

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 33

February 2016

A number of successful events have taken place since the last Bulletin. In November we held our annual conference at UCL, entitled 'Practicalities, pleasures and pitfalls: uncovering digitisation projects'. This looked at a wide range of issues surrounding digitisation, and speakers included a company who specialise in the digitisation of heritage materials, someone from the Wellcome Library (which works with many other partners on several large-scale projects) and case studies on digitisation projects including glass-plate negatives and the afterlife of the 'Parker on the Web' project in Cambridge. During the conference we gained our 1000th Twitter follower, which was excellent news. In December another workshop on practical conservation was held, this time at Christ's College Cambridge, led by Caroline Bendix. And in September a workshop on cataloguing antiquarian and early printed collections was held at Pusey House in Oxford. Write-ups of these events can be found below. We will soon be advertising a visit to the Royal College of Physicians in London, for a look at their exhibition on the life and work of the Elizabethan polymath John Dee, led by its curator, Katie Birkwood. Places will be limited so watch this space! We have also begun to think about this year's conference and – as usual – we welcome suggestions of topics. This will likely be held in Cambridge in November.

Leaflets on cataloguing books in Greek and Hebrew, and one on cataloguing incunabula, will be added to our website in the coming months. As ever, do please let us know if there is a particular topic you would like to be addressed by such an introductory leaflet.

After a busy 2015 in terms of libraries in danger, the last few months have been relatively quiet on this front. The St Bride Institute Library remains closed, but we are hopeful that a positive outcome will be forthcoming. The Chief Executive, Glyn Farrow, left the Institute in December and interim managers have been appointed. We are also keeping an eye on developments at the British Museum, where the Round Reading Room remains closed, with no decision made as to its long-term use.

The committee is in the early stages of looking at putting together a survey for members on library management systems in historic libraries and special collections. This will look at use, functionality and cost – amongst other things – and the results may help institutions looking to change LMS or find a new one, and may be useful to use in lobbying vendors to think about the sort of products they can provide to small institutions like those which the Forum represents.

Do get in touch with us (<http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/hlf/committee.html>) if you would like to share anything with the Forum membership or if you need advice. We look forward to meeting you at forthcoming events!

Liam Sims, Chair

REPORTS

Cataloguing antiquarian and early printed collections

Wednesday 30 September 2015 in the Library at Pusey House, Oxford, led by Stewart Tiley, of St John's College Oxford, and Anna James, of Regent's Park College Oxford and Pusey House.

After welcoming us to the Ursell Room at Pusey House, Anna James provided an abbreviated introduction to the book using various images and entertaining phrases, with particular attention to the hand-press era from ca. 1454 to 1820; the debate of paper versus parchment; how books were customised by illumination, illustrations and bindings; and the question "What is a rare book?"

Following this overview, a practical session on collational formulae and book structure was delivered by Stewart Tiley, beginning with formats and how to determine bibliographical details from the distinguishing features within the book. This included signatures and the 23-letter Latin alphabet, hand-made paper, and cancels. We performed a paper folding exercise to demonstrate 2o, 4to, 8vo and so on, and a variety of rare books were distributed. Stewart outlined the reasons for deliberating over each book in this way which linked back to how books were produced during the hand-press era. Useful hand-outs were also provided at the end of this session.

Following a break, Anna moved smoothly into transcription using DCRM(B) and RDA, providing hints and tips as well as links to further information. We then tackled a useful punctuation exercise which also raised the 23-letter Latin alphabet once again. Anna pointed out that i/j as well as u/v were interchangeable during this era, and therefore a way of determining their usage, is to double-check by finding other words in the title where the letter is in the same position. An awareness of "cataloguer's judgement" was pointed out, in particular where the letter 'w' did not really exist, but if the printer had tried to make it look like a 'w' then we should "honour their efforts" in transcribing. Anna finished by pointing out (quite rightly) that rare books were around before MARC, and that the most important thing was to think of keyword searches. After all, the purpose is to make your collection visible.

After an impromptu tour of the Edmund Pusey Library, Stewart returned to the podium to tackle recording copy-specific and provenance information with the clear warning "Beware, books may not be what they seem!" Essentially, Stewart provided information on representations of differing relationships between various peoples and the book, and the consideration of this when cataloguing. Again, further links were provided for reliable resources.

The workshop was a very useful beginner's guide, a good opportunity to engage with others working in the same field in a suitable venue, with excellent organisation and content, and the opportunity to handle some of the collection. The Ursell room was a particularly beautiful and appropriate environment for this type of training, arranged in a way conducive to learning and engaging with others. Pusey House was easy to find, situated close to other amenities and also a place of interest.

Venessa Harris MSc, Project Cataloguer, Downside Abbey Archives & Library

HLF Conference 2015 – ‘Practicalities, pleasures and pitfalls: uncovering digitisation projects’

Thursday 12 November 2015 at University College London

The conference kicked off with a presentation by Calum Dow, a consultant from the digitisation team at TownsWeb Archiving. Drawing from his professional expertise, he highlighted five practical points for any individual or institution to consider when planning a digitisation project. The importance of setting formal goals and communicating expectations was emphasised alongside the advice of seriously weighing up the cost versus value of every decision along the way.

Following on from this informative presentation, Damian Nicolaou from the Wellcome Library took to the floor in order to share with us the highs and lows of working in partnerships on digitisation projects. After a brief history of the institution and its wealthy founder, Sir Henry Wellcome, whose endowment is now worth £18 billion, I think many in the room (at least myself) were feeling extremely envious. However, with huge budgets come huge projects and for the last five years the Wellcome Library has been working to digitise their entire holdings. With a target of digitising fifty million images in three years the Wellcome Library knew it would be necessary to create partnerships in order to carry out this project. He then told of all the challenges the Wellcome Library had faced when attempting to orchestrate the work of global partners on a single project. Issues around standards, consistency and interoperability were raised, alongside an awareness of the importance of communication and an understanding of responsibility between all project partners.

Just hearing about all the complexities of such a massive digitisation project was enough to tire you out and so lunch came not a moment too soon. Over the course of the day the breaks provided a lovely opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new acquaintances.

The AGM was held shortly before we all reconvened to hear from Abby Matthews (Sutton Archives) speak about an extraordinary collection of glass plate negatives found in a cellar and the challenges she had faced in digitising them. With a strict timeframe of two years, a limited budget, no prior knowledge of the glass plate medium and reliance on a non-skilled, volunteer workforce meant challenges for Abby from the outset. However, through research, networking and daily trial and error experiences, the necessary skills and knowledge were gained and Abby ended her presentation with valuable words of advice for anybody thinking of participating in a digitisation project.

Our next speaker was Jamie Robinson from The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester. Founded in 1900, it houses an impressive two million books and has been providing imaging services for over a century! Jamie spoke about how in heritage-imaging at The John Rylands, an object-centred approach is key. Rather than risk damage to the item by placing glass plates directly on top of it and exposing it to bright light, The John Rylands imaging team have developed a method which avoids both of these dangers. They do not use scanners, and as soon as a photograph is taken it appears on their PCs, speeding up the work flow. They have been involved with several large, fascinating projects including JISC’s medieval English manuscript project, a Cairo Genizah project and on the Gaster Hebrew collection. Jamie then went on to illustrate the difficulties of replicating colours and pigments of physical items in their digital form and how these have been overcome by the heritage imaging team. The ‘before and after’ examples of gold pigment images were especially striking.

Steven Archer from Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge was the next to share his experiences of digitisation. The Parker Library had recently completed a huge digitisation project with its medieval manuscript collection. After six years of intensive work, [Parker on the Web](#) was launched. Despite completing this unprecedented project, the library still faces a large amount of work. The continual maintenance of the site and its content requires as much attention as a physical collection. Currently, access to Parker on the Web is through an annual subscription; however, by 2018 they hope to launch Parker 2.0 – an open access, freely accessible image-based resource.

Our final speaker was Naomi Korn, of [Naomi Korn Copyright Consultancy](#). Using the recently published diaries of Ethel Bilborough to illustrate the complexities of copyright law, Naomi's presentation was engaging and easy to understand, even for copyright dummies such as myself. After hearing about the extraordinary troubles taken to clear the rights of this one publication, Naomi left us with some simple and memorable advice to take back to our workplaces. When thinking of copyright, we should remember 'copyLITE': L – licenses, I – infringement, T – takedown, E – education.

Jemima Jarman, MA LIS student, UCL

Historic Libraries Forum conservation workshop

Wednesday 16th December 2015 at Christ's College, Cambridge

You know that you are about to experience an interesting workshop when informed that previous attendees were usually advised to bring an apron. This was to be a hands-on, heavily practical day, during which Caroline Bendix introduced participants to conservation resources, and provided instruction on minor book repairs.

The day started with a brief overview of the evolution of book structure and binding. We learned that the younger a book is, the weaker it is likely to be in terms of binding, particularly following the advent of so-called 'perfect-binding' in the nineteenth-century. We also learned about some of the materials used for book production over time, and how these materials may have differing conservation needs. Caroline Bendix recommended the British Library Collection Care guidance booklets (available [online](#)) as useful resources on conservation and damage prevention.

It was now time to look at the practical tools for book conservation. These comprise an array of items, including tweezers, differing paper types, a bone folder, and pony hair and hog bristle brushes. Sticking and repairing was to be done using home-made wheat starch mending paste (recipe provided to attendees) which has the advantage of being reversible. A benefit of making your own paste is that all ingredients will be known and consequently your paste will be less likely to contain chemicals or ingredients that could damage books over the long term.

The rest of the morning was occupied with the practical tasks of learning how to reattach loose plates ('tipping-in') and repair torn pages. Caroline Bendix spoke about how the alignment of paper fibres influences the direction and extent of a tear, and demonstrated the repair of a bevelled edge. For cut paper and patches we used Japanese tissue, Bib Tengujo (11gsm), with impressive results. To temper our confidence in these new skills we also learned to leave stable tears untouched and not to attempt repairs on parchment, vellum, brittle pages, maps, coloured pages, or paper where

the repair would encroach on actual content. Equally, patches are often needlessly overused and run the risk of causing stress fractures over time.



Our newly repaired books and papers were left to dry over the lunch period and workshop participants were kindly provided with the opportunity to tour the Old Library with Amelie Roper, the College Librarian.

For the afternoon session we were taught how to repair book covers and spines using volumes generously sourced from the College's collection. Absolute certainty about the spine construction is required before attempting a repair and we were shown the difference between hollow and tight spines and worked in pairs to repair a number of hollow spines to very good effect. As a final task, we were instructed on how to make protective jackets for books using melinex, a very fiddly occupation that will require some practice before it can be completed with any speed.

All conservation efforts and materials should be recorded in an item's bibliographic record. Such a record may be of use to future acts of conservation and are an important part of the volume's history.

Know the book and know your own limits were the key points reiterated throughout the training. To care for a book's physical well-being, its needs must be first interpreted correctly; attempting a repair without fully understanding the structure and material of a volume risks hastening its deterioration. There are many areas of conservation best left to trained professionals. Despite this, all the basic skills learned over the day could be readily applied to a library collection. My thanks to the Historic Libraries Forum, to Caroline Bendix for her informed instruction, and to the library staff at Christ's College, Cambridge, for hosting the workshop and bravely providing items from their collection for participants to practice with.

Jodie Walker, Librarian, The Ward Library, Peterhouse, Cambridge

NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARIES

TREASURES OF THE BROTHERTON - The Leeds University Library Gallery opens to the public!

Edward Allen Brotherton, 1st Baron Brotherton was born almost exactly 160 years ago, on 1 April 1856, in Ardwick, Manchester. Lord Brotherton was an industrialist who created the largest chemical manufacturing empire of his time. His first encounter with the world of books was in February 1922 when he attempted to buy the fifteenth-century Towneley manuscript of the Wakefield mystery plays to present to the town where he had been Lord Mayor. Being an astute businessman he had the manuscript valued, refused to pay a penny over that price, and ultimately lost out to the American book dealer A. S. W. Rosenbach. The manuscript now resides in the Huntington Library in California.

Brotherton took his disappointed niece-in-law, Dorothy Una Ratcliffe, to the bookseller Bernard Quaritch, and they bought instead a first edition of Andrew Marvell's *Miscellaneous poems* (1681). Brotherton and Dorothy started collecting in earnest, engaging the professional guidance of J. A. Symington as their librarian. They rapidly assembled a huge and varied collection, although English literature was always their first priority. Following the example of other collectors, Brotherton acquired ready-made collections and individual books with equal fervour.

In 1926 he published an account of the highlights of his collection as it then stood. In only four years he had acquired the four seventeenth-century Shakespeare folios and many other rare works of English literature, a dozen superb medieval books of hours, numerous choice incunabula, manuscripts by the Brontës, and many more rarities.

In 1927 he donated £100,000 for the building of a new library for the University of Leeds. The [Brotherton Library](#) remains at the heart of the University of Leeds today. This wonderful combination of marble, ironwork, plaster ornamentation and parquet opened its doors to readers eighty years ago, in 1936.

2016 marks another important year in the history of Leeds University Library. On Monday 1 February the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery opens to the public, giving everyone the chance to explore and interact with our world-class collections. Special Collections at the University of Leeds has five collections [Designated by Arts Council England](#) as nationally or internationally significant - the English Literature Collection, the Cookery Collection, the Romany Collection, the Leeds Russian Archive and the Liddle Collection.

Highlights from these collections are at the centre of the permanent exhibition space and include our copy of the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays, a unique Tudor cookery book, and the map and compass used by the first prisoner to escape back to Britain from Germany during the First World War.

An additional changing exhibition space allows us to showcase our collections in more depth. The first changing exhibition focuses on the Liddle Collection of First World War reminiscences.



One hundred years ago, the British government introduced conscription. [*On Conscientious Grounds: objection and resistance in the First World War*](#) explores what happened when able-bodied men refused to fight, and presents the first-hand experiences of those involved, as well as their families and friends, through letters, artwork, diaries, postcards and personal items. The display also highlights the public reaction to the men who refused to take part in war. This exhibition runs from 1 February to 30 July 2016.

The Gallery is located in the iconic Parkinson Building and is free and open to everyone. We are immensely grateful for the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and for the generous donation from the John Brotherton-Ratcliffe Trust.

Rhiannon Lawrence-Francis, Special Collections, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

DURHAM CATHEDRAL LIBRARY

Durham Cathedral Library closed on 7th December 2015 in preparation for its relocation back to its permanent home in the Cloister of Durham Cathedral. The library will remain closed until all the stock has been relocated – expected to be some time in the spring of 2016. We hope to be able to share exact reopening dates with readers and supporters shortly. Until we reopen, we cannot provide access to library materials or services, and we will only be able to check emails intermittently. If you have any queries about access to collections or other services, please email Library@DurhamCathedral.co.uk.

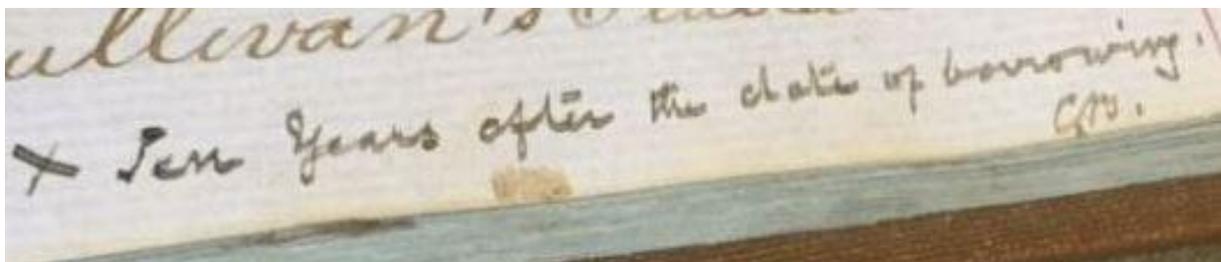
LOST AND FINED? Missing piece of library history returned after 128 years

Innerpeffray Library, Scotland's oldest public lending library, released a fascinating story to coincide with National Libraries Day on Saturday 6th February. An irreplaceable piece of their library history has been returned after it was found tucked inside a book 200 miles away.

A library well-wisher found a handwritten sheet of 19th century paper listing names, addresses and book titles tucked inside a second hand book in a shop in Kendal. He sent the sheet to Innerpeffray, thinking that it might be of interest, since all but one of the addresses were given as nearby Crieff. On opening the envelope, Library Keeper Lara Haggerty was astonished to find that it was in the familiar handwriting of one of her predecessors. Lara was able to identify the document by comparing it with the relevant period from Innerpeffray's unique record of borrowers.

The return of the piece is remarkable since the paper itself made no mention of Innerpeffray at all. Fortuitously, the discoverer had visited the library in the 1980s and remembered seeing similar records during his visit. His letter describes the discovery and the potential link to the library he had visited decades ago as 'a bit spooky'.

The page lists books from the library which had not been returned between 1882 and 1888. It seems that one of the previous Library Keepers went through the register searching for books which were unaccounted for, and successive keepers duly sought after their return. Remarkably, every single book on the list was eventually recovered and all of them are still on the shelves at Innerpeffray. Mrs Birnie, Keeper from 1890 to 1914, added a small note to the bottom of the borrowers' register noting just how late one of the items was!



The return of this document gives new evidence of the steps that diligent library keepers took to recover any books missing from the collection. What we don't know, however, is whether the librarian made any charge or fine for such an overdue book...

Jill Dye, PhD Student, University of Stirling / Innerpeffray Library

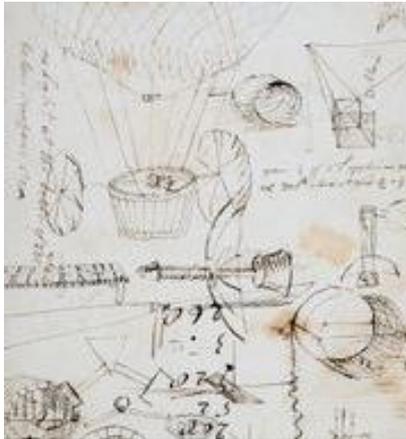
CILIP CAMPAIGN: MY LIBRARY BY RIGHT

In December, CILIP launched the *My Library By Right* campaign. The campaign is an effort to hold government to account over their responsibilities to ensure public access to libraries under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. More information on the campaign is available at: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/advocacy-campaigns-awards/advocacy-campaigns/my-library-right>

This is a welcome initiative which should be supported.

ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

The Royal Aeronautical Society has launched a new website <http://aerosocietyheritage.com> where we have made available the papers of a number of the most important pioneers in early aviation, whose work became a series of 'stepping stones' which led to the evolution of powered flight and the development of the aeroplane.



Included among the online collections are the notebooks of Sir George Cayley and Horace Short; William Samuel Henson's 1842-1843 aerial steam carriage drawings; Lawrence Hargrave's photograph albums; Percy Pilcher's drawings; the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company's minute Book for 1910-1919; and the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain Council minutes from its formation in 1866 through to 1909.

Sir George Cayley is widely regarded as 'The Father of Aeronautics'. Cayley evolved the idea of an aircraft with fixed wings, in which the principle of lift was separated from the propulsion system, and in which inherent stability, as well as tail-unit control-surfaces, had to be incorporated. He was also an early pioneer in the field of fluid mechanics.

Brian Riddle, Chief Librarian, National Aerospace Library

EXHIBITIONS

Magic, witches & devils in the early modern world

The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester, 150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH
21 January - 21 August 2016

Ghosts, witches, sorcerers and demons: our fascination with the supernatural stretches back centuries. *Magic, witches & devils in the early modern world* invites you to explore how supernatural forces shaped the lives of everyone from kings and queens to clergymen and maidservants.

This fascinating exhibition, housed within the gothic splendour of The John Rylands Library, reveals how magic, diabolical witchcraft and ghostly encounters inspired fear and curiosity on an unprecedented scale between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. With stunning local, European and non-Western examples from Manchester collections, this exhibition offers an exceptionally wide-ranging window onto the supernatural world. Curated by Dr Jennifer Spinks and Dr Sasha Handley from the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures at The University of Manchester, the exhibition presents rare books, prints, manuscripts and objects that illuminate the roots of our obsession with supernatural powers and reveal a world where the Devil was understood as a very real and present danger in daily life.

“One of the most exciting aspects of the exhibition,” according to Jennifer Spinks, “is how it looks at magical beliefs in European daily life while showing how similar fears and fascinations existed in other cultures, from Japan to the Islamic world. With stunning local, European and non-Western examples from Manchester collections, this exhibition offers an exceptionally wide-ranging window onto the supernatural world.”

There is an interview about the project on the [Manchester History](#) blog. You can follow us on Twitter using Follow us on twitter [#jrlmagic](#). Further details and an online copy of the exhibition booklet can be found on the Library website [here](#).

This exhibition has been generously supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

West of Suez: Britain and the Mediterranean, 1704-1967

The Weston Room, The Maughan Library, King’s College London, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LR

Monday 25 January – Saturday 7 May 2016

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 09.30 - 17.00; Saturday 10.00 - 18.00

This exhibition examines the history of British involvement in the Mediterranean, a strategically important region that provided the former British Empire with bases and territories to consolidate and further its military and trading objectives.

From its first territorial acquisition, that of Gibraltar in 1704, until the disbandment of the Mediterranean Fleet in 1967, Great Britain obtained a chain of territories stretching from the Pillars of Hercules at the entrance to the Straits of Gibraltar, to Port Said at the northern end of the Suez Canal. As the British Empire in the regions east of Suez declined, so did her power and influence on the islands and shores of the Mediterranean.

Each section of the exhibition deals with a different geographical location as they follow the sea first eastwards from Gibraltar to the Levant, and then back westwards along the North African coast. Through themes such as diplomacy, government, cultural exploration and migration, the exhibition explores how the significant British presence in the region helped to shape its history. Most exhibits are drawn from the holdings of the [Foyle Special Collections Library](#), particularly from the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office Historical Library collection](#), transferred to King’s College London in 2007. This collection provides a wealth of material on former British colonies and protectorates in the region, on the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar and on Cyprus, where the UK retains military bases.

Exhibits include a copy of the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht signed by the King of Spain; an early English-Modern Greek dictionary printed on the Ionian Islands; attractively illustrated accounts of travel around the region; and a work concerned with nineteenth-century secret societies in southern Italy, which was formerly owned by the family of Gabriele Rossetti (1783-1854), father of Christina and Dante Gabriel. In the final case we also exhibit items from [King’s College London Archives' Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives](#), which cast light on 20th century conflict in the Mediterranean.

We are grateful for the support and advice of Professor Roderick Beaton, Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature at King's College London, and Professor Robert Holland, Visiting Professor in the Centre for Hellenic Studies, also at King's.

EVENTS

ABERYSTWYTH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GROUP MEETINGS

Saturday 20th February, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

The Society of Jesus in Wales, c. 1600–1679: rediscovering the Cwm Jesuit Library at Hereford Cathedral (Dr Hannah Thomas)

Tuesday 15th March 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting followed by *Manuscript songbooks of mid-Wales* (Dr Rhiannon Ifans)

Both meetings at St Paul's Methodist Centre, Queen's Road, Aberystwyth, SY23 2NN

The Aberystwyth Bibliographical Group, formed in 1970, exists to foster a scholarly interest in printed books, manuscripts and maps. A programme of five lectures is held each year, as well as an annual outing and occasional symposia and exhibitions. Members are encouraged to dine with the speaker after meetings; details of booking for meals are sent to members with the notice of each meeting. The annual subscription is £5.00 (students £1.00). Subscriptions may be paid to the Secretary or the Treasurer. For further information, please telephone the Secretary: (01970) 632980 or e-mail: tjc@llgc.org.uk

The Aberystwyth Bibliographical Group is affiliated to the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Association of Independent Libraries

Sustainability and relevance : the independent library in 2016

Bromley House Library, Nottingham, Friday 10th June – Sunday 12th June 2016

Independent libraries occupy a unique place in the world's cultural life. Rather than seeing independent libraries as niche or elitist, the *Financial Times* described the UK's independent libraries as 'havens of books, conversation and cultural events with histories stretching back centuries.' The role and function of the independent library is a little-explored area, but growing numbers of scholars and researchers are joining the public in working in and around these institutions. As a space, the independent library generates lively debate around literacy, the role of the state, local and national identity, and cultural value.

The Association of Independent Libraries is therefore delighted to announce the launch of an interdisciplinary conference that will mark developments in the emerging and dynamic field of independent library studies. This new conference will bring together librarians, archivists,

researchers, students and academics in a new forum to discuss the independent library's role in the fields of library and information studies, cultural studies, education, and the humanities. Held in the atmospheric surroundings of Nottingham's Bromley House Library, this weekend is committed to hearing a variety of perspectives from the UK and beyond.

We welcome contributions that engage with any of the following areas: Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Independent library movements across the world
- The origins of the independent library
- Equitable access to independent libraries
- Collaborative working with Higher Ed : research councils, universities, vice-chancellors
- The jewels in our crowns : collection case studies
- The independent library in the community: literature, history, culture, heritage
- Innovative working practices and managing change
- Research students : projects, research, and discoveries.
- Lifelong learning : readers, interns and volunteers
- The built environment : caring for our spaces
- Evaluation of the digital library : social media, online spaces, digitisation.
- Cataloguing challenges
- Antiquarian collections
- Sing out loud : collections that aren't books

Proposals from anyone in the independent library movement – librarians, academics, volunteers, researchers, students – will be considered. Case studies are welcome. Papers should be limited to twenty minutes. Submissions to Independent.Libraries@gmail.com by Monday 21st March 2016.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Please join us for *Reinvention : Thriving In The 21st Century*, the fourth in a series of international conferences for independent libraries, mechanics' institutes, athenaeums, societies, literary institutes, lyceums, mercantile libraries, schools of arts and working men's institutes. We will bring together representatives from around the world to exchange ideas, explore histories, and discuss our present situation and our aims for the future.

Each participant will have the opportunity to connect with like-minded people, share experiences, and gain useful knowledge applicable to the thriving and management of their institutions:

- Discover the insights, strategies, and practices that are making the mechanics' institutes and independent libraries thrive in their communities
- Meet and hear from leading personalities in the library and information world
- Network with your peers worldwide

The conference will take place, 3-6 November 2016, at the Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco, a leading cultural center that includes a vibrant library, a world-renowned chess program and a full calendar of engaging cultural events. Founded in 1854 to serve the educational and social needs of mechanics — artisans, craftsmen, and inventors — and their families, the Institute today is a favorite of avid readers, writers, downtown employees, chess players, and the 21st century nomadic worker. We are located in our 9-story landmark building in the Financial District at 57 Post Street.

The [Orchard Hotel](#) is the official conference hotel for *Reinvention : Thriving In The 21st Century*, located within easy walking distance of the Mechanics' Institute. We have reserved a block of rooms at a specially discounted rate, but you must reserve by 3 August 2016. Conference [registration](#) is now open. Early bird rate is in effect until 1 July 2016. Reinvention homepage is at <http://www.milibrary.org/reinvention/>

I look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful City by the Bay.

Deborah Hunt, Library Director, DHunt@MILibrary.org

SEMINAR

Managing the preservation environment in converted and historic buildings

Monday 25 April 2016 from 13:00 to 16:00

The National Archives - Ruskin Road, Richmond, TW9 4DU

This half-day seminar at The National Archives aims to support heritage professionals to understand and make best use of environmental conditions within an existing building. It may be that you are struggling to control existing conditions or are seeking to make a strong case for improvement. In addition to tips and tools for managing the storage environment and an insight into the science behind the standards, the seminar will include real life scenarios from the National Trust and Oxford Conservation Consortium of working with a variety of historic and converted buildings. Delegates will be invited to send questions ahead of the seminar, contributing to the round table which will conclude the proceedings.

Further details here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-the-preservation-environment-in-converted-and-historic-buildings-tickets-20858615681>

LIHG VISIT TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING LIBRARY, LONDON, 26TH APRIL 2016, 14:00 – 15:00

The Royal College of Nursing Library is home to Europe's largest collection of books, journals and e-resources on nursing and is celebrating its centenary this year. It also includes some of the most important archival collections dedicated to the history of the nursing profession in the UK, and a large number of rare books and pamphlets. The visit will consist of a tour of the library space, an overview of library and information services and collections, and an introduction to the current exhibitions and upcoming events programme.

This event is free, but booking is required. Please email Erika Delbecque to reserve your place: erika.delbecque@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk. For a fascinating insight into the work of the RCN and its centenary exhibition, *The Voice of Nursing*, visit our blog to read a post by Ellie Hunt <https://ciliplihg.wordpress.com/>.

MEMBERSHIP

In this Bulletin we welcome new members working at [Salisbury Cathedral](#); the [Natural History Museum](#); the [Foyle Special Collections Library](#), King's College London; [SOAS](#), the University of London; the [Royal College of Nursing](#); the [British Dental Association](#); the [Wellcome Library](#); the [Freshwater Biological Association](#); [Spalding Gentlemen's Society](#); the [National Library of the Czech Republic](#); and [Zagier & Urruty Publications](#) of Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

Members who wish to promote exhibitions, events, conferences or training, or who wish to contribute to the next Bulletin (due April/May 2016) should contact members of the Committee or email Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk

Membership of the Forum is free and anyone may join. To help keep it this way, and to keep costs down, we much prefer to send out the Bulletin by email. For those who choose email we send also regular updates including:

- Early news of our always-popular workshops, most of which are heavily over-subscribed
- Early news and booking information about the annual HLF conference and AGM
- News of job vacancies, internships and volunteering opportunities
- News about our member libraries and forthcoming exhibitions



Historic Libraries Forum



@HistLibForum