

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 22

June 2012

So far 2012 has been marked by news of the closure or impending closure of more historic libraries. Books and artefacts belonging to St Augustine's Abbey, Ramsgate were sold off at several auctions at the end of 2011 and early in 2012 to ensure the future of the remaining monks. The HLF had letters published in both the *Church Times* and the *Tablet* offering advice and assistance to parochial and other ecclesiastical libraries who find themselves in difficult circumstances. This has resulted in a number of enquiries. Please do spread the word about the HLF, as well as letting us know if you hear of a library in danger.

Another sale, this time of the Birmingham Medical Institute's collection, went ahead in April, with another to follow in July. You may also have seen coverage in the press that London Metropolitan University, which currently houses the Women's Library and Trades Union Congress Library, is seeking a new home or sponsor for the collections. If this is not found by December 2012 opening hours will be reduced to one day a week, with another review after three years. There is more information on the Save the Women's Library blog <http://savethewomenslibrary.blogspot.co.uk/>, which also has links to their Facebook page and Twitter, and at <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary/support-us/stwlpage.cfm>. CILIP in London is holding a branch event on the Women's Library on 4th July, further details in the bulletin.

Other libraries may find themselves in a similar situation: we also have advice in the bulletin on dealing with deposited collections.

On a brighter note, we have just published the latest HLF guidance leaflet, on cataloguing maps, written by Paula Williams from the National Library of Scotland. This may be found on our website:

<http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/hlf/publications.html>

We also have leaflets on cataloguing in Greek and Cyrillic script in development. Please let us know of further topics for leaflets that you would find useful.

Finally, we have a busy year ahead. You will find details of this year's AGM later on in the bulletin, and we also have a variety of workshops planned. The constitution is also now available on our website homepage.

Katie Flanagan
Chair

23 Things for Professional Development

23 Things for Professional Development, or CPD23 for short, is a free, online, self-paced training course for library and information workers. The format is based on the 23 Things model developed at the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County,

USA in 2006. CPD23 introduces participants to a number of tools for professional development, drawn from traditional development channels and from online tools and social media. Participants are encouraged to share what they learn and to support and encourage each other throughout the programme.

CPD23 started in summer 2011 and due to popular demand a re-run started in May 2012. New participants are welcome to join the course at any time. Visit <http://cpd23.blogspot.com> for more information.

Katie Birkwood
@girlinthe

Solo librarianship has huge challenges for CPD, but the internet has started to level the playing field, and providing the training free makes it available to absolutely everyone, regardless of budgets! CPD23 is available online, free for everyone and is very adaptable to your situation, whether you're a library student, or a chief librarian.

I work as a solo librarian for the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers in Newcastle upon Tyne. We are a small charity and there certainly isn't a training budget, however the Trustees are very happy to give me time towards CPD where I can find free opportunities.

My library degree quickly seemed a very long way away once I started work, and questions and new technology arose with increasing speed. Finding time to sit and try them out though, never seemed to happen until I found the motivation of CPD23. I had certainly never dreamt of making a blog, after all, what did I have to say?

I started the programme last year, but due to pressures of work, I only made it to Thing 13 last October. This year, I plan to pick up where I left off and make it to the end and my certificate! I have also promoted it to my library volunteers, many of whom are job-seeking in the library sector, as a useful tool to build their CVs.

Already, the first 13 Things have made a huge difference to my ability to do my job well and efficiently. Twitter, previously something I associated only with gossip and celebrities, suddenly had a role in networking and finding answers to some very obscure cataloguing questions. I found ways to use my new blog to record the discussions on Twitter and email, and share our conclusions for future reference. Being proficient in Google docs earned me brownie points in a regional meeting, and overall, the whole programme has made me put considerably more effort into networking with some great results and some new friends.

So, finally, I would like to sincerely thank all the CPD23 team for all their hard work and especially for running the programme again this year.

Jennie Kelly
@Mininglibrarian

Deposited collections

Do you know who owns your collections? In an ideal world the library would own all of its collections, with an acquisitions record showing evidence of the transfer of title to the library. But this frequently hasn't happened in the past, and records may be non-existent or ambiguous, or items may be on "permanent loan", leading to misunderstandings. This puts the collection at risk if the owner decides to sell.

The cost of looking after your collection, cataloguing, conservation, storage etc can be significant and this investment is lost if the collection is subsequently sold without the institution being reimbursed for the cost. You will find further information about life cycle costing of collections in the article by Helen Shenton "Life cycle collection management" *Liber Quarterly* 13:254-272.

<http://liber.library.uu.nl/publish/articles/000033/article.pdf>

What can you do? Check your documentation. Have a collection development policy and donation agreement so that you don't take in donations that are unrelated to your collection, creating problems further down the line. If documentation is missing or ambiguous it can be possible to renegotiate terms. Further information can be found in the National Archives guide to loan agreements

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/information-management/loanagreement.pdf>

You will find examples of collection development policies online as many institutions make theirs publicly accessible.

Finally, try and avoid taking any new item or collection on deposit, to avoid creating more problems for the future. Always try and get items gifted to the library. It is only worth accepting deposited items if there is really no alternative.

Katie Flanagan

Launch of New Website

The Library and Information History Group (a special interest group of CILIP) has launched a new website at www.lihg.org. It provides a communications hub for all those interested in the history of libraries, books, and information and we extend a cordial invitation to members of the Historic Libraries Forum to join in. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LIHG OR CILIP TO REGISTER ON THE SITE.** Registered users can contribute to discussion boards in the forum area, ask questions, post news of historic libraries, and share ideas, knowledge and information. The aim is to enable the library and information history community to network more effectively, discuss current concerns and ongoing research, and for those with queries to tap into the vast pool of knowledge which exists within our sector. It will also allow those unable to attend events in person to engage more fully in the group's activities online. Registered users can opt to receive automatic email notification when new issues of the group's newsletter are available.

News and features are posted on the blog, an up to date calendar gives details of all group visits, talks, and meetings, plus other events likely to be of interest to library and information historians, while the website provides information on all the group's activities, publications, awards and projects. Further resources will be added as the

site develops.

We encourage all those with an interest in any aspect of the history of libraries and information to visit www.lihg.org, register, and get involved.

Kathryn McKee, St John's College Library Cambridge

Religious Archives Group's new website

As part of an ambitious multi-year support plan for religious archives, the Religious Archives Group (RAG) has recently migrated its website, formerly maintained by the John Rylands University Library, to new hardware and software platforms and a new domain name. You will now find the site at <http://religiousarchivesgroup.org.uk/>

The opportunity has been taken to update much of the existing content of the site and to provide initial details about the support plan, including a list of the proposed principal action lines. The National Archives have agreed to fund a project officer post for one year which will major on the first stages of the plan's implementation.

As RAG will now be maintaining its own website, we also hope to proceed to appoint a 'webmaster' on a part-time basis, who will further develop the content of the site. A particular priority will be to revise and extend the help/advice and links pages, which it is recognized are currently incomplete.

Although the new website will support a blog, this feature has not yet been activated. For the moment, we shall continue to carry regular news about religious archives on the RAG JISCmail list, which is the basis of RAG membership and which anybody can join at RELIGIOUS-ARCHIVES-GROUP@JISCMail.AC.UK (<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=religious-archives-group>).

Dr Clive Field OBE, RAG President

News from libraries

United Reformed Church Archive Now Open

Following a two year cataloguing project, the archive of the United Reformed Church is now open to researchers in the Congregational Library, part of Dr William's Library, London (<http://www.dwlib.co.uk/dwlib/>). The collection documents the activities of the national United Reformed Church since its foundation in 1972 – from its youth work to ministry, ecumenical relations to work on social issues. It includes the records of the church's governing committees, photos of URC events, audio recordings of General Assembly, resources produced by the URC and much more. A full catalogue of the records can be found on the URC archive webpage which also gives information on the locations of local and regional URC records and other collections relating to the URC (<http://www.urc.org.uk/united-reformed-church-archive.html>). Researchers wishing to use the collection should contact the Congregational Library in advance of their visit on 020 7387 3727 or enquiries@dwlib.co.uk.

Jennifer Delves

Forthcoming events

‘The Women’s Library’

Speaker: Dianne Shepherd, The Women’s Library

Date: Wednesday, 4th July 2012

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: The Square (Wine Bar), 26 Tolmers Square, London NW1 2PE (behind Euston Square station)

Map: <http://g.co/maps/w973q>

Since the recent announcement that the Women’s Library was facing closure, there has been much publicity about its uncertain future. Currently contained within the gift of London Metropolitan University, Dianne Shepherd, Information Librarian at the Women’s Library, will join us to talk about the history of the Library, the variety of its collections and its contribution to historical research.

Housed on the site of an old Victorian wash-house, Dianne will also discuss how the contextual importance of its current location has helped encourage visits to events and exhibitions from a diverse audience, making it much more than just another academic library, rather a place that means something different to everyone. Finally Dianne will discuss the situation in which the Library now finds itself, the relationship it has with its current custodian and the on-going campaign which has fuelled a fierce debate about its future.

This talk will be of particular value to anyone registered for CILIP Chartership and can contribute towards CPD requirements. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

Please book via the form located at: <http://tinyurl.com/cilijuly12>. It would be helpful if you could say how you found out about this event.

Rare Books and Special Collections Group 2012 Conference 12 - 14 September 2012

Speaking Truth to Power: making special collections work in times of recession

Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

As hard times hit, special collections are going to have to fight for attention to ensure their survival. How do they justify their retention and help demonstrate their worth to their owners?

Now open for booking. Please see <http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/rare-books/events/pages/annual-conference.aspx>

Historic Libraries Forum workshop on provenance

Our next workshop will be on the subject of provenance in Special Collections, and will be held at the Middle Temple in Central London on Thursday 20th September. The morning will be spent with David Pearson, Director of the Guildhall Libraries, who will begin with an introduction to provenance, followed by a hands-on session with rare books from Middle Temple Library. After lunch in the Elizabethan Hall

speakers will delve into specific areas of interest, including armorial bindings and online resources for provenance research. A case study about Glasgow University's incunabula cataloguing project will highlight useful pointers for compiling a provenance database.

Booking is expected to open in July, when booking forms will be posted on the HLF website at www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk. On the day, registration is expected to begin at 10am and it is expected that the workshop will be finished by around 4.30pm. Due to the hands-on nature of the morning session, places for that half of the day will be limited. Those wishing to attend only the afternoon sessions (either through choice or due to unavailability of places in the morning) will be able to do so at a reduced price.

Questions about the workshop itself should be emailed to the organiser, Liam Sims, at ls457@cam.ac.uk.

Historic Libraries Forum Annual Conference 2012

Tuesday 20 November 2012, 10.00 – 16.30

Bishopsgate Institute Library, London

'Showcasing Special Collections'

Through a mixture of talks, case studies and breakout sessions, this conference will look at showcasing your special collections through social media, exhibitions and filming.

More details of speakers and a booking form will follow on our website and in the next Bulletin. In the meantime further information can be obtained from Dr Naomi Percival (naomi.percival@churchofengland.org; 020 7898 1267).

Forthcoming events at the Preservation Advisory Centre

Disaster response and salvage

4 July, British Library, London

Are you prepared for the worst? Learn how to minimise the impact of emergencies. This intensive course covers strategies for dealing with damage, an emergency decision-making exercise and a hands-on salvage exercise.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/salvage2.html>

Preserving historic photographs

12 July, British Library, London

Learn how to identify photographic processes and the preservation measures that can be taken to prolong the life and accessibility of photographic collections. Find out about common conservation problems and solutions.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/photographic2.html>

Understanding and caring for bookbindings

19 July, British Library, London

This one day course starts with an introduction to the history of Western

bookbindings. Participants will learn how to identify and describe bindings, how to care for bindings and how to select appropriate conservation techniques.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/bookbindings2.html>

Preservation Assessment Survey workshop

26 September, British Library, London

Designed for library and archive staff, this one day workshop introduces the Preservation Assessment Survey (PAS) methodology and demonstrates the benefits of carrying out a survey. Providing statistical data on current preservation practice, significance, use and condition of collections, the Preservation Assessment Survey provides a reliable method of making evidence-based decisions and prioritising improvements in preservation practice for maximum impact.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/pasworkshop.html>

Understanding and preserving audio collections

22-24 October, British Library, London

Taking you from 'what is it?' through collection management issues, to preservation strategies, this three day course provides an overview of managing and preserving audio material, with an emphasis on digitisation for preservation and access.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/audio.html>

Damaged books and bound archives: practical first steps

6 November, British Library, London

This training day is aimed at librarians, archivists and reading room staff. It provides an overview of how books and bound archives become damaged, action to minimise damage and first steps to address common forms of damage including the identification of appropriate treatment options, a practical exercise in making enclosures, and guidance on recognising when volunteers can be used and when a conservator is needed.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/damaged.html>

Managing the library and archive environment

5 December, British Library, London

Avoiding a 'one size fits all' approach to setting and applying environmental parameters, the day helps you to understand the vulnerabilities and tolerances of your collections and then shows how to set realistic and achievable environmental targets that are appropriate to the materials in your care and the resources available to you. At the end of the day you will be in a strong position to take cost-effective decisions and prioritise actions for maintaining a sustainable environment.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/environment.html>

Exhibitions

Challenge and Change: acquisitions by the Eton College Library since 1965

This special exhibition celebrates the acquisition of thousands of rare books and manuscripts over the past four decades since College Library was formally reopened in 1969. Accompanying the publication of a book documenting 100 of the most important items to join the library's collection during that time, this display features a selection of recent acquisitions ranging in date from the 15th to the 21st centuries. Highlights include a book from John Keats' library, a copy of the first edition of

Tristram Shandy in nine volumes, the earliest printed view of Venice (1480) and one of the few surviving leaves of the manuscript of Darwin's Origin of Species.

21 May – 28 September 2012

Eton College Library

Free admission, by appointment Monday-Friday, 9.30-1 and 2-5

01753 671 221 | collections@etoncollege.org.uk

Lucy Gwynn, Eton College Library

'Curious anatomys' an extraordinary story of dissection and discovery

27 April – 26 October 2012

An exhibition revealing the hidden history of the Royal College of Physicians' anatomical tables – some of the oldest surviving human anatomy preparations in the world. The set of six tables shows human veins, arteries and nerves, dissected at the University of Padua's famous anatomy theatre in the 17th century, and skilfully arranged on varnished wooden panels to recreate the systems in the body. For the first time in their history, the tables will be on full public display, alongside related rare books.

Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE.

Open: Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm, free entry.

Evening and weekend visiting:

Saturday 7 July, 11am–4pm

Saturday 22 September 11am–4pm

Monday 8 October, 5pm–7pm

Library, Archive and Museum Services

Tel: +44 (0)20 3075 1543

Email: history@rcplondon.ac.uk

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/museum-garden

Katie Flanagan

New publications

British librarianship and information work 2006–2010, edited by J. H. Bowman. Published by the editor. xii + 454 pp., hardback. ISBN 978-1-4716-8352-7. Price £32.00.

To order, go to www.lulu.com/shop

This is the latest in an important series of reviews going back to 1928. The book contains 26 chapters, written by experts in their field, and reviews developments in the principal aspects of British librarianship and information work in the years 2006–2010.

Contents: The national libraries; Public libraries; From community cohesion to social justice; University libraries; Colleges of further education; Services to children and young people; Government libraries; Learned societies; Independent libraries; Library and information history; Rare book librarianship and historical bibliography; Art libraries; Health and medical libraries; Law libraries; Music libraries; News libraries; Map libraries; Local studies; British and European official publications; Patents

information; Research; Library buildings; Information literacy; Cataloguing;
Classification, knowledge organization and subject access; Indexing and abstracting.