Introduction

Welcome to our annual review for 2013-2014, and thank you for your continued support of The Network. This report covers the period from April 2013 to March 2014.

This has continued to be a difficult time for the cultural sector as a whole, and this has been reflected in the membership of the Network. Although 2013-2014 did see some members decide not to renew their subscriptions (a mix of budget pressures and staffing reductions), the majority of members renewed their subscriptions which have enabled libraries, museums, archives, and cultural & heritage organisations across the country to respond to social justice issues and to make a difference to individuals and groups in their communities – please see Appendix B for a reminder about ways of making the most of your subscription.

Our work

Key successes included:

- Producing newsletters for April 2013-March 2014
- Producing Ebulletins for April 2013-March 2014
- Regularly adding events, resources and new features to the website[1]
- Developing, running and participating in some 15[2] courses and conferences.

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

Working towards social justice and developing approaches to community engagement are still very much live issues – in fact, some organisations have even started referring to 'social exclusion' again: 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 sector 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
April 2014

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[1] See: www.seapn.org.uk.
[2] 14 in 2012-2013, 19 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 24 in 2009, 30 in 2008.

Membership, contacts and enquiries

Organisational members at March 2014

There are 113 organisational members (down four from 2013).

Here are the new joiners and leavers:

Joiners
School's OUT!

Leavers
Bury
Croydon
Hull
Northamptonshire
Sheffield
Shropshire

Individual members

At March 2014, The Network had 20 individual members (compared to 18 at March 2013).

Partners

The Network is working in partnership with a number of key organisations and individuals, including Bill Bolloten and Anne Harding; ASCEL (with whom we swap ebulletins); Bookscan; CILIP Scotland; CILIP Wales; CyMAL (who are using the Ebulletin to inform lis-Wales); DCMS; RNIB; Share The Vision; The Reading Agency; Sound Delivery; and the Time To Read network.

Membership of JISCMAIL lists

The following lists are open to anybody:

List	2013-14	2012-13
LAC [people working with looked-after children]	337	346
Learning Disability	91	45
LGBT [people working with LGBTs]	213	183
Network Ebulletin [combining WTYL & Newsletter subscribers]	807	809
Older people [people working with older people]	212	181
Travellers [people working with Travellers]	207	193

The following are primarily for Network members only:

List	2013-14	2012-13
Network Newsletter	463	449
The Network [for circulation of general information and enquiries]	303	289

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

List	2013-14	2012-13
Prisons	139	112

Enquiries

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

2013-2014 [April 2013-March 2014]	111[3]
2012-2013 [January 2012-March 2013]	104[4]
2011 [January-December 2011]	100
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

Website statistics

Here are our 'headline' web statistics:

- 3667 people made 5155 visits (in 2012-2013, 4156 people made 5285 visits)
- Over 73% were from UK, the rest included the US, Canada, the Philippines, and China
- 69% of visitors were new, 31% returning
- Top six popular pages were:
  - Home page
  - Ebulletins
  - Events & courses
  - Jargon-buster
  - Newsletters.

Making a difference

As noted above, The Network makes a difference, including:

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[3] 5 of the 111 were from students, requesting information for and help with their dissertations.
[4] 3 of the 104 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 2012-2013 figure also includes two jobs that The Network was asked to circulate to its members; and a request from *Museum Practice* for background information for an article on how museums, archives and libraries work with prisoners and ex-offenders.

- Drawing together, highlighting and disseminating innovation and good practice (eg information about work with people with dementia and their families)

- Being active in the sector on behalf of members: adding to and widening the debate about libraries, museums, archives, cultural heritage organisations and social justice issues (eg in relation to provision for LGBT people)

- Working with Network members and across the sector to help develop strategy (eg in work with older people)

- Campaigning and lobbying on behalf of the sector

- Giving advice and information, and sharing good practice from other Network members

- Giving support for colleagues

- Linking the UK cultural sector's social justice work to that abroad (eg in the US and Canada).

The work of The Network, 2013-2014 – Report by the Networker

I worked some 1059.25 hours for the Network between April 2013 and March 2014. This is an outline of what that has involved:

Activities	Hours 2013-14	% 2013-14	Hours 2012-13	% 2012-13
Preparation, delivery and follow-up to training courses [self-financing]	102.00	9.6%	176.00	19.1%
Preparatory meeting, training workshop and follow-up report for Fresh Horizons/Chestnut Centre (funded by Arts Council England)	-	-	25.25	3.00%
STV/SCL/CDEG/RNIB Six Steps courses	189.50	17.9%	41.50	<1%
"Welcome to Your Library" further work	1.50	<1%	-	-
Externally-funded work	*293.00*	*27.6%*	*242.75*	*22.1%*
Managing The Network, including new members, adding to JISCMAIL lists, filing, etc (30.75); accounts (48.00); maintaining our website (28.25)	107.00	10%	96.25	8.8%
Emails	187.00	17.7%	236.25	21.8%
Work on Newsletters & Ebulletins	245.50	23.2%	244.50	22.8%
Work on Ashgate LGBT book*	24.75	2.3%	-	-
Other writing	6.75	<1%	4.75	0.6%
Social justice blogs	1.00	<1%	0.75	<1%
Work on SW social justice advocacy	8.75	<1%	1.00	<1%
Other activities (eg attending meetings)	65.50	6.2%	113.75	10.9%
Enquiries	15.75	1.5%	20.25	1.8%
Responding to reports etc	4.25	<1%	17.75	1.9%
Supporting work with older people	-	-	-	-
Supporting work with looked-after children	26.75	2.5%	4.75	<1%
Attending meeting re: poss EU bid	7.00	<1%	-	-
Member of judges panel for CILIP Libraries Change Lives Award	59.75	5.6%	49.00	5.4%
Trustee of the Jodi Awards	6.50	<1%	24.50	2.9%
Paid for from subscriptions, income from courses, etc	*766.25*	*72.2%*	*813.50*	*77.0%*
TOTAL	1059.25	~100%	1056.25	100%

*Note: this does not include time spent researching and writing the book.

Initiatives and Developments

- Approached by Amanda Pavon-Lopez (Adult Learning Week coordinator for London & the SE) to help promote the week – and to link The Network to her equivalents across the country
- The Network has formally joined the Age Action Alliance[5]
- The Network has been accepted as a supporter of the Social Justice Alliance for Museums[6]
- In partnership with Share The Vision, the Society of Chief Librarians, RNIB, and the CILIP Community, Diversity & Equality Group, we developed and ran six courses, "Improving our services for blind and partially sighted people: implementing the Six Steps and more", via which some 115 library staff in England, Wales and Scotland were trained. (The Network took a major role in terms of planning the programme, booking speakers and venues, planning and booking refreshments, advertising the courses and doing course bookings, sending out notes and other info, invoicing, etc.)
- Attended a planning meeting in Enfield to discuss a possible joint (Enfield Libraries/Huddinge Libraries (Sweden)/Network) bid for a cross-Europe project (January 2014)
- Shortlisting entries and visiting shortlisted pieces of work for the CILIP Libraries Change Lives Award 2013 (and attended Umbrella in Manchester to be at the Award-giving)
- Visited Doncaster Libraries to discuss with library staff developing the provision for looked-after children & young people (May 2013)

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

- Attendance at the EDGE Conference, Edinburgh (day 1 only – February 2014)
- Visited Hertfordshire's Central Resources Library to view LGBT History Month display (February 2014)
- Attended Committee meeting and AGM of CILIP Community, Diversity and Equality Group (February 2014) – also Committee meeting (June 2013)
- Attended performance of "Cabinet of Curiosities: how disability was kept in a box"[7], Royal College of Physicians (January 2014)
- Attended meeting of Surrey's Equality & Diversity Action Group, Addlestone, to discuss training needs (January 2014)
- Attended a meeting to plan the next year of CILIP's Libraries Change Lives Award (November 2013)
- Attended meeting in Enfield to discuss training needs (September 2013)
- Attended Day 1 of Umbrella Conference, Manchester (July 2013)
- Attended meeting of SCL South-West to discuss the SW Social Justice Network (June 2013)
- Attended Norfolk's annual celebration day for looked-after children and young people (June 2013)

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[5] See: http://ageactionalliance.org/.
[6] See: http://sjam.org/.
[7] See: http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/cabinet-curiosities-how-disability-was-kept-box.

- Visited Lambeth's "Come and See" open afternoon[8] at South Lambeth Library (June 2013)
- Attended Jodi Mattes Trust Board meeting (June 2013)
- Attended launch of Ken Worpole's new book[9] (and toured the new Canada Water Library) (May 2013)
- Attended The Reader Organisation Conference, British Library (May 2013)

Support for students, researchers, etc

- Asked by Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children In Scotland [CELCIS] to promote their conference call for papers.

Formal responses made by the Network

- Response to the Independent Review of Public Libraries (the Sieghart Review) (March 2014)[10]
- Response to the Consultation on Proposed Indicators for the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (January 2014)

Comments (eg on draft publications) made by the Network

- Invited to peer review "Library services for incarcerated persons …" for *JOLIS* (March 2014)
- Commenting on CILIP's Equalities Action Plan (December 2013)
- Reviewing John Kitchen *A spectre in the stones* (a book for young people featuring children in care) (November 2013)
- Commenting on report of CILIP's Equalities Summit (July, September & October 2013)
- Commenting on proposed themes for the Summer Reading Challenge (September 2013)
- Commenting on CILIP's Branch and Group Review Progress report (September 2013)
- Commenting on CILIP's rebrand (May 2013)
- Commenting on National Museums Scotland draft Equality Outcomes (April 2013)
- Commenting on the notes from the Exeter Cultural Strategy meeting (April 2013)

Publications – The Network's own

- *The Network Newsletter*, issues 144-154
- *The Network Ebulletin*, numbers 126-149.

Publications – articles, blogs, etc

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[8] Organised by Vauxhall CIC.

[9] *Contemporary library architecture: a planning and design guide.* Routledge, 2013 (see: http://www.worpole.net/new-book.html).

[10] See: http://www.seapn.org.uk/editorial.asp?page_id=52 and http://lglibtech.wikispaces.com/file/view/TheNetwork_submission_Sieghart_Independent_Report_on%20public%20libraries_March2014%20.pdf/498832348/TheNetwork_submission_Sieghart_Independent_Report_on%20public%20libraries_March2014%20.pdf.

- John Vincent has been invited to contribute an article on libraries' provision for LGBT people to the US library journal, *Library Trends*

- In April 2013, John Vincent was cited in *Museums Practice* on work with prisons[11] and also quoted in the email announcing the publication of *MP*:

  > "I'm concerned that in-depth work with socially excluded people is thinning, and in some cases disappearing, because there isn't institutional commitment and it hasn't been mainstreamed."

- Contributed to the "Social Justice Librarian" blog[12].

Publications – book

- Ashgate published John Vincent's book, *LGBT people and the UK cultural sector: the response of libraries, museums, archives and heritage since 1950* in January 2014[13]

Other developments

John Vincent was awarded a Special Diversity Award (along with Shiraz Durrani) at the AGM of the Community, Diversity and Equality Group in February 2014.

> "Annie Mauger, CILIP CEO presented Special Diversity Awards to Shiraz Durrani and John Vincent at the AGM of the Community, Diversity and Equality Group on Wednesday 12th February at Ridgmount Street.
>
> The awards recognize "outstanding achievement in the promotion of diversity" and "commitment to the advancement of diversity within a library or information setting".
>
> Annie said, "We are really proud of the work that Shiraz and John have done over many years to ensure that CILIP members have a better understanding of some of the issues that challenge us as professionals to adhere to our core values. They remind us how to strive for equality of access, to support diversity, combat ignorance through good information professionals doing their job and to demonstrate that an informed community is almost always a just one. I am delighted for them both and for the great role model they bring to the profession in their passion and dedication to our values".[14]

Courses and other events (April 2013-March 2014)

1. Our own open courses

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[11] Rebecca Atkinson "Inside out: museums and prisons". Available to MA members at: http://www.museumsassociation.org/museum-practice/museums-and-prisons/15042013-inside-out-museums-and-prisons.
[12] See: https://sjlibrarian.wordpress.com/.
[13] See: http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472403315.
[14] See: http://www.cilip.org.uk/community-diversity-and-equality-group/awards/diversity-award/diversity-award-2014.

None.

2. <u>Other organisations' open courses/Lectures</u>

"Improving our services for blind and partially sighted people: implementing the Six Steps and more", course for Share The Vision/Society of Chief Librarians/RNIB/CILIP Community, Diversity & Equality Group, 6 x one-day courses (Wakefield, September 2013; Cardiff, October 2013; London, October 2013; Newcastle, November 2013; Edinburgh, March 2014; Edinburgh, February 2014;)

"Community Development", part of the Public Library Skills Programme, University of Brighton (May 2013)

3. <u>In-house courses and talks</u>

Seminars for information studies students at the University of Sheffield (April 2013 and March 2014)

Keynote speech on Equality Act 2010, plus short session on provision for LGBT people for Surrey Library Service – Annual Staff Conference, "Libraries for All" (March 2014)

Keynote speech, plus facilitating two workshops for Portsmouth Library Service Staff Conference (January 2014)

"An introduction to diversity", a half-day course for the London Borough of Enfield (January 2014)

Seminar for information studies students at the University of West of England, Bristol (October 2013)

Workshop on library provision for LGBT people for Birkbeck (University of London) Library Staff Development Day (July 2013)

"Library services for LGBTs", Hertfordshire Library Service (June 2013, 1 x half-day course)

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Appendix A: Meetings with key contacts 2013-2014

These included:

Updating meetings/Network business

Pat Beech (RNIB); Bill Bolloten (Researcher & Trainer); Christina Burnett (Vauxhall CIC); Genevieve Clarke (The Reading Agency); Lucie Fitton (Audience Agency); Katie Lusty (Arts Council); Paul McCloskey (Edinburgh); Amanda Riddick (Student); Ian Smith (Birkbeck)

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.