The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 282, 23 July 2019

Events

Events have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: http://www.seapn.org.uk/courses.

Funding & Opportunities

Transformation Capital Grant Programme 2020/21
(Source: email from MALD, 23 Jul 2019)
"The Welsh Government, through its Museums Archives and Libraries Division, is inviting Expressions of Interest for its 2020/21Transformation Capital Grant Programme for museums, archives and libraries. These grants will enable successful organisations to transform service delivery to offer sustainable, modern, attractive facilities and services in museums, archives and libraries across Wales.

As in 2019/20 the grant scheme will operate as a two-stage process; the first stage of which is submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI). Successful applicants at this stage will be asked to develop and submit a full second stage application. Both stages will be competitive, and subject to confirmation of Welsh Government budgets. A successful EOI does not guarantee funding at stage 2.

Information on the application process, EOI criteria, and the application form is attached.

Deadline for submission for EOIs: Friday 27 September. We are happy to accept applications by e-mail to MALD@gov.wales

If you have any queries please contact MALD on 0300 062 2112 or MALD@gov.wales"

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

"How Southampton City Libraries are helping hundreds of people with digital skills"
https://www.digitalunite.com/news-reviews/how-southampton-city-libraries-are-helping-hundreds-people-digital-skills?utm_source=Digital%20Unite%20Ltd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10733731_July%20newsletter%202019&dm_i=13LU,6E277,5MZA29,PAPDR,1
(Source: *News from Digital Unite*, Jul 2019)

Brief case study of Southampton City Libraries who joined the Digital Champions Network last Nov:

> "They were looking to train and support volunteers across their 11 libraries and since joining the Network, their Champions have helped over 400 people with digital skills."

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government
By deeds and their results …
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/819337/MHCLG_Communities_Framework.pdf
New from MHCLG:

> "This document articulates the department's vision for stronger local communities. It sets out why they matter, what strong communities look like, and what government and local partners can do to support them. Developed in consultation with community organisations, including those represented on the department's Communities Partnership Board […], it identifies four pillars that will shape our work across government:
>
> 1. Trust, connectedness and local pride
> 2. Active citizenship and local control
> 3. Shared community spaces
> 4. Shared prosperity, with no community left behind" [p5]

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies
"How to develop a great diversity scheme"
https://www.managers.org.uk/insights/news/2019/july/how-to-develop-a-great-diversity-scheme?utm_source=Chartered%20Management%20Institute&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10732209_Members%20July_CPD_Newsletter&dm_i=SYT,6E10X,4H1XSR,PAJZQ,1
(Source: email from CMI, 23 Jul 2019)
"How can we all work towards creating a successful and effective diversity scheme?" This basic guide suggests seven steps we can take …

It's backed up by the more detailed CMI checklist, *Managing for diversity*, https://www.managers.org.uk/~/media/Files/Campus%20CMI/Checklists%20Managerial/Implementing%20a%20diversity%20management%20programme.ashx

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people
"Torn apart: the vicious war over young adult books"
https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jun/15/torn-apart-the-vicious-war-over-young-adult-books
(Source: thanks to Zoey Dixon, Lambeth, for the info about *The Bookseller* article)

Rather sensational exploration of some of the effects of "cancel culture" (when authors and/or publishers cancel publication because of pre-publication criticisms/attacks) – it raises some key issues about the current state of YA publishing (which, I think wrongly, Leo Benedictus says is only 18 or so years old …)

The Bookseller has published a rebuttal by Chelsey Pippin (a writer and librarian), "Is YA Twitter as toxic as mainstream media suggests?", see: https://www.thebookseller.com/blogs/ya-twitter-toxic-mainstream-media-suggests-1025386#.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies
"Billie Eilish and Tourette's: our new study reveals what it's really like to live with the condition"
https://theconversation.com/billie-eilish-and-tourettes-our-new-study-reveals-what-its-really-like-to-live-with-the-condition-119570?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201358212749&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201358212749+CID_f46d5775adeba835f7618e439ca35015&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Billie%20Eilish%20and%20Tourettes%20our%20new%20study%20reveals%20what%20its%20really%20like%20to%20live%20with%20the%20condition
(Source: *The Conversation*, 13 Jul 2019)
Interesting, brief article about Tourette's, with a summary of some recent research.

"Well-being of students starts to decline from the moment they enter secondary school"
https://theconversation.com/well-being-of-students-starts-to-decline-from-the-moment-they-enter-secondary-school-119260?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201358212749&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201358212749+CID_f46d5775adeba835f7618e439ca35015&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Well-being%20of%20students%20starts%20to%20decline%20from%20the%20moment%20they%20enter%20secondary%20school
(Source: *The Conversation*, 13 Jul 2019)
Summary of important research, linking wellbeing issues to, for example, stress, hormonal changes, bullying and cyberbullying:

> "Across the world, schools are introducing programmes aimed at enhancing the well-being of students and helping them flourish. Such programmes aim to teach students how to cultivate positive emotions and relationships, find meaning and feel a sense of achievement in their work – as well as look after their physical and mental health.

But despite this progress, recent research conducted in the Republic of Ireland has found that the well-being of students steadily declines as they progress through secondary school, up to their final exams. And the decline is sharper for girls than for boys [...]

Traditionally, students' well-being has been evaluated by measuring a lack of mental health problems like depression or anxiety. But more recent research has shown that having higher levels of well-being can help people cope better with adversities – so for our study, we sought to measure levels of well-being, as well as mental health issues.

Our results indicated a small but steady decrease in well-being from junior, through to the middle and senior groups. Perhaps predictably, we also found age-related increases in measures of negative emotions and loneliness. In comparison to boys, girls reported lower levels of well-being across the board, and higher levels of negative emotions and loneliness."

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Press release (13 Jul): "£100 million migration fund helps alleviate council pressures across England"
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-million-migration-fund-helps-alleviate-council-pressures-across-england?utm_source=63f40a0e-e21f-411f-a49e-1e763f37c236&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily
Announcement of a further £28m funding from the government's Controlling Migration Fund.

The press release includes 4 brief case studies, and a link to an Excel spreadsheet summarising this latest funding. This is well worth checking to see if there is funding in your local authority area.

Role of public services in integrating refugees and asylum seekers
https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef19042en.pdf
New research from Eurofound; key findings include:

- "The role of public services differs across the selected measures. In some cases, the public services or another public entity primarily regulated and oversaw the measure; in others, they acted as the service provider; and in other cases, they financed the measure, or combined roles.
- In the area of housing and social integration (including measures such as civic education), municipalities and local authorities play a key role, in collaboration with NGOs.
- An important challenge is ensuring adequate support for refugees and asylum seekers with mental health issues […]

- In terms of policy responses to housing challenges, a common thread across countries has been the development of a more coordinated approach between central government agencies responsible for dealing with refugees and asylum seekers and local municipalities [...]" [p1]

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

"Still Chilling: Censorship Beyond Banned Books"
https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/still-chilling-censorship-beyond-banned-books/
(Source: email from Simon Wallace, 1 Jul 2019)
American Libraries article which looks at the growing challenges in US libraries to non-book materials and activities (as well as to books).

"Four refreshed Universal Library Offers announced"
https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/four-new-universal-library-offers
(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 21 Jul 2019)
Following a review led by Shared Intelligence, Libraries Connected have announced that there will be 4 'refreshed' Offers:

- Reading
- Digital and Information
- Culture and Creativity
- Health and Wellbeing.

The Review also recommends that "Libraries Connected map the relationship between the new offers and the Six Steps and Children's Promises." [p29]

The Review is at:
file:///C:/Users/New%20User/Downloads/Universal%20Offers%20Review%20FINAL%20010719_0.pdf.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

Children and young people's reading in 2017/18: findings from our Annual Literacy Survey
Available to download as a pdf from: https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/children-and-young-peoples-reading-201718/?mc_cid=58193cb302&mc_eid=a2d98ab814
(Source: email from National Literacy Trust, 13 Jun 2019)
Key findings include:

- Decrease in reading enjoyment levels
- Levels of daily reading decreased again
- Overall, reading engagement has declined gradually over the past four years
- Children and young people are slightly more likely to read more formats in print than digitally

- Children and young people generally thought positively about reading in 2017/18
- Children and young people who enjoy reading and read daily are more likely to read above the level expected for their age.

"The New Right: how a Frenchman born 150 years ago inspired the extreme nationalism behind Brexit and Donald Trump"
https://theconversation.com/the-new-right-how-a-frenchman-born-150-years-ago-inspired-the-extreme-nationalism-behind-brexit-and-donald-trump-117277?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201353212696&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201353212696+CID_70ff976d400ea310755426e3dc05851f&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20New%20Right%20how%20a%20Frenchman%20born%20150%20years%20ago%20inspired%20the%20extreme%20nationalism%20behind%20Brexit%20and%20Donald%20Trump
(Source: *The Conversation*, 6 Jul 2019)
Fascinating long read, looking at some of the structural ideas that shape the 'new right' – and, for me at least, giving a lot of food for thought.

"How far-right groups use Britain's extremism definition to argue they aren't extremist"
https://theconversation.com/how-far-right-groups-use-britains-extremism-definition-to-argue-they-arent-extremist-120375?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2022%202019%20-%201365712831&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2022%202019%20-%201365712831+CID_1cee3fa077a72ab70794b058b2b1dd32&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20far-right%20groups%20use%20Britains%20extremism%20definition%20to%20argue%20they%20arent%20extremist
(Source: *The Conversation*, 22 Jul 2019)
Important article by researcher Chris Allen, which looks at weaknesses in the Government's definition of 'extremism'. It's based on his research paper for the Government's Commission for Countering Extremism, *National Action: links between the far right, extremism and terrorism* – see:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/816698/Chris_Allen_-_National_Action.pdf.