

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 226, 1 February 2017

Events

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

Funding & Opportunities

“Call for Book Chapters: Case studies of reading for health and well-being in libraries and information services”

(Source: email from Sarah McNicol, 24 Jan 2017)

“I am in the early stages of developing a proposal for a book for Facet Publishing (<http://facetpublishing.co.uk/>) exploring the impacts of reading for health and well-being. It will be aimed at library/information studies professionals, students and researchers and will draw together contributors from across library sectors and regions to reflect on current practices.

The book will encompass all aspects of ‘bibliotherapy’ in its widest sense, defined as: “The therapeutic use of books and other materials with individuals or with groups of people” (Howie, 1988). This includes activities:

- involving people of different ages (e.g. children/teenagers, adults or older people)
- focused on people with a particular condition (e.g. depression) or concerned with promoting well-being more generally
- working with individuals (e.g. Books on Prescription) or groups (e.g. shared reading)
- focused on specific groups (e.g. ethnic minority groups, LGBT communities, people with specific disabilities) or a more general audience
- making use of self-help books or imaginative literature or other media (e.g. images)
- taking place in a traditional library setting (e.g. public library, health information service) or in other locations (e.g. community venues)
- run as short term projects or as embedded services.

If you are interested in submitting a chapter (3,000-4,000 words), please send a 200-300 word abstract to Sarah McNicol (s.mcnicol@mmu.ac.uk) by Friday 3rd March 2017 together with a brief biographical statement.

The following is a suggested format for the abstract (but feel free to alter it to suit your case study):

- Brief description of the project: What are you doing? Are you following a particular ‘model’ of bibliotherapy? Who is the audience?

- Aims: What do you hope people will gain from participating?
- Outcomes: What have people actually gained from participating?
- Reflections: What are you most proud of? What would you do differently?

If you want to discuss your idea prior to submitting an abstract, please contact me on s.mcnicol@mmu.ac.uk or telephone +44 161 247 5104. (Please note, I am out of the office from 27th Jan-13th Feb, so if you get in touch during that time, I'll get back to you as soon as I can once I'm back).

If you are involved in an interesting case study, but are unsure about writing a chapter, please get in touch; I'm happy to discuss co-authorship or other ways of contributing."

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

Open Letter to Councillors

<http://www.cilips.org.uk/open-letter-councillors/>

(Source: *CILIPS News*, 32, Jan 2017)

CILIP Scotland have written an Open Letter, urging that Elected Members "take full account of the benefits and value our libraries deliver."

This includes some powerful messages, eg:

"You may have heard it said that in the age of Google and smartphones, libraries are a thing of the past. That is simply not true. For one thing, 20% of households in Scotland do not have access to the internet. Having physical access, however, does not guarantee having essential digital skills: [30% of the Scottish population do not](#). Throughout Scotland libraries and librarians in communities, schools, colleges, prisons and other settings are providing that access and enabling citizens to do the learning that will allow them to become active in the digital world."

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Young Carers

<https://carers.org/news-item/young-carers-risk-not-fulfilling-their-dreams-and-ambitions-new-figures-show-young-carers>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Daily*, 31 Jan 2017)

Carers Trust has published the results of a survey to coincide with Young Carers Day (26 Jan).

"A new survey by Carers Trust has revealed that young carers across the UK are struggling to get the most out of their education and are in danger of not fulfilling their ambitions due to their caring role.

Of the young adult carers we surveyed over half (53%) were having problems in coping with schoolwork with nearly 60% struggling to meet deadlines. A startling number - 73% - told us that they have to take time

out of school or learning specifically to care for a family member. A third admitted that they have to skip school most weeks.”

This was also picked up by *The Guardian*, see:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jan/26/crisis-young-carers-uk-child-schools-end-secrecy-stigma>.

“With One Voice”

<http://www.with-one-voice.com/>

(Source: email from Ciara Eastell, 26 Jan 2017)

“With One Voice is a new international arts and homelessness movement aiming to connect and strengthen arts and homelessness projects worldwide. They are finding that arts venues, museums, galleries and libraries are particularly important in this field – providing an open-door welcome to homeless people, free use of facilities and creating a bridge for homeless people back into the community. Some of these institutions have firm specific programmes for homeless people and staff to support them, others do the best they can – very few, if any, collaborate with each other to share best practice.

With One Voice is reaching out to institutions across the world to find out what is being done for homeless people; whether there are any good practice or lessons than can be shared more widely. This may lead, in the future, to a set of guidelines or code of practice for institutions working with homeless people.

For further information, please visit <http://www.with-one-voice.com/>. To register an interest in this work or to share your library service's good practice, please email Matt Peacock (mp@streetwiseopera.org).”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmpublicacc/768/768.pdf>

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 509, 16 Jan 2017)

Report from the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts, which assesses progress with the Resettlement programme.

The Summary says:

“The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme (the programme) has performed well so far, providing support to some of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees. We commend the Home Office (the Department) and the other government departments, local authorities and delivery partners involved for their efforts and their achievements so far. After a concerted effort to resettle 1,000 refugees before Christmas 2015, the programme team sensibly took a step back in early 2016 to redesign a more sustainable programme. However, meeting the overall target, to resettle 20,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in the

UK by May 2020, remains a significant challenge. Local authorities' participation in the programme is voluntary and the success of the programme will depend on their statements of good intention translating into firm offers of places. The number of refugees in the programme is small compared to the total number of people local authorities support. But some local authorities are confused about what exactly it is they are expected to provide to refugees and have also expressed concerns about what programme funds will cover and what they will need to pay for out of their other budgets. Some refugees are uncertain about what they are entitled to, and what is expected of them, as part of the programme. It is not yet clear whether survivors of torture or violence are getting the specialist help they need to be able to come to terms with their experiences. While progress so far is certainly encouraging, it is essential that these issues are addressed to ensure the success of the programme in the long-term." [p3]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Immigration Removal Centres in England: a mental health needs analysis

<https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/immigration-removal-centres>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 509, 16 Jan 2017)

Important review of mental health issues in the IRCs.

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

“Cameras in library bathroom cause privacy concerns”

<http://www.ourquadcities.com/news/cameras-in-library-bathroom-cause-privacy-concerns/640472963>

(Source: *Weekly News from CILIP*, 18 Jan 2017)

In the last Ebulletin, we mentioned an article on trans rights, “To pee or not to pee....? Toilets and Gender Identity”

<http://www.edf.org.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Toilets-Gender-Identity-Jan-2017.pdf>. This has gained greater significance with the reporting of a story about security cameras inside library toilets in a US Library ...

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“Stuart Etherington’s new year letter to the sector”

http://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2017/01/16/stuart-etheringtons-new-year-letter-to-the-sector/?_cldee=am9obkBuYWRkZXlub3JnLnVr&recipientid=contact-449e2fd22746e411b4e4d89d6765e198-0323e53c0e834e858e9cb679ad0fde85&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Stuart%20NY%20message%202017&esid=9d4bd6ec-b7db-e611-815d-3863bb354e40&urlid=6

Interesting blogpost from the CE of NCVO, in which he argues, amongst other things, that volunteering is important, but:

“To conceive of volunteers’ dedication as a temporary cover for cuts until the magic spending tap can be turned back on and publicly funded workers take their place is not only unrealistic, it does them a great disservice, and it overlooks the particular distinctive value that volunteers bring.”