**Annual Report:
January-December
2006**

Introduction

2006 was another busy year for The Network, including:

- Developing, running and participating in some 21 courses and conferences
- Producing Newsletters for January- December 2006, plus two "specials" (on the Social Exclusion Task Force Action Plan, *Reaching out*, and the DCLG Local Government White Paper)
- Working with the LLDA and the partner library services to deliver phase 2 of "Welcome to Your Library"
- Working with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to promote the role that libraries play in supporting looked-after children and young people
- Attending a number of key conferences and meetings.

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

Membership has continued to grow (thanks to some effective promotion in the East Midlands, every local authority now belongs to The Network), and, although we have lost two members, we have gained 9 new organisational members.

Increasingly, The Network is being seen as one of <u>the</u> 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.

Tackling social exclusion, creating community cohesion and developing approaches to community engagement are all still at the top of the Government agenda: it is increasingly clear that libraries, museums and archives have a key role to play in this, and The Network is contributing to the spread of good practice and the raising of our profile.

2007 is going to bring a number of new challenges, particularly around the changes to local government, community engagement and integration, the personalisation agenda, and funding – together we can ensure that The Network continues to contribute to all this and to support members in developing services.

John Vincent
December 2006

Organisational members at December 2006

There are 132 organisational members (plus the MLA Partnership and the LLDA).

To make this report briefer, the full list of members is on the website (www.seapn.org.uk) – here are just the new joiners and leavers.

Joiners

Calderdale	Richmond
Dundee	Rutland
English Heritage	Sefton
Middlesbrough	South Tyneside
Newcastle	Swindon

Leavers

Cornwall
School Libraries Group (London & Home Counties Branch)

Individual members

At December 2006, The Network had 13 individual members.

Partners

The Network is working in partnership with a number of key organisations and individuals, including DCMS, The Reading Agency, Anne Harding, NALD [The National Association for Literature Development], NAAN [English Heritage's New Audiences and Access Network], Proud Heritage, the Quality Leaders Project, and Bookscan, and they also receive copies of the newsletter.

Membership of JISCMAIL lists

The following lists are open to anybody:

- LAC [people working with looked-after children]   269
- Travellers [people working with Travellers]   83
- WTYL ["Welcome to Your Library"]   275

The following are for Network members only:

- Network Newsletter   392
- The Network [for circulation of general information and enquiries]   198

Contacts abroad

We have had a number of enquiries about The Network (particularly the newsletter) from people outside the UK, and now email the newsletters to:

- Albert Arko-Cobbah (Vista Campus Library, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa)
- John Gehner (Coordinator, Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force, ALA Social Responsibility Round Table)
- Liza Harrington (InterFuture Scholar, Suffolk University, Boston, Mass.)
- Anne Berit Helland (Bergen Public Library, Norway)
- Rajashekhar Kumbar (Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Goa, India)
- Bern Nolen (Eastern Regional Libraries, Victoria, Australia)
- Lorraine Seeger (Eastern Regional Libraries, Victoria, Australia)

Enquiries

This year, The Network has received the greatest number of enquiries yet:

2006 [January-December 2006]	122[1]
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

It is interesting to note that there are now far more enquiries from students (of information studies and in other areas) than before – and a small number of enquiries from outside the UK too.

Courses and other events (January – December 2005)

1. Our own open courses

None in 2006.

2. Other organisations' open courses/Lectures

"The role of libraries in tackling social exclusion", seminar for the Centre for Informal Learning & Schools, King's College, London (December 2006)

"Supporting Looked-after Children", one-day course (with Anne Harding), British Library (September 2006)

Talk on "Right to Read" to Time to Read Seminar, "Working with Looked after Children", Manchester (September 2006)

"Library Services for LGBT Communities", one-day course for Sinto, Sheffield (September 2006)

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[1] Since April 2003, this figure also includes enquiries made to JISCMAIL.

"The role of libraries in tackling social exclusion", talk at Islamic Foundation Open Day, Markfield, Leicester (September 2006)

"Working with looked-after children and young people", presentation (and summing-up), "The Next Step – Children Looked After, Reading and Libraries" conference, Portsmouth (June 2006)

"LGBT people and libraries – how well do we do?", Keynote address, Diversity Group Conference, "Pride or Prejudice? How well are libraries serving Lesbian, Gay, Bi- and Trans- Communities?", Manchester (February 2006)

3. In-house courses and talks

One-to-one training session, Barnfield College, Luton (December 2006)

"Tackling social exclusion", Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Library Service (November 2006)

"Tackling social exclusion", Nottinghamshire Library Service (November 2006, 1 x one-day, 4 x half-day courses)

"Tackling social exclusion", Greater Manchester Training Cooperative (October 2006)

"Providing library services for LGBTs", Kent Libraries & Archives (October 2006, 2 x half-day courses)

"Tackling social exclusion", Derbyshire Library Service (June 2006, 2 x one-day courses)

Facilitating Brighton & Hove LGBT Workers Forum Development Day (June 2006)

"Reaching the hard-to-reach: some issues for libraries", seminar for London Metropolitan University as part of course "Information Services to Minority Communities" (March 2006)

"Library services for LGBTs", Hertfordshire Library Service (March 2006, 2 x half-day courses)

"Tackling social exclusion", Nottinghamshire Library Service (March 2006, 2 x half-day courses)

One-to-one training session, Hertfordshire Transport Services (February 2006)

"Tackling social exclusion", Nottinghamshire Library Service (February 2006, 4 x half-day courses)

"Tackling social exclusion", Derby City Libraries (January 2006)

"Tackling social exclusion", Nottinghamshire Library Service (January 2006, 4 x half-day courses)

4. <u>Conference</u>

None in 2006.

Initiatives and Developments

- The Network is a partner in Phase 2 of the "Welcome to Your Library" project
- The Network is also working with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to promote the role that libraries play in supporting looked-after children and young people
- The website was updated (and new content added) – with much help from the Web Team at CILIP
- In return for helping to promote their website and resources, the booksellers, World Language Books, are offering Network members a discount on purchases

Seminars, formal and other meetings, etc

- WTYL meetings (including two partner meetings, and meetings in Leeds and Liverpool)
- Final meeting of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation "Reading and Libraries Challenge Fund" Panel (January 2006)
- SEMLAC Reception (January 2006)
- Meeting to discuss "New Directions in Social Policy", MLA (February 2006)
- Member of PHF "Right to Read" advocacy steering group (plus meeting with DCMS)
- Conservative Party "Libraries Forum", London (June 2006)
- Launch of National Information Forum's guide for care-leavers (September 2006)
- First meeting of "Plenty", Inner Vision at the NUT [looking at developing work with looked-after young people], London (September 2006)
- "Developing the MLA Partnership Learning Strategy", London (December 2006)

Conferences, seminars, etc attended

- "Fulfilling Their Potential" training course organised by The Reading Agency, Birmingham, February 2006
- National Literacy Trust Conference on literacy and social exclusion, London, March 2006
- "Education Matters" conference [celebration day for looked-after young people], Norwich, March 2006
- "Looked After Children and Young People" Capita Conference, May 2006
- "Public Libraries – Destination Unknown?" conference, London, June 2006
- "Getting Engaged? Museums, libraries and archives working with their communities", MLA South East, Chichester, October 2006

Visitors from abroad

- Liza Harrington (an InterFuture scholar from Suffolk University, US) to discuss freedom of information and social exclusion
- Bern Nolen and Lorraine Seeger (Eastern Regional Libraries, Victoria, Australia)

Other Key Activities

- Contributed to AHRC research, *Report of the AHRC Library, Archive & Information Management Sector Interaction Study* (Arts & Humanities Research Council, 2006)
  http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/ahrb/website/images/4_98678.pdf
- Production of monthly newsletters

Responses made by the Network

- Draft lesbian and gay booklist for Hertfordshire Library Service
- Draft homelessness project outline for the LLDA
- Draft citizenship project proposal for the LLDA
- Draft outreach services strategy for Sandwell Library Service
- The British Library's *The British Library's content strategy – meeting the knowledge needs of the nation –* our response on the web at:
  http://www.bl.uk/about/strategic/contentstratrespond.html
- Draft of DCMS's "Identity and Cohesion" paper for the LLDA

Publications

Articles

- John Vincent "Looking forwards", *Public Library Journal* ("Social exclusion" column) Spring 2006, pp11-12
- John Vincent "Social inclusion", *info@sla: the newsletter of the School Library Association* Autumn 2006, p4

Contributions to …

- John Vincent and John Pateman "From equal opportunities to tackling social exclusion" in *British librarianship and information work 1991-2000* (edited by John Bowman, Ashgate, 2006).

New references to The Network

- Until it ceased publication in Summer 2006, the British Council's *Info@UK* e-journal scanned – and cited references to – our Newsletter. No.58, January 2006, had a brief article about us, p7
- CILIP cite the Newsletter as a source in their weekly e-bulletins

- Link to The Network from the "UK Public Libraries" website (edited by Robert and Sheila Harden) – see: http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/town/square/ac940/links.html
- Southend Borough Libraries: *Community and Diversity Team Report*, July 2006 – Public Library Impact Measures report: mentions that the Action Plan was devised following extensive consultation and feedback from other library services belonging to The Network

Complimentary letters/e-mails

Here is a small selection of comments made about The Network's work this year:

"… I would just like to say how valuable I have found your information bulletins, training courses and email forum and I believe that [name of authority] is well advanced in its social inclusion policy and practice as a result of your supporting expertise …"

"Again thanks for this excellent newsletter …"

"What a superb newsletter."

"Membership of the Network has had a profound impact on service development in [name of authority] and helped shape our social inclusion strategy. The newsletter is a great source of information and inspiration."

"Thanks for sending the Newsletter – it's a great read, really informative and a good way to digest all the news in the sector."

"Many thanks for delivering such an excellent course for us yesterday. Colleagues have said how useful, as well as enjoyable, they found it …"

Report by the Networker

I worked some 1,341 hours for the Network between January-December 2006. This is an outline of what that has involved.

A major part of the work has been in developing and delivering the wide range of training courses, and the involvement in the second phase of "Welcome to Your Library". I have contributed one article to *Public Library Journal* and have collected most of the content for and written the Newsletters in this period – including two "specials".

I have also attended a number of meetings, including those with: Ciara Eastell ("Fulfilling their Potential") to update each other; Anne Harding to prepare training courses; Heather Gossett (Hertfordshire HR) to plan training session; Tim Odell (Lambeth) to discuss work on community languages; Anwar Tlili (Centre for Informal Learning & Schools, King's College) to discuss social exclusion and museums and to plan seminar; Natasha Innocent (MLA) to update each other; John Dolan (MLA) to update each other; Celine West (UCL) to discuss museums and social exclusion; CILIP Web Team to discuss updating our website; Marcus Weisen and Tracey Hylton (MLA) to update each other; Rachel Hasted (English Heritage) to discuss

plans for action learning; Sian Roberts and Izzy Mohammed ("Connecting Histories") to update each other; Elaine Hart (Barnfield College HR) to plan training session.

In addition, I have carried out all the administration for the Network, including invoicing and banking income; dealing with suppliers' invoices and raising cheques; and answering the large number of letters and e-mails about the Network's work.

The work can be broken down approximately as follows:

Activities	Hours	%	% 2005
Preparation, delivery and follow-up to training courses [self-financing]	302.75	22%	42%
"Welcome to Your Library" Phase 2	223.75	17%	6%
Looked-after children & young people – "Right to Read" advocacy [Paul Hamlyn Foundation-funded]	104.25	8%	1.5%
Funded or part-funded		*c47%*	*c49.5%*
Managing The Network, including new members, adding to JISCMAIL lists, filing, etc (39.25); enquiries (21.50); accounts (48.50); maintaining our Website (31.50); responding to reports etc (1.00)	141.75	11%	} } } 24% }
Emails[2]	183.00	14%	}
Work on newsletters	231.25	17%	13%
Other activities (eg attending meetings)	154.50	11%	11.5%
Paid for from subscriptions, income from courses, etc		*c53%*	*c50%*
TOTAL	1341.25	100%	100%

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[2] As The Network deals with such a volume of emails, I have recorded these separately this year for the first time.