

# Annual Report: April 2021-March 2022

## Introduction

Welcome to our annual review for 2021-2022; this report covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022. 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 March 2021- January 2022
- Producing 24 Ebulletins for the period April 2021-March 2022
- Regularly adding events, resources and new features to the website<sup>1</sup>
- Participating in some 52 meetings, courses, workshops 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 – 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  
June 2022

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

## Membership, contacts and enquiries

### Organisational members at March 2022

There are 88 organisational members.

Here are the new joiners and leavers:

#### Joiners

Hampshire  
Oxford University Gardens, Libraries and Museums

#### Leavers

North East Lincolnshire [now Lincs Inspire]

### Individual members

At March 2022, The Network had 5 individual members.

### Partners

The Network is continuing to work in partnership with a number of key organisations and individuals, including CILIP; City of Sanctuary; Libraries Connected; and Share The Vision.

### Membership of JISCMAIL lists

The following lists are open to anybody:

List	2021-22	2020-21
LAC [people working with looked-after children]	219	225
Learning Disability	187	167
LGBTQ [people working with LGBTs]	330	296
Network Ebulletin	586	561
Older people [people working with older people]	171	157
Travellers [people working with Travellers]	156	148

The following are primarily for Network members only:

List	2021-22	2020-21
Network Newsletter	295	268
The Network [for circulation of general information and enquiries]	209	188

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

List	2021-22	2020-21
Prisons	147	153

In addition, The Network manages the Reading Sight list (formerly Six Steps):

List	2021-22	2020-21
Reading Sight	291	185

## Enquiries

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

April 2021-March 2022

58<sup>2</sup>

## The Network website statistics

Here are our 'headline' web statistics:

- 5037 people made 5588 visits
- 91.3% of visitors were new, 8.7% returning
- The top three countries where people visited from were the UK, US and China.

## 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>2</sup> The range of enquiries is wide – to give a taste of them, some examples are included as Appendix B. Five enquiries were from students, and another 8 were asking for job or project information to be circulated.

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

I worked some 705.75 hours for the Network between April 2021 and March 2022. This is an outline of what that involved:

Activities	Hours 2021-22	% 2021-22	Hours 2020-21	% 2020-21
<i>Externally-funded work</i>				
Preparation, delivery and follow-up to training courses	51.50	7.3%	7.75	1.1%
Libraries of Sanctuary resource pack etc			27.50	3.9%
Birmingham Virtual Library	-	-	1.50	0.2%
Birmingham LoS application	10.25	1.5%	25.25	3.6%
Birmingham Race Equality Group	10.75	1.5%		
<i>Externally-funded work</i>	<i>72.50</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>62.00</i>	<i>8.8%</i>
Managing The Network: admin (membership; producing Annual Report, etc)	12.00	1.7%	21.00	8.9%
Managing The Network: managing JISCMail Lists	3.00	0.4%	2.75	
Managing The Network: accounts	30.25	4.3%	27.00	
Managing The Network: maintaining our website	3.25	0.5%	12.00	
Emails	229.50	32.5%	223.00	31.6%
Work on Newsletters & Ebulletins	198.50	28.1%	242.25	34.3%
Work on Ashgate LGBT book*	1.00	0.1%	0.75	0.1%
Work on LGBT History Month	-	-	9.25	1.3%
Writing book for Facet series	-	-	2.50	0.4%
Other writing	7.50	1.1%	10.50	1.5%
Other activities (eg attending meetings)	22.25	2.1%	42.75	6.0%
STV Board meetings	8.00	1.1%	7.00	1.0%
Enquiries	6.25	0.9%	6.25	0.9%
Responding to reports etc	9.25	1.3%	3.75	0.5%
Work on 'New Arrivals' (post-WTYL) + Libraries of Sanctuary	28.00	4.0%	-	-
Work with CILIP (eg on new strategy)	14.75	2.1%	5.75	0.8%
CILIP LGBTQ+ Network Steering Group	-	-	17.75	2.5%
CILIP Benevolent Fund	25.00	3.5%	9.50	1.3%
Attending online talks, courses, conferences	29.75	4.2%		
Giving online presentations (unpaid)	5.00	0.7%		
<i>Paid for from subscriptions, income from courses, etc</i>	<i>633.25</i>	<i>89.7%</i>	<i>643.75</i>	<i>91.1%</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>705.75</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>705.75</b>	<b>c100%</b>

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

### Initiatives and Developments<sup>3</sup>

- The Network was invited to join the research project, "Impressionist Topographies: Computer Vision, Digital Fabrication, and Cultural Heritage" (looking at digital images of Monet's painting) with Loughborough University (November 2021)

<sup>3</sup> John Vincent was commissioned by Facet Publishing to edit and write for a new series on libraries and social justice. The first title, *Libraries and Sanctuary: supporting refugees and other new arrivals* [working title] is due to be published in Nov 2022.

- Joined the “Together with Refugees” campaign with logo<sup>4</sup> (May 2021)
- The Network was invited to join a citizen science project “Citizen Scientists investigating Cookies and App GDPR compliance” (CSI-COP)<sup>5</sup>
- The Network was listed on the Heritage Volunteering Group’s EDI Trello board<sup>6</sup> (2021)
- The Network was invited to support an application from “the other side of hope”<sup>7</sup> for Arts Council funding, and then to help get copies of their magazines into libraries (2021)

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

- Attended Lambeth Libraries web-talk, “Outrageous! The story of Section 28 with author Paul Baker” (February 2022)
- Attended Rural Museums Network web-talk, “Telling the Stories of Rural LGBTQ+ Lives” (Dec 2021)
- Attended Queer/Disrupt online session, “Safe Distance: Queer and Chinese in the time of Covid” (November 2021)
- Attended Migration Network West Midlands event online (November 2021)
- Attended opening session of Universities of Sanctuary Conference, “Creating and Expanding a Culture of Welcome” (November 2021)
- Attended London Metropolitan Archives Outloud LGBTQ+ Salon “10 years of LGBTQ+ outreach and archives development at Surrey History Centre” online (November 2021)
- Attended CILIP AGM online (October 2021)
- Attended Pride in Education Conference online (October 2021)
- Attended Migration Network London & SE event online (October 2021)
- Attended meeting to discuss CILIP’s committee etc archives online (October 2021)
- Attended London Metropolitan Archives Outloud LGBTQ+ Salon “We have always been here” online (October 2021)
- Attended UEA briefing on migration online (October 2021)
- Attended meetings of CILIP Diversity Networks (September 2021, February 2022)
- Attended London Metropolitan Archives LGBTQ+ History Club session online (September 2021)
- Attended Migration Network feedback meeting online (July 2021)
- Attended CILIP Changing Lives seminars online (July, October 2021)
- Attended online Nationality & Borders Bill briefing (July 2021)
- Attended briefing on CILIP’s digital training (June 2021)
- Attended launch of KCL/Centre for Education & Youth’s new report on refugees & HE online (June 2021)
- Attended CILIP LGBTQ+ Network event on work of Lavender Menace online (June 2021)
- Attended Pride in Education Conference online (June 2021)
- Attended SWRLS Members’ Day online (June 2021)
- Attended meeting on provision for new arrivals in Birmingham online (June 2021)

<sup>4</sup> See: <https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/members/>.

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/873169>.

<sup>6</sup> See: <https://trello.com/b/Y8o5YTBj/hvg-edi-board>.

<sup>7</sup> See: <https://othersideofhope.com/index.html>.

- Attended CILIP Equality, Diversity & Inclusion talk online (May 2021)
- Attended “Trans Joy” event online (May 2021)
- Attended Migration Network SW event online (April 2021)
- Attend CILIP LGBTQ+ Network event (April 2021)

### **Share The Vision Board**

John Vincent is an Observer.

- Attended meetings (September, December 2021, February 2022)

### **CILIP Benevolent Fund**

John Vincent was Deputy Chair (Feb-Dec 2021) and became Chair from Jan 2022.

- Attended meetings (June, August, October 2021, January, February, March 2022)
- Attended Better With Money webinars x 2 (November 2021)

### **CILIP Community, Equality & Diversity Group**

- Attended Committee meetings online (June, October 2021)

### **Jodi Mattes Trust**

John Vincent is a trustee.

- No Board meetings

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

- Interviewed by Rachel Salzano for her thesis on forced migrants’ use of UK public libraries (May 2021)
- Request for public library contacts who are working with refugees and/or asylum-seekers, who would be interested in being interviewed as part of a PhD research project (Sept 2021)

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

- Responded to survey by Clinks on what support they could best offer (March 2022)
- ARA Membership Survey (Jan 2022)
- Responded to a survey from *The Conversation* about the newsletter (Jan 2022)
- Responded to a survey on how I use CLASS resources (Dec 2021)
- Feedback on CILIP’s “Changing Lives” seminar series (Nov 2021)
- Responded to a survey on membership of the Museums Association (Nov 2021)
- Responded to a survey on value of resources provided by *Left Foot Forward* (Nov 2021)
- Responded to a survey on the work of the National Secular Society (Nov 2021)
- Responded to a survey on archiving for marginalised youth subcultures (Oct 2021)

- Review of an article, “The Transformative power of small scale LGBTQI+ festivals and events” for a special issue of the *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events* (Oct 2021)
- Responded to survey to help shape National Literacy Trust strategy (Oct 2021)
- Commented on Equality and Human Rights Commission strategic plan 2022-2025 (Aug 2021)
- Responded to survey on value of CoramBAAF News (Aug 2021)
- Commented on draft IFLA Guidelines for “Library Services to Displaced Persons” (July 2021)
- Responded to CILIP consultation on their Community Strategy 2021-2025 (May 2021)
- Commented on outlines courses for the CSI-COP project (April 2021)

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

- *The Network Newsletter*, issues 241-251
- *The Network Ebulletin*, numbers 325-349.

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

- Contributed a section, “Focus on Libraries of Sanctuary” [pp20-21] for the CILIP Working Internationally Project report<sup>8</sup>
- Contributed a blogpost, “Welcoming New Arrivals”<sup>9</sup>, to CILIP Scotland Libraries Week (October 2021)
- John Vincent. *Libraries of Sanctuary resource pack*. 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition. City of Sanctuary, 2021<sup>10</sup>

### **Courses and other events (April 2020-March 2021)**

#### 1. Our own open courses

- None.

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

- Talk “Libraries of Sanctuary” to CILIP Scotland Libraries of Sanctuary event online (March 2022)
- Online talk to CILIP NE, “Social justice – isn’t that political? An introduction to social justice and the work of The Network” (February 2022)
- Contributed to London Metropolitan Archives online “Speed ‘Date’: 20 years of LGBTQ+ History” (I focused on community history/archives and what we can all do to preserve our histories, the theme for 2015 (December 2021)<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HjUkYvx0BCKoPr0LRKX9PYEqPFpW4rFW/view>.

<sup>9</sup> See: <https://www.cilips.org.uk/libraries-week-x-meet-our-members-welcoming-new-arrivals/>.

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://libraries.cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/157/2021/11/COS-Library-resource-pack-Low-res-web-version-SINGLE-PAGE-11-10-21-1.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> See: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/london-metropolitan-archives/about-lma/lgbtq-conference-2021>.

- Talk “Libraries of Sanctuary” to Library Association of Ireland, Career Development Group event online (November 2021)
- Talk “Libraries of Sanctuary” at SWRLS AGM (November 2021)
- Presentation “Introducing the Libraries of Sanctuary Toolkit” for Libraries Connected webinar (November 2021)
- Presentation “Connecting public libraries and refugee communities – the Libraries of Sanctuary resource pack” for CILIP Working Internationally Conference online (June 2021)
- Presentation “Libraries of Sanctuary: the key role libraries can play in the current climate” for Manchester City of Sanctuary online conference (May 2021)
- Online course “An introduction to equality, equity and diversity” for SWRLS (May 2021)

### 3. In-house courses and talks

- Online seminar, “Public and School Libraries”, for University of Sheffield (March 2022)
- “Becoming a Library of Sanctuary”, 2 x half-day courses for Essex Libraries (March 2022)
- Webinar for University of West of England, “Equality, equity & diversity – working with refugees, asylum-seekers, migrant workers and other ‘new arrivals’” (November 2021)
- 3 talks to The Library of Birmingham Race Equality Group training day (September 2021)
- Online course: “An introduction to equality, equity and diversity” for Oxford Gardens, Libraries and Museums (July 2021)
- Online seminar, “Public and School Libraries”, for University of Sheffield (April 2021)

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## Appendix A: Meetings with key contacts

These included:

Jon Appleton; Peter Baker (Facet Publishing); Dawn Beaumont (Birmingham Library Service); Ashley Beckett (City of Sanctuary); Kathryn Brown; Sarah Mears (Libraries Connected); Yvonne Morris (CILIP); Sarah Moth (Essex Library Service); Heather Norman-Soderlind (SWRLS); Lucy Pick (Hampshire Library Service); Huma Shah; Ana Silva (Cambridgeshire Libraries).

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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:

- Request for suggestions of LGBTQ+ groups in London, who might take part in some creative writing workshops at The National Archives (March 2022)
- Suggestions of queer spaces for disabled people (Feb 2022)



- Request to circulate info about two wellbeing leaflets aimed at prisons (Feb 2022)
- Any examples of work on decolonising public libraries (Nov 2021)
- Request to share examples of work that libraries are doing to support people with dementia and their carers (Nov 2021)
- Request for any examples where Jane Austen's writing (or that of other 19<sup>th</sup> century women novelists) is used with prisons or in rehabilitation
- Request for information about what prison libraries were planning for Black History Month (Sept 2021)
- Request for information about sources of positive LGBTQ+ Images for display in libraries (Aug 2021)
- Request to share information about a research project looking at what stresses and challenges foster carers face (April 2021)

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.