

# Annual Report: April 2019-March 2020

## Introduction

Welcome to our annual review for 2019-2020; this report covers the period from April 2019 to March 2020. Copies of the accounts are available on request.

Firstly, thank you for your continued support of The Network. Please see Appendix C for a reminder about ways of making the most of your subscription (members have commented during the year on what good value membership is!).

## Our work

Key successes included:

- Producing newsletters for February-November 2019
- Producing 20 Ebulletins for the period April 2019-March 2020
- Regularly adding events, resources and new features to the website<sup>1</sup>
- Developing, running and participating in some 8 courses, workshops and conferences.<sup>2</sup>

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 – 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!

My particular thanks also go to Carol Boswarthack and Juliet Pirez for being the counter-signatories for The Network's bank account.

John Vincent  
October 2020

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<sup>1</sup> See: [www.seapn.org.uk](http://www.seapn.org.uk).

<sup>2</sup> Training courses, workshops and conferences have, of course, been curtailed since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreaks.

## Membership, contacts and enquiries

### Organisational members at March 2019

There are 90 organisational members.<sup>3</sup>

Here are the new joiners and leavers:

#### Joiners

None.

#### Leavers

Bedford  
Hammersmith & Fulham  
Kensington & Chelsea  
Merton  
V&A Museum

#### Mergers

Bournemouth and Poole into Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

### Individual members

At March 2020, The Network had 7 individual members.

### Partners

The Network is continuing to work in partnership with a number of key organisations and individuals, including ASCEL (with whom we swap ebulletins); CILIP Scotland; CILIP Wales; City of Sanctuary; Libraries Connected; Share The Vision; and The Reading Agency.

### Membership of JISCMail lists

The following lists are open to anybody:

List	2019-20	2018-19
LAC [people working with looked-after children]	242	258
Learning Disability	167	165
LGBT [people working with LGBTs]	283	286
Network Ebulletin [combining WTYL & Newsletter subscribers]	580	604
Older people [people working with older people]	168	181
Travellers [people working with Travellers]	156	168

The following are primarily for Network members only:

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<sup>3</sup> This is correct at December 2019 – we still have a number of subscription renewals outstanding.

List	2019-20	2018-19
Network Newsletter	288	316
The Network [for circulation of general information and enquiries]	209	231

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

List	2019-20	2018-19
Prisons	156	146

In addition, The Network manages the Six Steps list:

List	2019-20	2018-19
Six Steps	187	197

## Enquiries

These include enquiries made on the email lists The Network coordinates (eg Prisons):

April 2019-March 2020

61<sup>4</sup>

## The Network website statistics

Here are our 'headline' web statistics:

- 2388 people made 2878 visits
- 92.7% of visitors were new, 17.3% returning
- The top three countries where people visited from were the UK, US and France.

## Making a difference

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

- Drawing together, highlighting and disseminating innovation and good practice
- 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
- Working with Network members and across the sector to help develop strategy
- Campaigning and lobbying on behalf of the sector
- Giving advice and information, and sharing good practice from other Network members
- Giving support to colleagues.

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<sup>4</sup> The range of enquiries is wide – to give a taste of them, some examples are included as Appendix B. Seven enquiries were from students, and another 5 were asking for job information to be circulated.

## The work of The Network, 2019-2020 – Report by the Networker

I worked some 964 hours for the Network between April 2019 and March 2020. This is an outline of what that involved:

Activities	Hours 2019-20	% 2019-20	Hours 2018-19	% 2018-19
Preparation, delivery and follow-up to training courses [self-financing]	42.25	4.4%	259.50	24.6%
Organising training day for SWRLS	15.25	1.6%	7.75	0.70%
Organising training day for CILIP SW	33.25	3.4%	-	-
STV - general	-	-	1.50	<1%
STV: scanning for STV Bulletin	-	-	-	-
STV: prep of modules for community libraries, etc	0.75	0.1%	4.25	<1%
Arts Council Equality & Diversity project	-	-	37.75	3.6%
Libraries of Sanctuary resource pack etc	116.50	12.1%	-	-
Birmingham Music Project	68.50	7.1%	-	-
<i>Externally-funded work</i>	<i>276.50</i>	<i>28.7%</i>	<i>310.75</i>	<i>29.9%</i>
Managing The Network, including new members; adding to JISMAIL lists (1.00); filing, producing Annual Report, etc (15.75); accounts (53.50); maintaining our website (0.75)	71.00	7.4%	79.25	7.50%
Emails	185.50	19.2%	147.75	14.0%
Work on Newsletters & Ebulletins	228.00	23.7%	273.75	25.9%
Work on Ashgate LGBT book*	7.5	0.8%	8.00	0.8%
Work on LGBT History Month	1.75	0.2%	20.75	2.0%
Emails etc to SWRLS	-	-	2.25	<1%
Writing chapter for <i>LGBTQ librarianship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</i>	0.25	<1%	11.75	1.1%
Other writing	1.50	0.2%	14.25	1.3%
Other activities (eg attending meetings)	69.75	7.2%	66.75	6.3%
STV Board meetings	5.00	0.5%	-	-
Enquiries	12.25	1.3%	9.00	0.9%
Responding to reports etc	5.75	0.6%	9.00	0.9%
Supporting work with looked-after children	-	-	-	-
Work on 'New Arrivals' (post-WTYL) + Libraries of Sanctuary	16.75	1.7%	5.75	0.5%
Member of judging panel for CILIP Libraries Change Lives Award (and follow-up with CILIP re: redesigning awards)	15.25	1.6%	91.00	8.6%
Work with CILIP (eg on new strategy)	20.25	2.1%	-	-
CILIP LGBTQ+ Network Steering Group	33.25	3.4%	-	-
CILIP Benevolent Fund Board meetings	7.00	0.7%	-	-
Trustee of the Jodi Awards	6.75	0.7%	5.75	0.5%
<i>Paid for from subscriptions, income from courses, etc</i>	<i>687.50</i>	<i>71.3%</i>	<i>745.00</i>	<i>70.30%</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>964.00</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1055.75</b>	<b>~100%</b>

\*Note: this includes follow-on work, such as responding to enquiries, dealing with the publisher, posting to the WordPress blog

### Initiatives and Developments

- John Vincent was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the CILIP Benevolent Fund, and was appointed an Observer of the Share The Vision Board
- John was also appointed co-chair of the CILIP LGBTQ+ Network Steering Group.

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

- Attended CILIP “Changing Lives” meeting (February 2020)
- Visited Yeovil College Library, primarily to meet their LGBTQ+ students’ group (November 2019)
- Attended SWRLS AGM and Conference (November 2019)
- Attended CILIP AGM (October 2019)
- Attended CILIP Members Network meeting (October 2019)
- Attended London Housebound Services Group mini-conference, Hackney (October 2019)
- Attended GEM Conference, Torquay (September 2019)
- Attended CILIP Conference, Manchester, and coordinated and presented at session, “Libraries Change Lives”, with CDEG, Norfolk and Glasgow Library Services (July 2019)
- Attended launch event for exhibition “Desire, Love, Identity” at Norwich Millennium Library (June 2019)
- Attended launch of Stirchley Library, Birmingham as a Place of Welcome (April 2019)
- Attended CDEG Committee meetings (April, September, October 2019, February 2020)

## **Library of Sanctuary meetings**

- Attended meetings (November 2019, January, February 2020)
- Attended Stations of Sanctuary meeting, London (February 2020)

## **Birmingham Music Project meetings**

- Attended ‘Welcome’ session (February 2020)
- Attended meetings (December 2019, January, February 2020)

## **CILIP LGBTQ+ Steering Group**

- Attended launch event, London (February 2020)
- Attended meetings (September, November, December 2019, January 2020)

## **Share The Vision Board**

John Vincent is an Observer.

- Attended meeting (February 2020)

## **CILIP Benevolent Fund**

John Vincent is a trustee.

- Attended meeting (February 2020)

## **Jodi Mattes Trust**

John Vincent is a trustee.

- Attended Board meetings (October, November 2019)

## **Support for students, researchers, etc**

- Meeting with Kristen Schuster (KCL) to be interviewed as part of her research project into term research project exploring men's experiences working as information professionals (November 2019)
- Meeting with Colette Townend (Lambeth) to be interviewed for her dissertation (September 2019)
- Meeting with Jo Foster-Murdoch (Norfolk Library & Information Service) to be interviewed for her dissertation (June 2019)

## **Formal responses made by the Network**

- Responded to survey on membership of GEM (Group for Education in Museums) (February 2020)
- Annual survey carried out by the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance (February 2020)
- Response to request by the EHRC for comments to help them improve their website (February 2020)
- Completed survey for *The Conversation* on what works and what does not (January 2020)
- Commented on CILIP's Equality Impact Assessment template (November 2019)
- Response to the ACE "Shaping the next ten years" consultation (September 2019)
- Completed survey for "Pilot Study: Men and Masculinities in Librarianship", King's College London (September 2019)
- Commented on draft IFLA Guidelines on Public Internet Access in Libraries for Loughborough University (June 2019)
- Completed Equally Yours annual survey (May 2019)
- Commented on draft CILIP CDEG social media policy (April 2019)
- Commented on draft CILIP CDEG publicity leaflet (April 2019)

## **Publications – The Network's own**

- *The Network Newsletter*, issues 216-225
- *The Network Ebulletin*, numbers 276-295.

## **Publications – articles, blogs, books, reports etc**

- Amanda Wilk and John Vincent "Organizational support", *Open Shelf*, November 2019<sup>5</sup>
- John Vincent "Moving into the mainstream: is that somewhere we want to go in the United Kingdom?" in Bharat Mehta (ed.) *LGBTQ+ librarianship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*:

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<sup>5</sup> See: <https://open-shelf.ca/191105-lgbtq-organizational-support/>.

*emerging directions of advocacy and community engagement in diverse information environments.* Emerald Publishing (“Advances in Librarianship” vol.45), 2019, pp273-291.

## **Courses and other events (April 2019-March 2020)**

### 1. Our own open courses

None.

### 2. Other organisations’ open courses/Lectures

- Spoke at ILIG Informal evening event on “Libraries of Sanctuary”, February 2020
- Organised and hosted one-day course, “Volunteering – what’s involved?”, Taunton for CILIP SW (November 2019)
- Organised and co-hosted one-day course, “Libraries Change Lives – how we support mental health and wellbeing”, Exeter, for SWRLS (June 2019)
- Participation in CILIP webinar, “Services for all: diverse and inclusive provision”<sup>6</sup> (May 2019)

### 3. In-house courses and talks

- Course “An introduction to equality and diversity” for Sutton Libraries, 2 x half-day courses (February 2020)
- Talk on “Diversity and Libraries” to Sutton Libraries Staff Conference (November 2019)
- Seminar for information studies students at the University of West of England, Bristol (October 2019)
- Course “Working with new arrivals” for Birmingham Library Service (April 2019)

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## **Appendix A: Meetings with key contacts**

These included:

Peter Baker (Facet Publishing); Valerie Bearne (CILIP SW); Zoey Dixon (Lambeth); Sue Dunmore (Volunteer Centre Swindon); Jo Foster-Murdoch (Norfolk Library & Information Service); Jan Holden (Norfolk Library & Information Service); Alex Kittow (Libraries Unlimited); Paula Lachanudis (Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies); Shelagh Levett (SWRLS); Sarah Mears (Libraries Connected); Yvonne Morris (CILIP); Katharina Rayner

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<sup>6</sup> See: [https://www.cilip.org.uk/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1229274&group=.](https://www.cilip.org.uk/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1229274&group=)

(Trainer); Jon Scown (Libraries West); Alan Smith (Prison Library Service Advisor); Martyn Wade (*Alexandria* journal)

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## Appendix B: Examples of enquiries

These are just a few examples of the enquiries received this year, all of which required some research and a detailed response:

- Reading groups for people who are visually impaired
- RIFT Social Enterprise – getting feedback from Prisons on their Tax Refund scheme info
- Experience of setting up as a freelance worker
- NHS Occupational Therapist wanting to link child development services with local museums
- Background to libraries' LGBTQ+ networks
- LGBTQ+ terminology and cataloguing/indexing
- Linking up a library service in the NW with others running conversation cafés etc for sanctuary-seekers

We also receive job information to circulate, and have been asked to help promote a number of events throughout the year.

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## Appendix C: 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 email lists. 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.