



Annual Report: January-December 2010

Introduction

2010 was another good year for The Network, including:

- Developing, running and participating in some 18¹ courses and conferences
- Being invited to give a paper at the international “From the Margins to the Core” museums conference at the V&A
- Producing newsletters for January-December 2010
- Producing the Ebulletins
- Publication of *Public libraries and social justice* in September
- Regularly 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.

Working towards social justice 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 (despite the economic position), and The Network is contributing to the spread of good practice and the raising of our profile.

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

John Vincent
January 2011

¹ 24 in 2009, 30 in 2008.

Membership, contacts and enquiries

Organisational members at December 2010

There are 129 organisational members.

Here are the new joiners and leavers.

Joiners

Edinburgh
Hull

Leavers

Dorset
Havering
Manchester Metropolitan University
NIACE
Oxfordshire
Petrie Museum
Rotherham
Staffordshire

Individual members

At December 2010, The Network had 15 individual members.

Partners

The Network is working in partnership with a number of key organisations and individuals, including Bill Bolloten, Anne Harding, and Cathy Herman, Bookscan, CILIP Scotland, CILIP Wales, CyMAL (who are using the Ebulletin to inform lis-Wales), DCMS, NAAN [English Heritage's New Audiences and Access Network], NALD [The National Association for Literature Development], RNIB, The Reading Agency, Sound Delivery (who have offered discounts on their courses to Network members), the Time To Read network, and World Language Books (who offer Network members a discount on the products).

Membership of JISCMAIL lists

The following lists are open to anybody:

List	2010	2009
LAC [people working with looked-after children]	385	364
LGBT [people working with LGBTs]	144	104
Network ebulletin [combining WTYL & Newsletter subscribers]	930	936
Older people [people working with older people]	142	70
Travellers [people working with Travellers]	188	166

The following are for Network members only:

List	2010	2009
Network Newsletter	507	510
The Network [for circulation of general information and enquiries]	291	279

The following is for Network and Prison Libraries Group members only:

List	2010	2009
Prisons	94	85

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 and Ebulletins 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

These now include enquiries made on the elists The Network coordinates (eg Prisons):

2010 [January-December 2010]	117 ²
2009 [January-December 2009]	108
2008 [January-December 2008]	87

² An increasing number of enquiries is coming from students – 4 of the 107 were from students, requesting information for and help with their dissertations. The 2010 figure also includes 6 jobs that The Network was asked to circulate to its members.

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

The work of The Network, 2010 – Report by the Networker

I worked some 1,202 hours for the Network between January-December 2010. This is an outline of what that has involved.

Activities	Hours 2010	% 2010	Hours 2009	% 2009
Preparation, delivery and follow-up to training courses [self-financing]	340.50	28.3%	269.75	22%
“Welcome to Your Library” further work	15.50	1.3%	12.75	1%
Writing advocacy paper for Neighbourhoods NW	4.75	0.4%	35.25	2.9%
Work on social exclusion & botanic gardens for RCMG	15.50	1.3%	7.00	0.6%
<i>Externally-funded work</i>	376.25	31.3%	324.75	26.5%
Managing The Network, including new members, adding to JISMAIL lists, filing, etc (25.00); enquiries (18.25); accounts (52.75); maintaining our website (12.25); responding to reports etc (12.25)	120.50	10.0%	133.50	10.9%
Emails	214.25	17.8%	197.25	16.1%
Work on Newsletters & Ebulletins	259.50	21.6%	238.25	19.5%
Other writing (including <i>Public libraries and social justice</i>)	28.50	2.4%	136.25	11.1%
Other activities (eg attending meetings)	123.75	10.3%	148.75	12.1%
Supporting work with older people	-	-	5.00	0.4%
Supporting work with looked-after children	10.25	0.9%	33.00	2.7%
Member of judges panel for CILIP Libraries Change Lives Award	53.75	4.5%	N/A	N/A
Trustee of the Jodi Awards	15.25	1.3%	8.00	0.7%
<i>Paid for from subscriptions, income from courses, etc</i>	825.75	68.8%	900.00	73.5%
TOTAL	1202.00	100%	1224.75	100%

Initiatives and Developments

- Publication of *Public libraries and social justice* by John Pateman and John Vincent (Ashgate, September 2010)

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

- Attended meeting as part of the “Their Past, Your Future” evaluation (as part of the RCMG evaluation), Newcastle (January 2010)
- Meetings of Jodi Mattes Trust (January, July, September 2010)
- Meetings of the National Literacy Trust Early Years Advisory Group (February, June, October)
- Get Into Reading event, London (March 2010)

- Attended meeting at Botanic Gardens Conservation International to advise on social inclusion issues as part of the RCMG research project, Kew (March 2010)
- CILIP CSG “Libraries Change Lives Awards”, shortlisting meeting (March 2010); visits to shortlisted projects (3 days in May 2010); Award-giving at LCLA Conference, London (July 2010)
- CILIP Equality and Diversity Panel meetings (July, December 2010)
- Urban Forum on The Big Society, Exeter (July 2010)
- Meeting with Claire Harding (The Campaign Company) to discuss social justice issues (September 2010)
- CILIP CSG Committee meeting (October 2010)
- London Metropolitan Archives 8th annual LGBT event, “Young Hearts, Run Free” (December 2010)

Other events

- Visited John Harvard Library and met Southwark Library Service staff (at the invitation of Pam Usher) (January 2010)
- Invited to launch of Rukus! at the London Metropolitan Archives (October 2010)

Visitors from abroad

- Al Kagan, researching radical librarianship (April 2010)

Support for students, researchers, etc

- Commenting on parts of draft dissertation for Susan McLaine (October 2010)
- Commenting on and meeting with Eileen Hyder to discuss her dissertation on reading groups and social inclusion (July)

Formal responses made by the Network

- Response to *Empower, inform, enrich* [the DCMS Public Libraries Review] (January 2010)
- Commenting on draft CILIP CSG social justice guidelines (July 2010)
- Review by John Vincent of Danny Dorling *Injustice ...* (Policy Press), published on their website (July 2010)
- Commenting on draft revision of ISO 2789 “Services promoting inclusion and integration” (October 2010)
- Response to Urban Forum survey about membership and impact of funding (November 2010)
- Response to the Cross Party Inquiry into the Prospects for Children in Care (November 2010)
- Response to National Youth Agency on the uses made of their electronic newsletters (December 2010)

Comments (eg on draft publications) made by the Network

- Commenting on draft PowerPoint presentation for Abigail Luthmann (East Sussex Libraries) (January 2010)
- Commenting on draft papers by Ken Williment (Halifax Public Library) (July 2010)
- Commenting on draft papers by Jenny Schnoll (Toronto Public Library) (September 2010)
- Commenting on draft article by Anne Harding for *CILIP Update* (October 2010)
- Commenting on draft article by Marcus Weisen for *Museums Journal* (November 2010)
- Comments on draft papers by John Pateman on The Big Society and Community-led Commissioning (November 2010)
- Comments to Lucy Love on draft article about Enfield's work with children (December 2010)

Publications – The Network's own

- *The Network Newsletter*, issues 104-115
- *The Network Ebulletin*, numbers 41-68.

Publications – articles

- John Vincent. "Social justice, anyone?" *Public Library Journal* Winter 2010, pp22-23
- John Vincent "Empower, inform, enrich ..." *Public Library Journal* Spring 2010, pp7-8.

Publications – book

- John Pateman and John Vincent. *Public libraries and social justice*. Ashgate Publishing, 2010.

Courses and other events (January – December 2010)

1. Our own open courses

"Supporting looked-after children", one-day course (with Anne Harding), Bristol (June 2010).

2. Other organisations' open courses/Lectures

Keynote speech and facilitating at BCLiP one-day conference, "Volunteers: practicalities and realities", Halesowen (November 2010)

"Volunteer management: reflecting the community in volunteer diversity" for Creating Capacity, London (November 2010)

“Community engagement: an introduction to the skills and planning required”, one-day course (with Cathy Herman) for Creating Capacity, London (October 2010)

“Delivering services for looked-after children”, one-day course (with Anne Harding) for MLA, Stoke-on-Trent (September 2010)

“Public library provision for Black and Minority Ethnic groups – where are we in 2010?”, workshops for the CILIP Diversity Group Conference, London (June 2010)

“Connecting libraries to new communities”, one day course (with Bill Bolloten) for Libraries & Information East Midlands, Leicester (June 2010)

“Connecting libraries to new communities”, one day course (with Bill Bolloten) for CILIP South West, Exeter (May 2010)

“Pushing the Boundaries”, facilitating the one-day seminar organised by BASIN/LibrariesWest (April 2010)

“Ten Years On” – speech at “From the Margins to the Core” Conference, V&A, London (March 2010)

“Connecting museums, libraries and archives to new communities”, one day course (with Bill Bolloten) for MLA London (March 2010)

“Community engagement: evaluation” one-day course (with Cathy Herman) for MLA London (January 2010)

3. In-house courses and talks

“Community engagement: partnerships – how can we initiate them and keep them going?”, one-day course for RBKC Library Service (October 2010)

“Working with volunteers workshop” for Derby City Libraries, Derby (September 2010)

“Library services for LGBTs”, Hertfordshire Library Service (May, June, July, September 2010, 8 x half-day courses)

“Library services for new communities”, facilitating a one-day workshop for the British-German Thinktank/CILIP, Stratford upon Avon (May 2010)

Seminar for information studies students at the University of West of England, Bristol (February 2010)

“Managing children’s library services for social inclusion”, one-day course (with Anne Harding) for Coventry Library Service (January 2010).

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Appendix A: Meetings with key contacts 2010

These included:

Meetings to discuss training courses

- Sue Cornish
- Anne Harding
- Bill Bolloten
- Andrew Knight & Helen Carpenter
- Anita Van Mil & Henrietta Hopkins
- Valerie Bearne & Jon Scown
- Jacky Logan
- Jude Habib

Updating meetings/Network business

- Jonathan Douglas (National Literacy Trust)
- Janet Holden
- René Kinzett (then National Council on Archives)
- Andrew Motion (Chair, MLA)
- Tola Dabiri (then MLA)
- Henrietta Hopkins (Hopkins Van Mil)
- Loose Change consultants group
- Ben Taylor (RedQuadrant)
- Ajamu X (Rukus!)
- Natasha Innocent (MLA)
- Tracy-Ann Smith (Natural History Museum)
- Abigail Moss (National Literacy Trust)
- Annie Mauger (CILIP)
- Kevin Harris (Local Level).