



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 338, 24 September 2021

Events

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

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Reception pupils ‘least school ready for generations’ due to pandemic, warns charity”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/reception-pupils-least-school-ready-for-generations-due-to-pandemic-warns-charity>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 8 Sep 2021)

“Young children missed the equivalent of one day’s worth of early education each week during the Covid-19 health crisis, leaving them ill prepared for starting reception classes this term, according to research from the charity Nesta.”

A threat to public safety: policing, racism and the Covid-19 pandemic

<https://irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/A-threat-to-public-safety-v3.pdf>

(Source: email from IRR, 13 Sep 2021)

New report from the Institute of Race Relations, which argues that:

“In the face of the profound threats posed by the Coronavirus pandemic, the British state placed policing at the centre of its response. For those who have paid attention to political events in recent years, such an approach should not be particularly surprising. Prior to the onset of the pandemic, the Conservative government had made clear its commitment to increasing the numbers of police officers, to granting those police officers more powers, and to increasing the number of prison places in the UK. Sealing the parliamentary political consensus, the opposition, too, has repeatedly made clear its commitment to policing. This is to say, British society was already on a trajectory towards an increasingly punitive social order, with policing at its heart. The pandemic became a vehicle through which this trajectory was articulated and accelerated. For a punitive state, policing the pandemic was but a logical solution to a serious problem - but this is not to say that it was an appropriate solution.” [p30]

National Literacy Trust: “COVID-19 Research and Policy Observatory”

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/information/what-is-literacy/covid-19-and-literacy/>

(Source: email from NLT, 3 Sep 2021)

Just launched:

“This overview, intended to act as a national observatory of literacy and recovery research, gathers research, insights and policy developments relating to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's learning, literacy and wellbeing, with a particular focus on less advantaged children and young people.”

The key findings and summary are brought together at:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/information/what-is-literacy/covid-19-and-literacy/key-findings-summary/>.

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

“Outside and In: Services for People Impacted By Incarceration”

https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=Outside-and-In-Services-for-People-Impacted-By-Incarceration&utm_source=Marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=september14LJXpress

(Source: *LJXpress – Library Journal*, 14 Sep 2021)

Very interesting article about the situation in the US:

“While the population of people currently in jails, juvenile detention centers, and prisons in the United States hovers around 2.3 million, the number of people directly impacted by the justice system is estimated to include about 6.5 million in total, according to data from the Prison Policy Institute and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Many people are also directly impacted by restrictions placed on them during probation, supervised release, or parole. Scholars and activists commonly refer to this interlocking network as the ‘prison-industrial complex’ (PIC).

Incarceration works through and reinforces systemic oppression, heavily shaping the experiences of BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ people, and people living in poverty and/or in public.”

“The world-class Glasgow library that tells the story of the women's movement in Scotland”

<https://www.glasgowlive.co.uk/news/history/world-class-glasgow-library-tells-21591194>

Just in case you haven't seen this very positive short article about Glasgow Women's Library.

“In pictures: ‘Book wumman’ builds a library for the homeless”

<https://news.stv.tv/east-central/in-pictures-book-wumman-builds-a-library-for-the-homeless?top&fbclid=IwAR1t04aeffJrbsToPIBB4DUMtDoZm5yJNL2A6jS4tHP3WNU3QgMSdHTs7EU>

(Source: FB message from Simon Wallace, 18 Sep 2021)

“Rachel Cowan became known as the ‘book wumman’ for handing out novels to those living on the streets of Edinburgh.

She took up the task after spotting a homeless woman sitting outside her door in Leith Walk reading a book.

‘I asked her how important a book was,’ recalled Rachel, who knows what it’s like to be homeless. ‘And she thought about it really hard and said “well, it can be better than food”.’

That encounter led to her setting up a charity – aptly named Streetreads – and now she’s opened a library in the capital that has impressed one of Scotland’s bestselling authors [Ian Rankin].”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Audible helps us get young people in HMYOI Feltham into reading through audiobooks and podcast lessons”

https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/audible-helps-us-get-young-people-in-hmyoi-feltham-into-reading-through-audiobooks-and-podcast-lessons/?mc_cid=ddd103785c&mc_eid=a2d98ab814

(Source: email from National Literacy Trust, 3 Sep 2021)

“We have teamed up with Audible to bring audiobooks to young people in custody, and introduced podcast making lessons to Feltham Young Offender Institution. This is part of our *Inside Stories with Audible* project, which aims to help young people develop their communication and literacy skills and improve their confidence through a range of audio activities.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Read, Talk, Share – Stories from the frontline”

<https://dcmslibraries.blog.gov.uk/2021/09/13/read-talk-share-stories-from-the-frontline/>

The latest blogpost from DCMS is by Karen Napier (CE, The Reading Agency), outlining some of the developments in their Reading Friends programme:

“Reading Friends is a befriending programme using reading to start conversations and connect people. It tackles the loneliness challenge head on by bringing people together to read, share stories, meet new friends, and have fun. Through an award by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), The Reading Agency provided funding, training and resources for 102 English library authorities to deliver Reading Friends to diverse audiences at risk of loneliness including new and expectant parents, young carers, older people and those living with dementia.”

“Museums tackling loneliness”

https://www.artspromotional.co.uk/magazine/article/museums-tackling-loneliness?utm_source=non_subscriber_features&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nid-217442&utm_campaign=2nd-September-2021

(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 2 Sep 2021)

Interesting article in *Arts Professional*, by Emmie Kell (CEO of Cornwall Museums Partnership) which looks at the role that Cornwall museums have played in tackling loneliness.

Disability issues – Other Agencies

“Digital accessibility: QR codes and short number SMS”

<https://vocaleyes.co.uk/about/research/digital-accessibility-qr-codes-and-short-number-sms/>

(Source: message from Matthew Cock, CE VocalEyes via LinkedIn)

New short report from VocalEyes:

“In 2021, while considering how to direct visitors to online content (including audio description), several client museums and heritage sites asked us how accessible QR codes were for blind and visually impaired people. We ran a short survey via social media and email about QR codes and short number SMS.”

They recommend:

1. “Consider that many blind or visually impaired people will not be comfortable using either technology or will rely on support from venue staff or a companion to do so successfully.
2. Offer both QR and SMS to assist visitors to access online resources. While QR is more widely used currently, SMS is more usable.
3. Explore Navilens as a potential solution.”

According to the report:

“The Navilens system was recommended, which is capable of reading labels from long distances (up to 12 times further than QR), without focus, and at wider angles.”

More info at: <https://www.navilens.com/>.

Migration issues – News

“Warming attitudes to immigration create space for action to ease labour shortages”

<https://www.britishfuture.org/immigration-attitudes-tracker-sept2021/>

(Source: *Black & Asian News*, 17, Sep 2021)

According to a new report from British Future, based on research by Ipsos MORI, “Public attitudes to immigration are more positive than negative and most people would now support British businesses being allowed to recruit from overseas to address staff shortages [...]”.

The report, *Immigration: a changing debate*, is at:

<https://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Immigration.A-changing-debate.pdf>.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

National Statistics “Summary of latest statistics”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/summary-of-latest-statistics>

The UK stats were updated on 26 Aug.

LGBTQ+ issues – News

“San Francisco Becomes First City to Recognize ‘Transgender History Month’”

https://www.them.us/story/san-francisco-first-city-recognize-transgender-history-month?fbclid=IwAR0UunX8ZwpRr_mYzJvCPVgN4FqjxG6OTOVjOmaVXizZmH7tmB4m8p0h8z8

(Source: email from It Gets Better Project, 2 Sep 2021)

Just in case you haven't seen this story:

“In San Francisco, August will now be recognized as Transgender History Month [...]

The timing of [San Francisco Mayor, London] Breed's declaration is fitting. This month marks the 55th anniversary of the [Compton's Cafeteria Riot](#), an uprising led by Black and brown transgender women and drag queens against the proprietors of Compton's Cafeteria and the San Francisco police. The protest is widely recognized as the first demonstration for LGBTQ+ rights in U.S. history.”

“LGBT history exhibit pulled from Missouri Capitol after just four days following complaints”

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/09/04/lgbt-history-exhibit-missouri-capitol-museum/>

Sadly, for every San Francisco ...

“An LGBT+ history exhibit at Missouri's state Capitol was taken down within just four days after officials received several complaints.

The exhibition, ‘Making History: Kansas City and the Rise of Gay Rights’, was created by students from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and chronicled Kansas City's role in the LGBT+ rights movement across America.

It was due to remain on display on the first floor of the Missouri State Museum until 26 December, but it disappeared without warning or explanation on Wednesday (1 September).”

LGBTQ+ issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“American Booksellers Association to screen for hate after anti-trans book sent to 750 stores”

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/08/11/american-booksellers-association-trans-2/>

(Source: *PinkNews Newsletter*, 11 Aug 2021)

“The American Booksellers Association (ABA) has introduced a screening process for ‘hate speech’ in the books it sends out, after apologising for sending an anti-trans book to 750 bookshops.”

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

Forward: Scotland’s Public Library Strategy 2021-2025

<https://scottishlibraries.org/media/3344/foward-scotlands-public-library-strategy-digital.pdf>

(Source: *CILIP Scotland Newsletter*, Sep 2021)

Launch of important new Strategy – it has three key themes:

- People: Libraries will support people and communities to reach their full potential and celebrate the unique skill set of staff.
- Place: Libraries will be recognised as both valued places and place makers, with community led design at the heart.
- Partnership: Libraries will deliver on local and national priorities through a strategic approach to collaboration and partnership. [Taken from: https://scottishlibraries.org/advice-guidance/national-strategies/forward-scotlands-public-library-strategy/?utm_campaign=40792_CILIP%20Scotland%20Newsletter%20September%202021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,VH4,9VBO9,354P,1]

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

Arts Council England *Delivery plan*

https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Arts%20Council%20England_Delivery%20Plan_21-24.pdf

(Source: Museum Association update, 17 Sep 2021)

In 2020, ACE published *Let’s create: strategy 2020-2030*

(https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Strategy%202020_2030%20Arts%20Council%20England.pdf):

“To help us achieve the vision, we will publish a series of Delivery Plans over the next decade. These will set out in more detail the steps we will take to deliver *Let’s Create* and how we will resource them. This first Delivery Plan covers 2021-24. It will be a ‘live’ document that we will refresh and update annually.” [p4]

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