The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 287, 9 October 2019

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

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

Black archives in the UK …
https://raceingeographydotorg.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/race-group-report-july-2019-proofread.pdf
(Source: *Black & Asian Heritage Mix Newsletter*, Oct 2019)
New report from the Race, Culture and Equality Working Group Report, Royal Geographical Society.

> "The intention of this report is to provide an indicative mapping of Black focused archives in the UK. It attempts to provide snapshots of the diverse Black archives existing across the UK, as well as the opportunities and challenges Black archives currently experience in the UK." [p2]

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

"Are natural history museums inherently racist?"
https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2019/july/are-natural-history-museums-inherently-racist.html
(Source: *Black & Asian Heritage Mix Newsletter*, Oct 2019)
Interesting post on the NHM website, which argues that:

> "Many natural history collections throughout Europe and the western world have their origins in colonialism. Their early specimens were often shipped on board slave ships and trading missions.
>
> How these institutions now engage with this history is crucial in how they move forward to make their collections more accessible."

Suffolk Libraries: a predictive impact analysis
https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/assets/pdf/suffolk-libraries-a-predictive-impact-analysis.pdf
(Source: Weekly update from the CILIP CEO, w/c 7 Oct 2019)
In 2018, Moore Kingston Smith (consultants) were commissioned by Suffolk Libraries to measure the social impact of some of their community-based work.

The 'headline' findings are that:

> "For every £1 invested into the Suffolk Libraries programmes, £8.04 is returned in social value created. That is to say that after investment costs are taken away the social value return is over eight times the amount of investment. This is an impressive level of return and indicates that Suffolk Libraries is creating substantial impact in its local community for a wide range of stakeholders." [p3]

Of particular note is:

> "Reduced isolation and loneliness were significant outcomes identified for all three main stakeholder groups. Numerous other intended and unintended outcomes were also revealed and can be found in more detail in the results section of this report. However in summary, the outcomes holding the highest social value were: development of literacy skills for children, improved wellbeing for parents of children, improved mental health and social networks for Open Space attendees and increased happiness for Top Time members." [p3]

***The arts for** every *child: why arts education is a social justice issue*
https://culturallearningalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Arts-for-every-child-CLA-Social-justice-briefing.pdf
(Source: *GEM eNews*, 132, 30 Sep 2019)
This is the Cultural Learning Alliance Briefing Paper no. 5.

As Moira Sinclair (CE, PHF) says in her foreword:

> "Whether we are talking about one day having jobs in the creative industries, what it takes to build sustainable communities, or about their future personal wellbeing, the arts give children skills for life. Creativity, imagination, an appreciation of form and narrative, and the ability to express emotion and complexity help them deal with tough circumstances, and to see and navigate new horizons; they are an important part of what prepares them for the world beyond school; and for some, they are a vital refuge from challenges we can only imagine. We cannot allow the current inequity of provision to continue, or to grow: we have to rebalance the offer so that every child is given access to the essential skills and opportunities that the arts can provide in their lives." [p1]

The paper looks at the impact of the arts in:

- Health & wellbeing
- Employability
- Citizenship & diversity
- Economic growth.

It concludes powerfully:

"We must work together – policy makers, schools, teachers, artists and cultural organisations – to ensure that every child and young person can access a broad and balanced curriculum that enables them to fulfil their potential, and which gives them the skills needed for the future. Otherwise the arts become the preserve of only those who can afford them." [p3]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies
"Race equality and justice in the charity sector"
https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/race-equality-and-justice-charity-sector?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%2030%20Sept%202019&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%2030%20Sept%202019+CID_512fd07b0d3a4babf29dc55f4e0c8c03&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20Kimberleys%20blog
(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 4 Oct 2019)
In this brief but challenging blogpost for Black History Month, Kimberly McIntosh from the Runnymede Trust asks how the charity sector can lead the way in equality and justice. There are pointers for us all …

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Unlocking history and heritage for millions of people affected by dementia"
https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/press-release/unlocking-history-and-heritage-for-millions-of-people-affected-by-dementia
(Source: *Heritage Update*, 403, 30 Sep 2019)
Press release from the National Trust:

> "The National Trust is joining forces with Alzheimer's Society to make all of its 500 historic and countryside sites dementia-friendly, in the first project of its kind for the Trust.
>
> It comes as figures reveal that seven per cent (about 150,000) of National Trust supporters over the age of 65, including its volunteers, staff and members, may be living with the condition. This is in line with research from Alzheimer's Society showing that 1 in every 14 people in the UK aged 65 and over has dementia, with someone developing the condition every three minutes, and the Society predicting those living with the disease will hit one million within three years.
>
> For people with dementia and their carers, historic spaces, collections and stories can prompt and stimulate discussion and connection, encourage outdoor exploration, and offer a vital connection to the world around them, with day trips recognised as one of the most likely and regular activities for people living with the condition and their carers."

"Health & Wellbeing"
https://www.museumnext.com/article/category/health-wellbeing/
(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 7 Oct 2019)
Useful page of links to resources (drawn together by MuseumNext).

Includes (amongst others):

- "Museums joining the mental health conversation", https://www.museumnext.com/article/museums-joining-the-mental-health-conversation/
- "Education, exhibitions and support – Tackling the topic of Cancer in the Museum", https://www.museumnext.com/article/tackling-the-topic-of-cancer-in-the-museum/
- "Reminiscence and adult learning for elderly audiences in open-air Museums", https://www.museumnext.com/article/active-ageing-and-the-open-air-museum/
- "Designing museum programmes for people with dementia", https://www.museumnext.com/article/designing-museum-programmes-for-people-with-dementia/
- "Loneliness and social isolation – how can museums help?", https://www.museumnext.com/article/loneliness-and-social-isolation-how-can-museums-help/
- "Making the Museum Autism Friendly – best practice from around the world", https://www.museumnext.com/article/making-the-museum-autism-friendly/.

"Edinburgh libraries start Dog Friendly Thursdays where pooches can be fed and watered"
https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/best-in-edinburgh/whats-on-news/edinburgh-library-dog-friendly-thursday-17012066
(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 6 Oct 2019)
> "Three libraries across Edinburgh will be holding regular Dog Friendly Thursdays, starting this week on October 3.
>
> Well-behaved pooches will be welcomed into Central, Stockbridge and Oxgangs libraries.
>
> The move is aimed at tackling loneliness and social isolation, meaning dog-owners no longer have to worry about leaving their pets outside when they visit the library."

Migration issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Afternoons in the Stacks"
https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=afternoons-in-the-stacks&utm_source=Marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=september30LJReviews+
(Source: *LJ Reviews+*, 30 Sep 2019)
Interesting quick read (but ignore the intrusive adverts!):

"Dina Nayeri, whose *The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You*[*] explores the nuances of her refugee experience, discusses what libraries meant to her when she first arrived in this country as a child." [taken from the email alert]

* Published in the UK by Canongate, https://canongate.co.uk/books/2490-the-ungrateful-refugee/.

Migration issues – Other Agencies
Lessons not learned: the failures of asylum decision-making in the UK
http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Lessons_Not_Learned_FINAL_Sept19.pdf
(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Sep/Oct 2019)
Major new report from the Refugee Council:

"This report examines 50 reports from 17 different organisations, including parliamentary committees, the United Nations, nongovernmental organisations, academics, and independent inspectorates.

It charts a 15-year history of longstanding criticisms levelled against the Home Office […]

This report proposes a new way forward at a moment when Britain stands at a historic crossroads. The system has at its heart the assumption that applicants are telling lies, even when they have suffered so much. The system is inefficient, inhumane and broken. It urgently needs to be repaired." [p3]

"Displaced people: Why are more fleeing home than ever before?"
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-49638793
(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Sep/Oct 2019)
Important report by the BBC, looking at the reasons behind displacement, the numbers involved, and where the people go to.

Looked-after children & young people issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Care leavers: 'Trying to access childhood records is distressing and dehumanising'"
https://theconversation.com/care-leavers-trying-to-access-childhood-records-is-distressing-and-dehumanising-124381?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20October%204%202019%20-%201426013478&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20October%204%202019%20-%201426013478+CID_ce56b1832de120b65459e091e6ee0d25&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Care%20leavers%20Trying%20to%20access%20childhood%20records%20is%20distressing%20and%20dehumanising

(Source: *The Conversation*, 4 Oct 2019)
Interesting post by Elizabeth Shepherd (Professor of Archives and Records Management, UCL), looking at some of the issues faced by care-leavers in trying to access their records.

It introduces:

> "The MIRRA project, led by UCL with the Care Leaver's Association and the charity Family Action, [which] collected interview and focus group data from more than 80 care leavers, social workers and information managers working for local authorities and charities who look after children."

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Bobby Seagull's 'Manifesto for Libraries'"
https://www.librariesdeliver.uk/seagull
(Source: *CILIP Weekly News*, 9 Oct 2019)
> "HM Government has an opportunity to transform lives across the UK by investing in the future of our libraries. That is why I am calling on Ministers, Members of Parliament and representatives in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to get behind my 10-point Manifesto […]"

Broader issues – Other Agencies
"What is safeguarding?"
https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/safeguarding/what-is-safeguarding
(Source: email from NCVO, 8 Oct 2019)
Important new resource from NCVO.

It also includes a link to these two useful guides:

> ***Introductory guide to safeguarding and child protection for the voluntary and community sector***
> https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1464/introductory-guide-to-safeguarding-and-child-protection-voluntary-and-community-sector.pdf
> This revised guide from the NSPCC "[…] covers best practice for safeguarding and child protection for those working with 0- to 18-year-olds." [p4]
>
> **"Our safeguarding checklist"**
> https://www.anncrafttrust.org/checklist-overview/
> Introductory resources from the Ann Craft Trust on safeguarding adults.