

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 197, 17 November 2015

Events

Events have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/courses>.

Consultations

“Tell the World: (CERD)”

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/europe/cerd.html>

(Source: email from Runnymede, 10 Nov 2015)

“Runnymede is coordinating the input of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to the UK government’s examination by CERD, the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). We are currently issuing a **call for evidence** for our report [...]

The UK submitted its report in March 2015 and the Committee is scheduled to examine it in August 2016. At this hearing, the UK Government will be asked a series of questions by the Committee after which it will make concluding observations to the government and the latter will be expected to address these in its race equality policies until the next submission five years later.

We plan to use the opportunity of CERD's examination of the UK report to produce a shadow report, providing an overview of the situation of race equality in the UK, from the perspective of civil society. The CERD Committee welcomes Shadow Reports from civil society, particularly reports prepared by a coalition of organisations, which are often more convincing and make a greater impact.

The shadow report for 2016 will be drafted by Runnymede, and will draw on responses to this present call for evidence, as well as consultation with NGOs across the country (through the organisation of meetings in Cardiff, Glasgow, London and Manchester). If you would like to attend one of the workshops please contact [Sian](#).

If you cannot attend one of the workshops you can contribute to the report by [answering this questionnaire](#) and returning it to [Sian](#) by 18th December 2015.”

Funding & Opportunities

“New grants for tackling poverty and social exclusion”

<http://www.volunteering-wales.net/news/2015/11/10/new-grants-for-tackling-poverty-and-social-exclusion/>

“If you work with economically inactive people, for example providing volunteering opportunities that help people to gain employability skills and relevant qualifications, you may be interested to know about the availability of the new Active Inclusion grant funding.

Active Inclusion is an ESF funded project run by WCVA on behalf of WEFO (Wales European Funding Office). The project aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion in Wales, by providing organisations in Wales with grant funding from under £22,000 to a maximum of £280,000 to run projects that assist economically inactive and long term unemployed people in gaining workplace skills and qualifications through vocational activities and paid supported work placements.

Organisations can apply online through [etenderwales](http://etenderwales.gov.uk) to become an approved beneficiary of the Active Inclusion fund: once successful they will then be invited to apply for grant rounds and will also be informed of funding opportunities available to organisations in Wales.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Diversity in the workforce and governance of Arts Council England's Major partner museums: research project

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/Diversity-in-the-workforce-and-governance-of-Arts-Council-Englands-Major-partner-museums_Research-project.pdf

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 11 Nov 2015)

New report, commissioned by ACE, has found that curators, exhibition staff and collections care specialists in Major Partner Museums (MPM) “appear to be less diverse than those in other roles”.

“It makes recommendations about ways that Arts Council England could support MPMs to ensure their work in this area is well targeted and properly resourced in the short term, while also setting more ambitious aspirations for the medium and long term.” [p3]

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

“Public Libraries and At-Risk Teens”

<http://www.slj.com/2015/11/teens-ya/public-libraries-safe-havens-for-at-risk-teens/#>

(Source: *LJXpress* – *Library Journal*, 10 Nov 2015)

Brief round-up of some good practice case-studies in US libraries.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Prevent duty, 'extremism' and 'radicalisation': press and commentary”

Bill Bolloten (whom many of you will remember from his work on “Welcome To Your Library”) now produces a free monthly digest of articles, newspaper stories, reports etc about the “Prevent” agenda. If you would like to be added to the mailing-list for this, please contact Bill at: billboll1@mac.com.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

National Alliance for Museums, Health & Wellbeing

<https://museumsandwellbeingalliance.wordpress.com/>

The National Alliance for Museums, Health & Wellbeing has just launched.

Its website includes a range of important resources, eg:

- Events and training
- Resources - case-studies and an evidence library
- Toolkits - museum activities; partnerships; measurement & evaluation; commissioning
- Inspiration - museums & wellbeing; arts in health
- Info about Museums & Wellbeing Week (29 Feb - 6 Mar 2016).

The Alliance also coordinates a JISCMail list – more info at:

<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=MUSEUMSANDWELLBEINGALLIANCE>.

Becoming a dementia-friendly arts venue: a practical guide

http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=2812

(Source: email from the Age Friendly Museums Network, 10 Nov 2015)

Important new guide, based on best practice examples of the work going on across the country supporting people affected by dementia in arts venues.

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Re-thinking the Body”

(Source: email from Rebekah Taylor, UCA, to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 11 Nov 2015)

“Re-thinking the Body is an exhibition held at the Elaine Thomas Library, UCA Farnham, and consists of work by postgraduate and undergraduate students imaginatively responding to our collections on ways that disability has been represented and (mis)understood in society and culture.

There will be an artists’ event on the 24th November from 18:00, with tickets available here <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/re-thinking-the-body-new-work-inspired-by-uca-archive-tickets-19422355789>

We also have a series of blog posts showing the artists’ work, and the process in putting together the exhibition

[https://ucaarchives.wordpress.com/category/re-thinking-the-body-exhibition/.](https://ucaarchives.wordpress.com/category/re-thinking-the-body-exhibition/)”

“RNIB Library goes FREE!”

(Source: email from Mark McCree, RNIB, 10 Nov 2015)

“RNIB have always thought Talking Books were a good idea. But we think letting people borrow them for free is even better. To celebrate 80 years of our Talking Books service we're proud to announce we're making it free, meaning that even more people will benefit from our life-changing library.

We very much appreciate the role that partner organisations and individuals play in transforming the lives of people with sight loss and making library services accessible. We hope you'll agree this is an

exciting step; and we wanted to make sure you heard the news as soon as possible. It would be great if you could share this information with your customers and colleagues, as I am sure it would be of interest or benefit to them.

Lending books has allowed us to help the blind community live richer, freer lives, creating a lifeline to the outside world through the wonderful reading choices we have available. We hope this positive step will help us serve even more people in the future. RNIB is passionate about reading and the role it can play in the lives of the people we serve, and RNIB Library is the largest of its kind in Europe and is growing all the time, with more than 60,000 items.

If you have any questions regarding this exciting news, please get in contact with us; or find more info. at: www.rniblibrary.com or the main RNIB website: www.rnib.org.uk

Email: Helpline@rnib.org.uk
Telephone: 0303 123 9999
Fax: 01733 375001
Minicom: 0845 758 5691”

Disability issues – Other Agencies

Disability hate crime and the media’s portrayal of Disabled people – facts and statistics

https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Inclusion-London_Disability-Hate-Crime-Factsheet-2015.pdf

(Source: Equality and Diversity Forum *eNewsletter*, 26 Oct 2015)

New report from Inclusion London*, which includes:

“[...] facts and statistics from research reports regarding hate crime, portrayal of Disabled people in the media and other information relating to disability hate crime.” [p3]

* “Inclusion London supports 78 Deaf and Disabled Organisations working across every London borough. Through these organisations, our reach extends to over 70,000 Disabled Londoners”, see:

<https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/about-us/>.

Learning Difficulty issues – Other Agencies

“Tech Thursday: Speaking to your computer Part 1: Searches, calculations and notes”

<http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/news/tech-thursday-speaking-your-computer-part-1-searches-calculations-and-notes>

(Source: *STV Bulletin* 196, 3 Nov 2015)

This is part 1 of a three-part series on speech recognition tools on phones, tablets and personal computers, which can make writing accessible to many more people.

Migration issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Museums urged ‘to do migration differently’”

<http://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/09112015-museums-urged-to-do-migration-differently>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 11 Nov 2015)

Different approaches to addressing migration stories in museums were discussed at a session at the MA Conference in Birmingham.

“Sophie Henderson, the director of the Migration Museum project, Rhiannon Mason, a senior lecturer at Newcastle University, and Avaes Mohammed, who is leading a project for the thinktank British Future, all shared their thoughts on how museums can “do migration differently” during the session, which was chaired by Cathy Ross, an honorary research fellow at the Museum of London.

All the speakers highlighted the fact that although many museums already deal with migration in their displays, this is often limited to immigration and told through personal stories rather than through exploring the numbers – or within wider issues of empire, colonialism and global economic imbalances.”

Rhiannon Mason asked participants to think through:

- “Who are migration displays for and what is their role (to integrate, to educate, to foster tolerance or all of these)?
- Should migration stories be inserted into dominant narratives or separated out?
- Are permanent exhibitions the best way for museums to keep up with the pace of change?
- And how can museums engage with wider debates about migration, including visitor responses to displays?”

Migration Museum Project – see: <http://migrationmuseum.org/>

British Future – see: <http://www.britishfuture.org/>

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Refugees: Finance”

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2819/>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 457, 9 Nov 2015)

The following written answer (from Lord Bates) to questions asked in the House of Lords clarifies the position over employment for refugees and asylum-seekers:

“Those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection, including those resettled under our three resettlement schemes, are entitled to work without restriction and have full access to the mainstream benefits system on the same terms as British citizens and other permanent

residents in the UK. Asylum seekers are only permitted to work in the UK if their asylum claim has been outstanding for more than 12 months, providing the delay is not of their making. Employment is restricted to jobs on the shortage occupations list. We have no plans to reduce the time asylum seekers have to wait to take up employment.”

Time taken to process asylum applications

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10811/>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 457, 9 Nov 2015)

The following written answer (from James Brokenshire) to a question in the House of Commons gives the current figure:

“The current average time to process an asylum claim is 80 days, from the date of the screening interview to the date the substantive asylum interview has been concluded. This is down from a peak of 142 days in 2008.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Trajectory and transience: understanding and addressing the pressures of migration on communities

http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/trajectory-and-transience_Nov2015.pdf?noredirect=1

(Source: IPPR Newsletter, 6 Nov 2015)

Important new report from IPPR

“The research conducted for this report in areas that have a higher rate of migration shows that diversity and migration are effectively ‘normalised’ in time. In more highly diverse areas, they are part of an everyday, accepted reality. In these areas most residents, migrant and settled, come to recognise diversity as a distinctive and valued asset in their communities.

However, migration and diversity by themselves do not represent the whole of the challenge. Recent trends driving greater transience in migration are placing new strains on communities. Transience is caused by a combination of factors: technology which makes it easier (and cheaper) for migrants to stay connected with ‘home’, trends in the labour market which make jobs less secure, and freedom of movement within the EU.

Policy decisions that explicitly set out to ensure that ‘coming to the UK does not mean settling in the UK’ are counterproductive and shortsighted because they inhibit integration. They prevent migrants from forming relationships, make it harder for migrants to thrive in our labour market and make an active contribution to our economy, and create a considerable cost for public services. Migrant children are particularly affected, as delaying their entrance to the UK education system stymies their chances of thriving academically.

We propose a series of measures aimed at central government, local authorities and other important non-state bodies (particularly universities) to alleviate local pressures caused by migration and ethnic diversity and to reduce transience [...] [p3]

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

Hidden victims of the Syrian crisis: disabled, injured and older refugees
http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/handicapinternational/pages/454/attachments/original/1397045203/Hidden_Victims_of_the_Syrian_Crisis%E2%80%94disabled_injured_and_older_refugees.pdf?1397045203

(Source: Future East Newsletter, <http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=9680ad9e68fc3df93de0669a0&id=2c7bf8cc57&e=12966f0823>, via DWP Age Action Alliance *Weekly Members' News*, 28 Sep 2015)

I'd missed this important report at the time (2014) – the results of a research project carried out in Oct and Nov 2013 by Handicap International and HelpAge International, looking at the number and needs of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon living with impairment, injury and chronic disease.

“The study shows that of the Syrian refugees surveyed:

- 30 per cent of refugees have specific needs: one in five refugees is affected by physical, sensory or intellectual impairment; one in seven is affected by chronic disease; and one in 20 suffers from injury, with nearly 80 per cent of these injuries resulting directly from the conflict.
- Older people account for 10 per cent of refugees with specific needs, yet they make up 4-5 per cent of the surveyed refugee population meaning they are disproportionately affected; 77 per cent of older refugees surveyed have specific needs.
- Refugees with and without specific needs have the same basic concerns – a lack of income, availability and quality of shelter, and access to basic healthcare, food and essential household items.
- The difficulties faced by those with specific needs in addressing basic concerns and accessing adequate levels of assistance have more severe consequences for their health and living conditions than the general refugee population.” [p4]

“Where is integration in the refugee crisis?”

http://citiesofmigration.ca/ezone_stories/where-is-integration-in-the-refugee-crisis/

(Source: *Cities of Migration Newsletter*, 59, Nov 2015)

Article by Jenny Phillimore (Professor and Director of the Institute for Research into Superdiversity* at the University of Birmingham), which argues that:

“Getting integration policy right before refugees are dispersed is imperative”.

“In order to encourage a positive reception work is needed in dispersal destinations to help local people understand refugee experiences, to encourage them to understand the “bereavement” associated with migration and to develop skills to communicate sensitively and interculturally. Local institutions and agencies need training to

understand how to access and work effectively with interpreters, how to explain the way that the host country's systems differ from country of migration and to adopt a flexible approach to service provision."

*See: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/superdiversity-institute/index.aspx>.

"Migrant crisis: Migration to Europe explained in graphics"

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34131911>

(Source: email from Simon Wallace, 11 Nov 2015)

Useful summary of the current position.

This can be used in conjunction with the infographics noted in Ebulletin 195:

"Refugee Crisis In Europe Explained Through Infographics Laying Bare Current Situation"

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/10/27/europe-refugee-crisis-graphics-latest-developments_n_8398868.html

LGBTQ issues – Other Agencies

National LGB&T Partnership

<http://nationallgbtpartnership.org/>

(Source: email from Sajid Khan, 26 Oct 2015)

"The National LGB&T Partnership is an England-wide group of LGB&T voluntary and community organisations who are committed to reducing the health inequalities of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities and to challenging homophobia, biphobia and transphobia within public services."

The Partnership has recently published two new resources and a factsheet. The resources are:

- *LGB&T people & mental health: guidance for services and practitioners*, <https://nationallgbtpartnershipdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/np-mental-health-service-practitioners.pdf>
- *LGB&T mental health – seeking support*, <https://nationallgbtpartnershipdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/np-mental-health-seeking-support.pdf>

The factsheet is:

- *Trans health factsheet on mental health & wellbeing*, <https://nationallgbtpartnershipdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/np-trans-health-factsheet-mental-health-and-wellbeing-final.pdf>.

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Launch of the Universal Learning Offer

<http://goscl.com/universal-offers/learning-offer/>

Just in case you haven't seen this, SCL have just launched the 5th National Offer.

As part of this, they have also launched **Code Green** – see: <http://goscl.com/codegreen/#Introduction>.

"This Digital Making Kit has been commissioned by and developed for the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) and the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL) to support the launch of the Universal Learning Offer, which is available in all public library services across England. It is intended to:

- Support the roll out of digital making activities in library services across England,
- Demonstrate the important role that libraries can play in learning, creativity and the development of new skills in our communities
- Offer public library services ideas for how to develop their Learning Offer in a way that is relevant to the interests and needs of children, young people and families.

What is digital making?

Nesta has developed a definition of digital making as: '*learning about technology through making with it*'. This can include computer programming (coding), designing and making 3D objects, building robots and many other creative activities."

“What Do Tweens Want?”

<http://www.slj.com/2015/10/programs/what-do-tweens-want/#>

(Source: *LJXpress – Library Journal*, 13 Oct 2015)

Interesting article (with a useful list of resources and programming ideas) about provision in libraries in the US for tweens (young people “generally considered to be between the ages of eight and 12”).

“Future-Proofing the Library: The Idea Store”

http://citiesofmigration.ca/good_idea/future-proofing-the-library-the-idea-store/

(Source: *Cities of Migration Newsletter*, 59, Nov 2015)

Interesting article about Tower Hamlets's Idea Stores.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

Mindfulness techniques for children and young people: a practical guide

<http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/mindfulness>

(Source: email from Jennifer Meikle, Drylaw Young People's Centre, 12 Nov 2015)

New title from:

“[...] Stan Godek, one of Children in Scotland's regular trainers and a renowned expert in mindfulness techniques, is aimed at practitioners working with children and young people across a wide range of settings.

Combining practical instructions, exercises and illustrations with insights into the history and meaning of mindfulness, the publication draws on

Stan's sector-leading work with the Royal Blind School and details how these techniques can be used within Curriculum for Excellence."

NB Charged-for publication.

Benches for everyone. Solitude in public, sociability for free

http://youngfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/The-Bench-Project_single-pages.pdf

(Source: email from The Young Foundation, 13 Nov 2015)

As they say themselves, this could sound whimsical! This report is actually a plea for the provision of benches in open spaces to provide space for people to rest, feel safe, be part of society, eg:

"Benches function as a **social** resource – they are flexible and affordable places to spend time at no cost. This is appreciated by many, and especially vital for people who are largely marginalised from other collective environments such as work, cafés, educational or leisure facilities. They are contrasted positively with crowded, lonely or boring home situations." [p3]