The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 320, 3 February 2021

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

It takes a system: the systemic nature of racism and pathways to systems change

https://www.rota.org.uk/sites/default/files/researchpublications/It%20takes%20a%20system%20FINAL%20-%20January%202021.pdf

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 28 Jan 2021)

Important new report:

> "It is now normal to hear that racism is systemic. This is an important and essential truth and one worth holding on to. In a time of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter, systemic racism, as a term at least, is on the agenda.
>
> But what does systemic racism really mean?
>
> The problem with the concept of systemic racism as it stands now is that it obscures as much as it reveals. A lack of clarity on what systemic racism is and how it works risks it becoming an almost mystical concept – one which is too easy for cynics to dismiss. What is more, research shows that racism is viewed mostly as personal prejudice […] and hostile actions directed by one person towards another, rather than as something that is designed into our systems.
>
> With this as the state of play, how can we move decisively away from systemic racism towards systemic racial justice?" [p5]

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

Mental health and black deaths in police custody

https://irr.org.uk/article/mental-health-police-deaths/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=race_mental_health_state_violence&utm_term=2021-01-28

(Source: *IRR News*, 28 Jan 2021)

Article by IRR's Jenny Bourne:

> "What is often overlooked in struggles around race, policing and deaths in custody, is the role of mental ill health as a key thread of vulnerability.

Several stark cases have shown how black men suffering a mental health crisis can end up dead following police involvement."

Coronavirus/COVID-19
Left stranded: the impact of coronavirus on autistic people and their families in the UK
https://s4.chorus-mk.thirdlight.com/file/1573224908/63117952292/width=-1/height=-1/format=-1/fit=scale/t=444295/e=never/k=da5c189a/LeftStranded%20Report.pdf
(Source: *Autism in Museums Newsletter*, Feb 2021)

"The coronavirus outbreak has impacted everyone's life. But for autistic people and their families, it has left them completely stranded. This report highlights the often devastating impact this has had." [p3]

Funding & Opportunities
"Stay Home" Collecting Project
https://www.museumofthehome.org.uk/explore/stay-home-collecting-project/stay-home-questions/
(Source: email from Eithne Nightingale, 28 Jan 2021)
Message from the Museum of the Home:

"During these extraordinary times, our homes have never been more important.

We are documenting how our home lives are changing during the coronavirus pandemic. Read some stories here [https://www.museumofthehome.org.uk/explore/stories-of-home/stay-home-stories/]

What does home mean to you right now?
How are you using your home? Does your living room now have multiple uses as a work place, school or gym? If you have any outdoor space what are you using it for?

Are you leaving home to carry out your role as a key worker? Separated from your family or loved ones? Spending considerably more time with your flatmates or family?"

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
Becoming the Inclusive Archive
https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/our-role/plans-policies-performance-and-projects/our-plans/becoming-the-inclusive-archive/
(Source: email from Jonathan Ladd, Digital Impact and Communications Officer, The National Archives, to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 2 Feb 2021)
On 29 Jan, The National Archives launched this new strategy:

"An inclusive archive is available for every person we serve, enriched by the diverse and talented individuals who work with and for archives of all kinds.

As the living, growing and trusted home of our nation's stories, our obligation is to be an archive for everyone, because archives are about everyone – past, present and future."

It has four key workstreams:

- Workforce – who we are
- Audience – who we serve
- Practice – how we work
- Position – our global role.

A manifesto for museums in Scotland
Web version: https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/advocacy/a-manifesto-for-museums-in-scotland/
Pdf: https://ma-production.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/app/uploads/2020/12/15174442/Manifesto-for-Museums-in-Scotland.pdf
(Source: Museums Association email updates, 26 Jan 2021)
The MA has produced this Manifesto as part of its campaigning role.

It highlights the positive role that museums play ("Making Scotland a better place to live, work and visit"); and then raises key issues for the next Scottish Government:

- Securing the future
- Supporting partnerships
- Representation for all
- Access for all.

Under "Representation for all", it includes:

- "Museums should be supported to be inclusive, participatory and democratic spaces where people from all backgrounds feel welcome and represented as visitors, contributors and in the workforce and at board level.
- Museums should be supported to decolonise their practice and collections, building on the substantial, sector-leading work that is already happening in Scotland. Museums across Scotland should work to increase research and public engagement to recognise and come to terms with Scotland's colonial past, legacy of slavery and racism."

"Testifying to the Truth"
https://www.testifyingtothetruth.co.uk/viewer/
(Source: email from Greg Toth, Wiener Holocaust Library, to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 28 Jan 2021)

"The Wiener Holocaust Library's new digital resource, *Testifying to the Truth*, is now freely accessible online. This online database shares eyewitness accounts from the Holocaust, many of which have never been available to the public online before and have been translated, by a team of the Library's volunteers, into English for the first time."

Museums and Human Rights: human rights as a basis for public service
https://curatingtomorrow236646048.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/museums-and-human-rights-2020.pdf
(Source: *GEM eNews*, 148, 29 Jan 2021)
Important new guide:

"This 96-page Guide sets out what human rights are, the main human rights Conventions and Declarations that relate to museums, and particular rights especially relevant to museums. The Guide goes through a human rights-based approach applied to museums, which is a planning method to help more people attain their basic rights through museums, and for museums to provide more effective, transparent and transformative public service.

It is especially important that museums, and those who fund them, reflect on how they are supporting people's rights, in a climate of competition for funding. Everyone is entitled to the same rights, equally." [Taken from: https://curatingtomorrow236646048.wordpress.com/2020/12/10/new-guide-museums-and-human-rights/]

FLA Network
https://fla-network.com/
(Source: email from Chloe Wilson, FLA Administrator, to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 3 Feb 2021)
"FLA (Feminist and Women's Libraries and Archives Network) is a network which is building connections, knowledge and solidarity between an increasing number of libraries and archives which hold material dedicated to feminists and women, their lives and histories. These may be dedicated institutions, or more general ones which consciously collect feminist or women's material."

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies
How to make your online content accessible
Pdf: https://digitalculturenetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/How-to-make-your-online-content-accessible_v3.pdf
Web summary version: https://digitalculturenetwork.org.uk/knowledge/how-to-make-your-online-content-accessible/
(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 29 Jan 2021)
New from the Digital Culture Network:

"This document looks at how to make different forms of digital content accessible to all audience members and what steps you can take to

make the experience of your audience as good as it can be to ensure their needs are accounted for on different platforms." [p1]

Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Autism awareness in a time of COVID"
https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/autism-awareness-time-covid/
(Source: *Autism in Museums Newsletter*, Feb 2021)
> "Claire Madge from Autism in Museums urges museums not to forget their autistic visitors during this latest lockdown and offers four easy ways to stay connected with and support this vulnerable group."

Disability issues – Other Agencies
We belong
https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/default/files/DR%20UK%20We%20Belong%20Report_0.pdf
(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 28 Jan 2021)
> "This report sets out key recommendations for the National Strategy for Disabled People.
>
> These recommendations were developed after hearing the views of hundreds of disabled people and organisations.
>
> We have divided the report into five sections. All recommendations are listed at the start of this document.
>
> 1. Foundations: radical change to rights, voice and participation
> 2. Independence: enabling support, choice and control
> 3. Inclusion: removing societal barriers
> 4. Attitudes: changing perceptions
> 5. Protections: outlawing crimes" [p4]

Migration issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Eurotoolbox 2020"
https://eurolis.wordpress.com/eurotoolbox-2020/
(Source: CILIP Youth Libraries Group *YLG Newsletter Feb 2021, Part 1*)
> "This special collection of literature for children and young adults in French, English, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish, carefully selected by the respective European Institutes' librarians is FREE to borrow for any library in the UK.
>
> This year, the selection is aiming to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of human rights, inclusion and representation in literature.
>
> You can borrow the exhibition for 2 – 4 weeks at a time. To book a time slot, please contact Mariella Riccobono at the Italian Cultural Institute. maria.riccobon0.iic@esteri.it"

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Overview of family reunion options in the Immigration Rules

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947613/overview-family-reunion-options-in-rules-v1.0ext.pdf

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Dec 2020/Jan 2021)

This new guidance provides an overview of family reunion routes in the Immigration Rules and outside the rules, for individuals who are outside the EU as well as those in the EU.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Tools to support individual refugees

https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Tools-to-support-individual-refugees-1.pdf

(Source: *MEMO* [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 691, 1 Feb 2021)

The Scotland-wide "New Scots Integration: Rights & Communities" programme ran from 2018-2020 and

> "[…] supported 1190 New Scots to achieve their ambitions for work, education and community life; and 189 organisations across Scotland to build their capacity to welcome and support the integration of New Scots." [p3]

Drawn from this, the Scottish Refugee Council has produced three toolkits – this is the first:

> "This toolkit is for public authorities (local, regional and/or national) and/or civil society organisations creating or developing direct services to newly-recognised refugees: physical or remote holistic advice and advocacy services/one-stop shops; and language and employment services.
>
> 1. Supporting refugees to create their own Holistic Integration Plans
> 2. Individual employment action plans for refugees
> 3. 'Survival English' Language Programme
> 4. Widening information and advice access to asylum seekers and refugees digitally" [p2]

The other two toolkits have also been published:

- *Building national and regional infrastructure to support refugee integration*, https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Building-infrastructure-to-support-refugee-integration-2.pdf

- *Tools to support community integration*, https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Tools-to-support-community-integration-3.pdf