place” website (July 2009)
- Meeting with Hui-Yun Sung (and her tutors), Loughborough, to discuss her dissertation (July 2009)
- Meeting with Marian Keen Downs and colleagues at Booktrust to discuss working together on provision for looked-after children and older people (July 2009)
- Meeting of Jodi Mattes Trust (September 2009)
- Meeting of NW Society of Chief Librarians, Salford, to discuss Neighbourhoods NW paper (September 2009)
- Attended launch of *Beyond tolerance* policy document, EHRC (October 2009)
- Jodi Awards, V&A Museum (December 2009)

### **Conferences, seminars, etc attended**

- Attended Natural History Museum/RBKC afternoon event to celebrate the work of a group of looked-after young people and foster carers (January 2009)

### **Other events**

- Invited to chair the Museums Etc conference, “Museums | Inclusion | Engagement” conference in December 2009 (but I had to withdraw because of ill-health)
- Invited to work with Greenwich Museums on their community engagement programme; having completed some preparatory work, the consultancy and training was carried out by Cathy Herman (July 2009)
- Invited to speak at the “Next Chapters: Library Services for Older Adults in Australia and New Zealand” conference in May 2009. Margaret Sloan attended, and gave two presentations, “Developing a good practice guide on library services for older people”, and one about our work.

### **Visitors from abroad**

None in 2009.

### **Formal responses made by the Network**

- Drafted original response (with CSG) for CILIP to use as their ‘base’ for their response on “Delivering Digital Inclusion” (January 2009)
- Response to CSG on the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Libraries Inquiry (April 2009)
- Response from The Network and CSG to MLA’s Community Empowerment discussion paper (April 2009)
- Proposals for Hampshire’s Independent Equality Forum (September 2009)

## Comments (eg on draft publications) made by the Network

- Responding to request for comments by Mantra Lingua on their RecorderPEN (February 2009)
- Consulted by Benedicte Page (The Bookseller) re: policies on libraries' stocking controversial materials (February 2009)
- Commenting on draft report on traineeships from Time To Read (May 2009)
- Commenting on draft paper on developing work with looked-after young people for Healthy Hillingdon (July 2009)
- Commenting on revisions to Libraries Change Lives Award application form (October 2009)
- Commenting on draft community engagement papers for CSG (October 2009)
- Commenting on draft promotional paper for Libraries Change Lives Award (October 2009)
- Commenting on bid for funding for work with looked-after young people (and other vulnerable groups) by the Charles Hastings Education Centre, George Marshall Medical Museum, Worcester (October 2009)

## Publications – The Network's own

- Margaret Sloan and John Vincent. *Library services for older people: good practice guide*. The Network, 2009  
[http://www.seapn.org.uk/content\\_files/files/library\\_services\\_good\\_practice\\_guide\\_1336795.pdf](http://www.seapn.org.uk/content_files/files/library_services_good_practice_guide_1336795.pdf)
- *The Network Newsletter*, issues 81-103
- *The Network Ebulletin*, numbers 11-40.

## Publications – articles

- John Vincent. "Public library provision for Black and minority ethnic communities – where are we in 2009?" *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science* 41 (3) September 2009, pp137-147
- John Vincent. "Tackling social exclusion – where have we got to?" *Public Library Journal* Autumn 2009, pp19-20

## Courses and other events (January – December 2009)

### 1. Our own open courses

None in 2009.

### 2. Other organisations' open courses/Lectures

"Community Engagement: Partnerships", one-day course (with Cathy Herman) for MLA London (November 2008)

Keynote speech, followed by workshop, for SELPIG Conference, "Variety is the spice of life" (November 2009)

“The impact of Equalities”, seminar organised by BASIN/LibrariesWest (November 2009)

“The Network and looked-after children”, talk as part of the YLG London training day, “Everybody welcome ...” (October 2009)

“Community Engagement: Partnerships”, one-day course for Renaissance West Midlands (October 2009)

“Access: an introduction to tackling social exclusion”, one-day course for Renaissance West Midlands (October 2009)

Chairing “Healthy Communities” morning at the Public Library Authorities Conference, Bristol (October 2009)

“Broken windows, broken lives – services to looked after children”, workshop at the Public Library Authorities Conference, Bristol (October 2009)

“Social justice and community cohesion – what are they exactly and how do we respond?” workshop (with Kevin Harris) for CILIP Umbrella Conference, Hatfield (July 2009)

“Out in the library”, seminar organised by BASIN/LibrariesWest (June 2009)

“Looked-after children and libraries”, one-day course (with Anne Harding), Manchester (June 2009)

“How can we use social media to promote social inclusion?”, two workshops (with Lucie Fitton) for Sound Delivery’s Social Media Exchange (June 2009)

“Community libraries and collaborative working for better neighbourhoods” for Neighbourhoods NW ‘Masterclass’, Preston (January 2009)

“Tackling social exclusion”, one-day course, Renaissance East Midlands, Leicester (January 2009)

“Tackling social exclusion”, one-day course, Renaissance West Midlands, Birmingham (January 2009)

### 3. In-house courses and talks

“Working with older people”, one-day course, Enfield Libraries (November 2009)

“Library services for LGBTs”, Hertfordshire Library Service (November 2009, 2 x half-day courses)

“Library services for LGBTs”, Hertfordshire Library Service (October 2009, half-day course)

“Library services for LGBTs”, Hertfordshire Library Service (September 2009, half-day course)

“The power of books”, workshop for UCL Library Services Staff Conference, “Seeing the bigger picture: celebrating diversity in libraries (with Dave Percival) (June 2009)

“Tackling social exclusion”, lecture to MSc students, UWE, Bristol (April 2009)

“Tackling social exclusion”, V&A Museum (March 2009, half-day course)

“Tackling social exclusion” workshop, University of Brighton MA in Librarianship course (February 2009)

“Equalities – the national perspective” for Equalities Seminar, Derbyshire (January 2009)

#### 4. Conference

None in 2009.

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## **Appendix A: Meetings with key contacts 2009**

These included meetings with: Kate Davenport (Bristol) to plan the programme for the Public Library Authorities Conference; Guy Daines and Bidy Fisher (CILIP) to finalise their response to “Delivering Digital Inclusion”; Anne Harding to discuss training courses; Nick Marcangelo (DOH) to finalise the “Good practice guide”; Maria Cotera (UCL Library Service) to plan workshop for Staff Conference; Margaret Sloan to discuss “Good practice guide”, to brief her for visit to Australia, and to plan BASIN course; Bill Bolloten to plan training courses; Valerie Bearne & Jon Scown to plan BASIN courses; Marcus Weisen to discuss Jodi Awards; Jude Habib to plan training courses and Social Media Exchange; Matthew Cock (British Museum) to discuss Jodi Awards; Claire Davies (The Fostering Network) to discuss her dissertation; Helena Kettleborough (Neighbourhoods NW) to work on paper; Mike Clarke (Camden) to update each other; Catherine Wardle to discuss her dissertation; Ben Taylor & Olivia Spencer to discuss consultancy work; Zachari Duncalf (Care Leavers’ Association) to update each other; Jan Pimblett (London Metropolitan Archives) to update each other; Andrew Knight & Deborah Mbofana (Hillingdon) to update each other; Elizabeth Elford (British Library/SCL) to update each other; Cathy Herman to plan training courses; Natasha Innocent (MLA) to update each other.