**Annual Report:
January-December
2011**

Introduction

Perhaps inevitably, 2011 saw a drop in membership (a mix of budget and staffing reductions), although a number of members took advantage of the offer to pay the level of subscription that they chose, and the majority of members renewed their subs – please see Appendix B for a reminder about ways of making the most of your subscription.

Key developments included:

- Producing newsletters for January-December 2011
- Producing Ebulletins for January-December 2011
- Regularly adding events, resources and new features to the website[1]
- Developing, running and participating in some 19[2] courses and conferences
- Being invited to give papers at conferences in Copenhagen and Genoa.

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

The Network is increasingly 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, archives and cultural & heritage organisations 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 2012

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[1] See: www.seapn.org.uk.
[2] 18 in 2010, 24 in 2009, 30 in 2008.

Membership, contacts and enquiries

Organisational members at December 2011

There are 114 organisational members.

Here are the new joiners and leavers.

<u>Joiners</u>

Doncaster
Wallace Collection

<u>Leavers</u>

Bexley
British Museum
Camden
Gloucestershire
Greenwich
Hampshire
Hillingdon
Medway
Milton Keynes
Redbridge
School Library Association
Tameside
Thurrock
Wakefield
Waltham Forest
West Berkshire

Individual members

At December 2011, The Network had 18 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, 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	2011	2010
LAC [people working with looked-after children]	361	385
Learning Disability [New list]	11	-
LGBT [people working with LGBTs]	161	144
Network ebulletin [combining WTYL & Newsletter subscribers]	874	930
Older people [people working with older people]	147	142
Travellers [people working with Travellers]	194	188

The following are primarily for Network members only:

List	2011	2010
Network Newsletter	471	507
The Network [for circulation of general information and enquiries]	289	291

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

List	2011	2010
Prisons	109	94

Enquiries

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

2011 [January-December 2011]	100[3]
2010 [January-December 2010]	117
2009 [January-December 2009]	108
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

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

I worked some 1,046 hours for the Network between January-December 2011. This is an outline of what that has involved.

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[3] An increasing number of enquiries is coming from students – 5 of the 100 were from students, requesting information for and help with their dissertations. There were also enquiries from abroad, requesting information about social justice issues in UK libraries. The 2011 figure also includes one job that The Network was asked to circulate to its members.

Activities	Hours 2011	% 2011	Hours 2010	% 2010
Preparation, delivery and follow-up to training courses [self-financing]	184.25	17.6%	340.50	28.3%
"Welcome to Your Library" further work	00.50	<1%	15.50	1.3%
Externally-funded work	*184.75*	*17.6%*	*376.25*	*31.3%*
Managing The Network, including new members, adding to JISCMAIL lists, filing, etc (17.50); enquiries (19.75); accounts (48.25); maintaining our website (10.00); responding to reports etc (18.25)	113.75	10.9%	120.50	10.0%
Emails	203.00	19.4%	214.25	17.8%
Work on Newsletters & Ebulletins	265.75	25.4%	259.50	21.6%
Other writing (including research for LGBT book)	53.50	5.1%	28.50	2.4%
Social justice blogs	1.50	<1%	-	-
Work on SW social justice advocacy	24.50	2.3%	-	-
Other activities (eg attending meetings)	132.75	12.7%	123.75	10.3%
Supporting work with older people	5.75	0.6%	-	-
Supporting work with looked-after children	00.50	<1%	10.25	0.9%
Member of judges panel for CILIP Libraries Change Lives Award	43.00	4.1%	53.75	4.5%
Trustee of the Jodi Awards	17.25	1.7%	15.25	1.3%
Paid for from subscriptions, income from courses, etc	*861.25*	*82.2%*	*825.75*	*68.8%*
TOTAL	1046.00	100%	1202.00	100%

Initiatives and Developments

- Development of a social justice advocacy plan for SWACL with Linda Constable, Liz Dubber, Lynn Osborne and Jon Scown[4]
- Launch of *Public libraries and social justice* at CILIP (January 2011)

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

- Meeting of SWACL to discuss proposals for advocacy plan (September 2011)
- Meetings of CILIP CSG/DG merger working party (August, November 2011)
- Meeting of SW Social Justice Advocacy development group, Salisbury (July 2011)
- Meeting of Creating Capacity User Panel (June 2011)
- Meetings of Booktrust Strategic Advisory group – Primary & Secondary (May, July 2011)
- Advocacy Conf (May 2011)
- Meetings of the National Literacy Trust Early Years Advisory Group (May,)
- Meetings of Jodi Mattes Trust (February, June, October 2011)
- CILIP CSG Committee meetings (January, June, November 2011)

Support for students, researchers, etc

- Meeting with Becky Roberts to discuss her dissertation, and follow-up enquiry (September 2011)

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[4] From January 2012, all library authorities in the SW will have a joint subscription to The Network, coordinated by SWACL and SWRLS.

- Commenting on drafts of Hui-Yun Sung's thesis, and paying for a place (reduced rate) at Umbrella 2011 (July 2011)
- Answering enquiries from and commenting on Eileen Hyder's dissertation on reading groups and social inclusion (July 2011)
- Invited to contribute to Project RiLIES[5], looking at the impact of *Open to all?* (May 2011)

Formal responses made by the Network

- Response to Heritage Lottery Fund online survey as part of their consultation on their strategic framework for 2013-2019 (February 2011)
- Response to CILIP Community Services Group on the Branches & groups discussion paper (March and April 2011)
- Commenting on draft Open Public Services White Paper for CILIP (August 2011)
- Response to the *Future libraries …* report (August 2011)
- Response to CSG on the CILIP Strategic planning paper (September 2011)
- Response to DCMS on use of the statistics produced as part of the Taking Part Survey (November 2011)

Comments (eg on draft publications) made by the Network

- Commenting on draft paper, *Asset mapping at Halifax Public Libraries …*, by Ken Williment (Halifax Public Library) (January 2011)
- Contributed suggestions to Liz Chapman for her bibliography of children's books featuring LGBT themes (February 2011)
- Commented on Hui-Yun Sung's literature review (March 2011)
- Commented on Hui-Yun Sung's draft article for *Libri* (May 2011)
- Response to blog-post by Creating Capacity about lack of take-up of training (May 2011)
- Commenting on draft paper by John Pateman for the Nordic Library Conference (August 2011)
- Commenting for Ashgate Publishing on outline book chapters by Eileen Hyder (October 2011)
- Commenting on CILIP's paper, *Libraries and new communities* (November 2011)

Publications – The Network's own

- *The Network Newsletter*, issues 116-128
- *The Network Ebulletin*, numbers 69-94.

Publications – articles, blogs, etc

- John Vincent – contribution on the position of public libraries in the UK in 2011 *BIS* 4, 2011, p24
- Invited to contribute to the "Social Justice Librarian" blog[6]

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[5] See: http://lisresearch.org/rilies-project/.

- Invited to co-own and contribute to the "Social Justice and Libraries, Museums and Archives" blog[7]
- Contributed a review of *The Conservative Party and social policy* to the Policy Press website[8].

Publications – book

- John Vincent has signed a contract with Ashgate Publishing to produce a book on the relationship between LGBT people and libraries, museums, archives, and the cultural & heritage sector – manuscript due for completion in June 2012.

Courses and other events (January – December 2010)

1. Our own open courses

None.

2. Other organisations' open courses/Lectures

Co-ran a lunch-time "Talking Table" (with Jan Pimblett, London Metropolitan Archives) and contributed to a panel discussion on "Values based practice in a time of policy change", Diversity in Heritage Group "Cultural Equalities Now" conference (December 2011)

Invited to contribute to the "Library Services for Seniors" conference in Genoa – Margaret Sloan attended (October 2011)

Co-organised and spoke at London Metropolitan Archives "Young Hearts Run Free 2" seminar (October 2011)

"Working with young offenders", one-day course (with Anne Harding) for CILIP South East, Crawley (September 2011)

Spoke at GEM session, "Tackling social exclusion in museums", Wallace Collection (September 2011)

Invited to be a keynote speaker at the Nordic Library Conference, Copenhagen, on the theme "Cultural Diversity – community and services" – John Pateman attended (August 2011).

Contributed to three sessions at Umbrella (July 2011):
- "Big Society or Big Con?" (with John Pateman)

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[6] See: https://sjlibrarian.wordpress.com/.
[7] See: http://socjusticelibraries.spruz.com/.
[8] See:
http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847424327&sf1=keyword&st1=conservative+party&m=2&dc=3.

- "Am I really a sinner? Where do LGBT issues fit into the equalities framework?" (with Shiraz Durrani and Dave Percival)
- "Libraries Change Lives: Ideas for you and your service" (with Linda Constable, Simon Parker, Jason Tutin and Philip Wark)

"Come what may: mainstreaming social justice in libraries", a one-day seminar organised by BASIN/LibrariesWest (April 2011)

Spoke on "What is social inclusion?" at AMA Support Group meeting on "Diversity and Social Inclusion in Museums" (March 2011)

"Working with young offenders", one-day course (with Anne Harding) for Creating Capacity, London (March 2011)

"Community engagement: an introduction to evaluation", one-day course (with Cathy Herman) for Creating Capacity, London (March 2011)

"Delivering services for looked-after children", one-day course (with Anne Harding) for MLA, Bristol (January, 2011)

3. In-house courses and talks

Half-day seminar for students from the University of Missouri (with Anne Harding and staff & library users from Barnet Libraries), CILIP (August 2011)

 "Library services for LGBTs", Hertfordshire Library Service (May, July, September, November 2011, 4 x half-day courses)

"Working with excluded communities" for East Sussex Libraries, Eastbourne (March 2011)

Seminar for information studies students at the University of West of England, Bristol (February 2011)

"Working with older people" for Coventry City Library Service (February 2011)

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Appendix A: Meetings with key contacts 2011

These included:

Meetings to discuss training courses

- Bill Bolloten
- Jenny Bossaller (University of Missouri)
- Maria Cotera
- Anne Harding
- Jacky Logan
- Jan Pimblett (London Metropolitan Archives)

Updating meetings/Network business

- Colin Bray (Devon Libraries)
- Tola Dabiri
- Tony Davey (Plymouth Record Office)
- Jonathan Douglas (National Literacy Trust)
- Gill Harris (Chair, ASCEL)
- Tony Panayiotou (Arts Council)
- Margaret Sloan

Appendix B: Making the most of your subscription

Member organisations and individuals use The Network to:

- Ensure that their services are well placed to meet national, regional and local objectives
- Draw on and share expertise and good practice
- Work with other Network members to benchmark services
- Keep up-to-date effectively with new developments across the social justice field, without having to read every new document themselves as the information has already been distilled for them
- Ensure that colleagues across their service are also able to keep up-to-date via targeted emails to their desk-tops
- Ensure value for money by being able to book places on Network courses and receive in-house training at reduced cost.

When a library (or museum or archive) service from a local authority joins The Network, this automatically confers membership on the **whole local authority**.

The benefits are that:

- Council departments can share knowledge about issues that matter to them, and your service is placed at the centre of this authority-wide information-sharing
- It's a cost-effective way of stretching limited resources (and, in addition, other Council departments could contribute towards the cost of the subscription)
- Related organisations within the local authority area, such as independent and District Council museums, archive collections, schools, and others, can also share this targeted information in an extremely effective way.

Some public library services forward the Newsletter and Ebulletin (as well as other emails from our elists) to targeted contacts across the Council (thereby ensuring that the library service is contributing to corporate targets and agendas), and have also subscribed key local authority staff to some of the elists. Information is also forwarded to contacts in the community.

They also regularly share updates on service developments with other Network contacts, and ask for advice and suggestions on service plans. In one authority, a contribution towards the cost of the annual subscription is received from other Council departments in recognition of the value of this information-sharing.