The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 312, 28 October 2020

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

Black Lives Matter
"Coronavirus Conversations: Dismantling Racism in Museums"
https://www.museumsassociation.org/event-highlights/coronavirus-conversations-highlights/?utm_campaign=1820051_05102020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,130CZ,27LU0M,45OW5,1
(Source: Museums Association email updates, 5 Oct 2020)
One in the series of MA's "Coronavirus Conversations":

> "A panel discussion organised by the Museums Association and Museum Detox about how individuals and museums can confront racism in the museum and heritage sector."

An avoidable crisis: the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities – a review by Baroness Doreen Lawrence
https://www.lawrencereview.co.uk/?utm_source=bsd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LawrenceReview&source=20201027_LawrenceReview&subsource=bsd_email
Just in case you haven't seen the report which has had considerable media coverage, especially for its discussion of structural racism:

> "Covid-19 is having a disproportionate and devastating impact on ethnic minority communities. Not only are Black, Asian and minority ethnic people dying at a disproportionate rate, they are also overexposed to the virus and more likely to suffer the economic consequences. Despite repeated warnings, the Government has failed to take sufficient action.
>
> Covid-19 has thrived on inequalities that have long scarred British society. Black, Asian and minority ethnic people are more likely to work in frontline or shutdown sectors which have been overexposed to Covid-19, more likely to have co-morbidities which increase the risk of serious illness and more likely to face barriers to accessing healthcare. Black, Asian and minority ethnic people have also been subject to disgraceful racism as some have sought to blame different communities for the spread of the virus.

This virus has exposed the devastating impact of structural racism. We need immediate action to protect people this winter, but we must also fix the broken system that has left ethnic minority people so exposed." [Taken from Executive Summary, https://www.lawrencereview.co.uk/chapters/executive-summary]

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

65 brilliant books for children and young people by black authors and illustrators
https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/4679/Brilliant_books_by_black_authors_and_illustrators_-_resource.pdf
(Source: email from The Reading Agency, 2 Oct 2020)
Booklist from The Reading Agency to celebrate Black History Month:

> "Our list of 65 titles includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry and graphic novels for all children, young people and adults to enjoy reading."

Congratulations!
"Excellence in Prison Libraries Award 2020 winner"
https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=201309&id=903823&utm_source=Email%20marketing&utm_medium=Informz&utm_campaign=Email%20marketing
(Source: *CILIP News*, 14 Oct 2020)
Congratulations to HMP Ford for their award-winning work on "Well-being Through Creative Writing":

> "The project began as a six-week trial but became so successful that the group now runs weekly. They meet in the library and, as well as exploring creative writing, they also discuss reading. Sara [the project coordinator] is keen to point out that it's not all serious – *'we play word games, enjoy puns, tell jokes and laugh a lot. The men learn to express themselves better which is a useful transferable skill.'*"

Coronavirus/COVID-19
Not all babies are in the same boat: exploring how family activities changed during the UK COVID-19 Lockdown
https://babylab.brookes.ac.uk/research/social-distancing-and-development/family-activities
(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 28 Oct 2020)
New research into the effects of lockdown on different families; whilst "90% of families reported an increase in enriching activities during Lockdown":

> "[…] socio-economically disadvantaged parents were less likely to engage in enriching activities

In particular, socio-economically disadvantaged families spent less time doing activities that require outdoor space and access to books"

The research recommends:

- "Children from disadvantaged families should be given extra support to promote their early development
- Communal outdoor spaces and libraries should be closed only as a last resort in lockdowns"

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies
Blueprint for a 100% digitally included UK for a post-COVID-19 economy
https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/blueprint-for-a-100-digitally-included-uk-0.pdf
(Source: email from Good Things Foundation, Sep 2020)
Blueprint from Good Things Foundation, calling for:

"A Great Digital Catch Up – an investment of £130m during this Parliament, alongside support from businesses – will level up opportunity, fire up the economy, and help 4.5 million more people to cross the digital divide." [p1]

It also includes "Three steps to fix the digital divide":

- The Great Digital Catch Up

- "A Data Poverty Lab: Recognise internet access as an essential utility, like electricity. Commission people with lived experience, design thinkers, digital inclusion and industry innovators to codesign solutions – exploring ideas from social prescribing to data donating." [p2]

- A Digital Strategy for everyone so we continue to lead the world, leaving nobody behind. Let's make digital inclusion a social priority. Embed digital inclusion into financial, health and government public services. Improve metrics and establish a better baseline – informed by the people – of what we need to live in a digital society." [p2]

See also their *Digital Nation UK 2020* infographic, "Facts, stats and fixing the digital divide",
https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/research-publications/digital-nation-2020.pdf.

Learning from lockdown: 12 steps to eliminate digital exclusion
https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2020/10/14161948/Carnegie-Learning-from-lockdown-Report-FINAL.pdf
(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 17 Oct 2020)
Carnegie UK Trust have also produced a new report looking at what we can learn from the last six months and setting out ways to eliminate digital exclusion.

This includes the following 12 steps:

1. Commit to digital inclusion strategies

2. Prioritise co-production: "The new digital inclusion strategies produced by the UK government and the devolved governments should be co-produced with those who have lived experience of digital exclusion." [p3]

3. Collect quality digital data (on digital inclusion)

4. Establish a robust baseline: "A new Minimum Digital Living Standard should be established to create a deeper, more comprehensive, universally recognised baseline for what it means to be digitally included in the UK." [p4]

5. Embed across public services

6. Align with anti-poverty efforts

7. Measure programme impacts" National and large-scale digital inclusion programmes should regularly publish and promote their impact and outcomes data, to support shared learning and contribute to better longitudinal tracking and understanding of progress." [p4]

8. Regulate for online harms: "The UK government should deliver on its commitment to establish world-leading, effective online harms regulation, based on a duty of care model, backed by an independent regulator." [p4]

9. Invest and build capacity

10. Champion the role of business

11. Innovate for inclusion: "Governments, technology providers and civil society organisations should continue to work together to explore market innovations that reduce the cost of digital access and enhance protection for those on low incomes. This might include building on initiatives such as data donation, zero-rating, expanded social tariffs and public WIFI; or by establishing home internet as an essential utility and giving vulnerable customers the right to greater protections, similar to the gas and electricity markets." [p5]

12. Ensure a public safety-net: "Public of [sic] provision of digital access through libraries, health and welfare services and community organisations should continue to be made available." [p5]

Resettlement: a survey by Independent Monitoring Boards of women being released from prison
https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/imb-prod-storage-1ocod6bqky0vo/uploads/2020/08/IMB-Womens-estate-resettlement-report-August-2020-FINAL-.pdf
(Source: Clinks *Women's Network Bulletin*, 20 Oct 2020)

"Eighty women were interviewed by IMBs across ten prisons in February 2020; the results show that:

- on arrival in prison, a quarter had lost their homes and one in six were already homeless
- 41% said they had a permanent address to go to on release
- 45% had no address to go to, and 14% only had a temporary address
- of this 59% with no settled home to go to, well over a third (40%) – equating to one in five of all the women taking part – said they would be homeless on release." [Taken from: https://www.imb.org.uk/more-than-half-of-women-prisoners-have-no-settled-home-on-release-reveals-new-report-from-independent-prison-monitors/]

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Taking up the evaluation challenge"
https://www.artsprofessional.co.uk/magazine/338/feature/taking-evaluation-challenge?utm_source=non_subscriber_features&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nid-214887&utm_campaign=8th-October-2020
(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 8 Oct 2020)
In this article in *Arts Professional*, Katherine Taylor (Senior Clinical Psychologist/Arts, Culture and Mental Health Programme Manager for GM i-THRIVE) introduces the *Greater Manchester Youth Mental Health Arts & Culture Evaluation Kit*, described as:

"[…] a practical and easily administered process which can be completed, including data entry, in just a few minutes. It has been designed to be simple, validated, relevant and useful to organisations themselves, at the same time providing the information that commissioners need. It still contains some of the outcome measures routinely used in the NHS, but it excludes those measures that use overly clinical language or ask inappropriate questions for these settings."

Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
Museum and Heritage access 2020 survey
pdf: file:///C:/Users/John/Downloads/Museum-and-Heritage-Access-Survey-2020-Report-FINAL-2020-10-08.pdf
Word/large print available to download from: https://vocaleyes.co.uk/museum-and-heritage-access-survey-2020/

(Source: email from Matthew Cock (CEO, VocalEyes) to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 15 Oct 2020)

> "From March to June 2020, together with our friends Stagetext and Autism in Museums, we ran a survey of museum and heritage site visitors who are also users of access facilities, resources and events. Though the UK had just gone into lockdown and museums and heritage sites around the country closed to the public, the survey asked people to reflect on visits to venues that they had made in the previous 12 months. As museums and heritage sites are re-opening in a changed world, the survey report now presents an important benchmark against which we can measure ourselves in the coming months and years.
>
> Because we believe that despite the huge challenges ahead, the museum and heritage sectors have an opportunity to re-build in a more inclusive and visitor-focused way. Nearly all respondents to the survey stated that they would like to visit museums and heritage sites more regularly, and the top three things selected as enablers for this were: more access information (online and available via phone or email enquiry), more accessible events (audio-described, captioned, signed, relaxed or autism-friendly) and better staff awareness, through training, CPD opportunities and above all, good leadership. None of these areas involve capital or major investment, and are all achievable with creativity and collaboration. There are opportunities to share collections in new ways, and include visitors far beyond the museum walls. As we recover and reopen, let's not leave anyone behind." [Taken from: https://vocaleyes.co.uk/museum-and-heritage-access-survey-2020/]

Stagetext: http://www.stagetext.org/

Autism in Museums: https://www.autisminmuseums.com/.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Sanctuary in Scotland: information on refugee issues for faith groups in Scotland
https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/69738/sanctuary-in-scotland.pdf
(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 677, 14 Oct 2020)
Important and useful guide, including definitions, background info about countries of origin, info about New Scots, etc.

"Supporting communication, language and literacy with children with English as an additional language in the early years #1"
http://www.anneharding.net/3124/supporting-communication-language-literacy-children-eal-early-years-part-1/
(Source: email from Anne Harding, 21 Oct 2020)

> "In this first of a series of blogs I'm concentrating on the benefits of bilingualism, the importance of supporting children's home languages, what children have to learn to become proficient in a new language, and official guidance on supporting children with EAL in the early years."