



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 362, 14 October 2022

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

“Statues, exhibitions and activities mark Black History Month”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2022/10/statues-exhibitions-and-activities-mark-black-history-month/#msdyntrid=JTNhhcpp0Jz_F1-r0-nNGvXbawc95vBSXJupLLTuqKI

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 4 Oct 2022)

Round-up of museum and heritage sector initiatives for Black History Month.

“October 2022 Children's and Young People booklist – Brilliant books by Black authors and illustrators”

https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/5501/?utm_source=The+Reading+Agency&utm_campaign=59d807ca32-Chatterbooks_A_B_testing5_4_2022_September_4_COPY_&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ef82b5d6fa-59d807ca32-51507097&goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-59d807ca32-51507097&mc_cid=59d807ca32&mc_eid=3fa1d39831

(Source: “Chatterbooks” email from The Reading Agency, 6 Oct 2022)

Just in case you haven't seen this new booklist from The Reading Agency “of 125 brilliant books created by Black authors and illustrators.”

Coronavirus/COVID-19

COSMO

“COSMO is a major national youth cohort study which is examining the short-, medium- and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on educational inequality, wellbeing and social mobility.

The study is the largest of its kind into the effects of COVID-19 on the life chances of a generation of young people. The pandemic has been a generation-defining challenge, and its impact on young people's lives has been unprecedented. School years are a crucial stage of development, and the disruption to learning that we have seen is likely to have profound long-term effects on the life chances of this generation.” [Taken from: <https://cosmostudy.uk/about/about-the-study>]

The Wave 1 Initial Findings have just been published:

- *Lockdown learning* (Briefing no.1), https://cosmostudy.uk/publication_pdfs/cosmo-briefing-lockdown-learning.pdf, which identifies key problems with accessing learning remotely
- *Education recovery and catch up* (Briefing no.2), <https://cosmostudy.uk/publications/education-recovery-and-catch-up>, which looks at the different impacts of the pandemic on different groups of students:

“Young people from lower occupational status backgrounds were more likely to miss school, with 21% of those from working class backgrounds missing more than 20 days, compared to 17% from higher managerial/professional backgrounds.” [p1]

- *Future plans and aspirations* (Briefing no.3), https://cosmostudy.uk/publication_pdfs/future_plans_and_aspirations.pdf which looks at longer-term impacts on young people.

Cost of living crisis – Other Agencies

“Cost of living and mental health pose double threat to young ethnic minority people”

<https://youthfuturesfoundation.org/news/cost-of-living-and-mental-health-pose-double-threat/>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 5 Oct 2022)

‘Headlines’ from new research:

“The results of a recent survey released by Youth Futures Foundation have revealed thousands of young people from ethnic minority groups are being impacted by ongoing mental health issues while the cost of living crisis is limiting their employment prospects.

- With the cost of living crisis taking hold, two in five (38%) say their mental health has suffered
- A quarter (23%) of young people from ethnic minority groups have struggled to pay for essential goods and services
- Two in five (41%) saying their mental health suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Almost one in five (17%) say their education grades have suffered
- More than one in ten (13%) have had to take a job with fewer progression opportunities because they need the money”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Let’s clear something up, true diversity goes beneath the surface”

<https://equalitytrust.org.uk/blog/let%E2%80%99s-clear-something-true-diversity-goes-beneath-surface>

(Source: *Monthly News from The Equality Trust*, Sep 2022)

Important blogpost by the Equality Trust, arguing that true diversity is about being more than just ethnically and gender diverse – class, for example, should also be a key factor.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Identity crisis: how the age dispute process puts refugee children at risk

<https://media.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/08125100/Identity-Crisis-September-2022.pdf>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 5 Oct 2022)

Important new report:

“Despite the Home Office repeatedly warning that adult asylum seekers are ‘posing’ as children and providing numbers of those ‘found’ to be adults to support this view, the work of the Refugee Council shows that in fact many young people claiming to be children are telling the truth; a truth that is often ‘discovered’ by professional assessments after a quick visual check had accused them of misrepresenting their age.” [taken from Summary, 2nd page]

In reality:

“Over the period of 12 months (January to December 2021) our specialist project worked with 233 young people whose age had initially been determined by the Home Office as ‘certainly’ adult and whose subsequent professional local authority social work assessment had been completed.

Only 14 of them were found to be adult.” [p1]

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

“Dewey Decimal LGBT Guides – Libraries Week”

<https://twitter.com/book28library/status/1576529177997889536>

(Source: email from Book 28, 3 Oct 2022)

“This #LibrariesWeek, we have created some guides to help public library visitors look for nonfiction books on LGBTQ+ issues.

We have found that although many of our visitors are interested in borrowing books on these topics from public libraries, they (a) report that their local branch does not have any obvious LGBTQ+ section/finding guide/trained staff to help them, that (b) they do not feel comfortable asking staff about queer books and (c) they have no idea what the Dewey Decimal system is or how most public libraries organise nonfiction.

Due to this combination of factors, many of them report giving up/assuming the library holds not relevant stock.

Therefore we have made these social media flyers to help people seeking books on LGBTIQ+ topics in public libraries and hopefully encourage more queer people to visit libraries and use collections where they exist, and highlight shortcomings where they exist. Please feel free to share them as you see appropriate.

If anyone would like us to produce a single-sheet flyer with the same information for reference please let us know.”

Contact: Book 28, book28.library@gmail.com.

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

“Being an Engaged Citizen”

<https://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/page/article-detail/being-an-engaged-citizen/>

Blogpost by John Vincent:

“For Libraries Week 2022, we are celebrating the key role that libraries play in supporting life-long learning. As part of this, they support their users to build skills and confidence at every stage of their lives – whether it be empowering people in the workplace, helping to build active citizens, instilling creativity, or supporting mental health and wellbeing.”

The post also announces the launch of a new series from Facet:

“An additional help in this will be the new series from Facet Publishing, Libraries and Social Justice. This new series will focus on important areas such as the equality of access to resources; equity; participation; diversity; and human rights. It is intended to be a direct response to historical and contemporary challenges in communities and in society. As the series develops, this will help library staff understand more of the background to particular groups’ needs and provide practical examples of ways of developing our services. We are about to launch the first title in the series, *Libraries and Sanctuary* [*], which looks briefly at the historical background to libraries’ support for people newly-arrived in the UK (especially people who have arrived seeking sanctuary), and focuses on good practice and ways of improving our provision, drawing on examples from across the UK and elsewhere.

* See: <https://facetpublishing.co.uk/page/detail/libraries-and-sanctuary/?K=9781783305001>.