

# *The Local Studies Librarian*

LIB'SHIP



**UCL**

**NOT TO BE REMOVED  
FROM THE LIBRARY**

Vol. 24 No. 1 Summer 2005



## Product Resources Ltd

Product Resources are a specialist supplier of printing and communication products for libraries, schools and business.

### LOW COST BOOK SCANNER



Please contact us for further information or visit our website on [www.productresources.co.uk](http://www.productresources.co.uk)

32 Edwin Road, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 0AA  
Tel: 01634 387 462 Fax: 01634 387 340

OpticBook Scanner  
Computer Printers  
Consumables  
Fax Machines  
Labels

## PHOTO STORAGE & ARCHIVING

Photo-Filling Pages &  
Polyester Sleeves &  
Pockets For every Size  
Of Photography - from  
35mm Slide up to 12 x  
16 inch Prints

Samples on request

### NICHOLAS HUNTER LTD

Unit 8 • Oxford Business Centre  
Osney Lane • Oxford OX1 1TB

Email: [info@photofilling.com](mailto:info@photofilling.com)

Tel 01865 727292 Fax 01865 200051

51511-130

THE LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN

Vol.24 Number 1 (46) 2004 ISSN 0263-0273

The Local Studies Librarian, the official journal of the Local Studies Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), is published twice per year - Summer and Winter. It is issued free to members of the group. Annual subscription to nonmembers is £6.00 U.K. and £7.50 plus £1.00 service charge overseas. Post free in both cases. Overseas service charge does not apply if payment is made in Sterling.

Editorial matters and Advertising:

Ian Jamieson, FCLIP  
12 Grenville Drive,  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,  
NE3 5PA  
E-mail: [imjamieson@c-pac.net](mailto:imjamieson@c-pac.net)

Distribution, Subscriptions and Remittances:

Philip Thomas ACIB, MCLIP  
Hon. Treasurer, LSG  
25 Bromford Gardens,  
2, Westfield Road,  
Edgbaston,  
BIRMINGHAM, B15 3XD

Cheques to be made payable to Local Studies Group.

### CONTENTS:

Editorial	1
The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography	2
Black Country Archives and Local Studies	6
Local Studies and Continuing Professional Development	8
Posters to Prague	11
The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize for 2004	12
Caring for Historic Newspapers in Hull	13
Alan Ball Local History Awards 2005	15
The Reaching the Teacher Project	16
Committee, Reports & Accounts	17
From our Sub-Groups	20
From our CILIP Councillor	21
People	23
Have you seen....?	24
Notes and News	25

Cover Illustration:  
Courtesy:

*Library & Column, Devonport circa 1829*  
*Plymouth Library Service*

## TOM VALENTINE

Limited

"Carronvale Bindery"

A QUALITY SERVICE FROM COVER TO COVER

### CONSERVATION

- Deacidification
- Paper and Document Repair
- Vellum Documents Conserved
- Encapsulation Service
- Maps and Plans Restored
- Albums
- Only Archival Quality Materials Used

### BOOKBINDING

- Restoration
- Fine Bindings
- Periodicals and Journals
- Thesis Binding
- Newspapers
- Archive Boxes and Portfolios
- Disaster Planning & Services
- Surveys

Contact us now to discuss your conservation or binding requirements

Carronvale Bindery, 18 Main Street, Larbert, FALKIRK, FK5 3AW

☎ (01324) 552247 or Fax (01324) 563737

E-Mail: [tvcb@btinternet.com](mailto:tvcb@btinternet.com)

Visit our web site at [www.valentinecarronvale.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.valentinecarronvale.btinternet.co.uk)



# MicroFormat

- Preservation microfilming
- Digital capture from source or film
- Microfilm duplication for all formats
- Reformatting 35mm roll to fiche



**MicroFormat UK Limited**

Image House,  
344 High Street  
Rochester, Kent  
ME1 1JE

Telephone: 01634 813751

Facsimile: 01634 831557

Email: [archiving@microformat.co.uk](mailto:archiving@microformat.co.uk)

<http://www.microformat.co.uk>

## EDITORIAL

By the time you read this Umbrella will have been long over – but I hope that those of you who went benefited not only from our own papers but from the chance to meet other people doing the same kind of work – not only designated local studies librarians, but also the many other people including reference librarians and branch staff, as well as those working in local studies centres who are nowadays involved with local studies enquiries. This wide variety has given rise recently to discussions on the need for staff training – for instance in the article by Jon Webster in the April issue of *Update* and the responses to it in the June issue. There are courses available, mostly at postgraduate diploma level, though the one at Aberystwyth is under revision at the moment and a new one in Aberdeen, dealt with in this issue, has not yet started: however, they tend to be rather expensive and often a lower level of approach is appropriate. The LSG committee has been considering the problem and has now set up a working party with the aim of producing such a course which can be worked through and tested in the workplace: it is intended to be for anyone who is working with local studies queries. Planning is only in its early stages but you will be kept informed.

Other topics which the Committee has discussed recently include a potential problem of procurement of minor items from local publishers and privately produced publications – some of which do not have ISBNs – as authorities move to single suppliers. Some librarians are able to use petty cash for such items, but these publications are not necessarily cheap, so this may not be allowed as control gets tighter. If anyone has experienced any problems or has any ideas the Committee would like to know.

Two further subjects relevant to many people have also come under discussion. The first phase of Newsplan has now ended, and librarians are looking towards Phase 2: however, the priorities set for this are dissemination rather than continuing to produce material for preservation, so this again is a potential problem. The Committee again would welcome comments. The BBC is at present asking the public for photographs to build a Picture of Britain on its website. This is fine, but local studies librarians should try to ensure that they are still building up their own collection of photographs of their local area.

The Local Studies Group, as you see, is very active at the moment on matters of interest and potential problems. Please support us – we always welcome feedback from members, so that we can use it when we are consulted, for instance, by CILIP.

Finally, congratulations to Ian Maxted, our retiring Chairman, on winning the Walford Award for his sustained contribution to bibliography over many years. While this is not specifically for local studies, the citation mentions his work on the bibliography of Devon.



## THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY AND ITS VALUE FOR LOCAL STUDIES

Ian Maxted

On the arrival in the library of the sixty volumes of the *Oxford dictionary of national biography* in Exeter late in 2004, I allowed myself a little ego-trip. Had any Maxteds made it into this great compilation? I had always felt us to be a clan of nonentities but I was proved to be mistaken. There, among the great and the good was one not so great and not so good - one Mary Maxted (alias Millington) a porn star, perhaps best known for starring in *Miss Bohrlach*, a film which, according to the contributor of the article: "among devotees of hardcore pornography ... is always remembered as 'the one with the ping-pong ball'". Bells began to ring in my mind, and I recalled that Mary, like my mother, lived in Dorking during the 1970s. My mother on several occasions was highly indignant when she received suggestive telephone calls from prospective customers under the impression that she was Mary. The point of this anecdote is to demonstrate that, although the serried ranks of gold-tooled blue bindings look much the same as the old *DNB*, a great deal has changed. For a start it is more inclusive and more up to date. The worthies are not all safely dead for a century or more; some died as recently as 2000 and they are brought even more to life by some 10,000 images researched in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery. The new work contains 54,922 lives, as opposed to the 38,607 in the old *DNB* and supplements. Of these 1,897 died between 1991 and 2000, and the number of women has increased from 1,758 to 5,627.

The introduction to the printed version includes information on the project, principles of selection, house style and so on, including a series of tabulations of lives by date. There is also a guide to the contents of articles and lists of abbreviations and references. A separate volume indexes the contributors, but there are no other indexes, just a steady progression through the alphabet from Aaron to Zuytlestein. So perhaps this compilation is of limited value for the local historian as, from examination of the printed volumes, there seems no way into the places where these people lived their lives.

When contributors submitted their biographies they had to accompany them with two additional four-page sheets. The sources sheet was for the listing of all sources used in the preparation of the article, even if they were already cited in the text, also for details of archival deposits, whether the subject's own archives or other important deposits. Sound and moving-image archives were also to be located, as well as details of portraits. Finally the wealth at death was sought. The second sheet was termed the information sheet. It was stressed to contributors from the start of the project in 1994 that the information provided here was not for printing en bloc, it was needed to establish key facts for computer searching. Information requested included the subject's names and titles, details of birth and baptism (or floruit where these were not ascertainable), father's and mother's names, titles, birth and death dates and occupations, the subject's

education, religious affiliations and details of spouses or other "sexual partners" including their birth, death, occupation and date of marriage. The date and place of the subject's death and burial were also required where available. Of equal significance for the local historian, places of residence were also requested with dates, address, town, county and country. Countries, regions or counties with which the subject was linked by descent or by political, professional, landholding, travel or other associations were also elicited. For shorter lives it could take more time to complete these information sheets than to write the actual biography.

It is the on-line version, available to subscribers through [www.oxforddnb.com](http://www.oxforddnb.com), which makes full use of all this carefully tabulated information, to provide the topographical key to the dictionary. The archive facility also offers access to the complete text of the first 33-volume *Dictionary of National Biography*. On the web site it is possible to read an introduction to the *DNB* project, to search, or browse the database, consult the full text of the biographies and to link to references and related entries.

The quick search makes it possible to search for the biography of a person or for words in the text of the articles, including of course place-names. In addition there are advanced search options.

For individuals it is possible to search for places, dates or fields of interest. In the full text of the biographies words and phrases can be searched for, and the references can be searched for bibliography, archives or iconography. The *Oxford DNB's* 12,500 contributors can also be searched for and the 10,000 images can be searched by artist or date. It is also possible to browse lists of biographies or contributors, or to get a life at random or see the day's birthdays and recent on-line additions. The online version also gives access to a changing collection of themes and a growing number of reference lists of office holders. These are of limited use for local historian but include Archbishops of Canterbury from 597 of York from 625 and of Westminster from 1850, Princes of Wales from 1301, Chancellors of the Exchequer from 1559, holders of the George or Victoria Cross, Masters of the King's (or Queen's) Music from c.1626, musical chart-toppers, Olympic title-holders, Oscar winners, saints, women members of parliament and many others.

The people search uses a range of indexes with help available on each feature: name, sex, life events and dates, fields of interest, places, religious affiliation, availability of images as well as a text word search. Fields of interest include broader areas such as agriculture, armed forces, art, building, business, education, film, law, literature, and so on in a drop-down list. For more specific occupations there is the opportunity to search the statement of occupation in the text search. Life events are birth, baptism, education, residence, death and burial. Dates can be entered in a variety of formats from precise day to century and date ranging is possible. Religious affiliation shows the inclusive nature of the *DNB*. Apart from the various sects of Christianity, other faiths include Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

Within the text search it is possible to select the complete text, statements of occupation, personal names, aristocratic titles, place-names, organisation names, creative works, quotation texts, references, archives, portraits and wealth at death. Many of these searches can be combined and the results sorted by alphabetical order of name, birth or death date order or even reverse order.

I have used some of these search options to indicate the coverage of the *Oxford DNB* for Devon and the south west region. Firstly a tabulation of life events for the counties in the region:

County	Born	Resident	Died
Devon	665	1041	557
Cornwall	352	516	211
Dorset	226	557	237
Somerset	479	953	500
Gloucestershire	427	874	391
Wiltshire	344	767	286

From this it will be seen that four counties are net exporters of fame while two are importers. However other search combinations can produce different results. For Devon the total of all life events is 1764 lives, while a text search produces 2558 results.

Using the facility to search for any life event linking an individual with a place, we find the top ten worthy-rich Devon locations as follows:

1. Exeter	929	6. Barnstaple	75
2. Plymouth	421	7. Devonport	74
3. Torquay	172	8. Honiton	51
4. Dartmouth	164	9. Exmouth	50
5. Tiverton	98	10. Sidmouth	49

Other communities in Devon totalling more than 30 include: Ottery St. Mary (48), Tavistock (47), Totnes (45), Bideford (44), Newton Abbot (39), Crediton (36 – but excluding Boniface), Plympton (35) and Teignmouth (35). Again text searches produce different results. For Barnstaple there are 75 references for all life events but 187 for text references. For Tiverton the results are 98 and 174 respectively, so typically the text search is the more exhaustive, although it may produce some false references.

For Tavistock, the stannary town on the west side of Dartmoor, there are references to some of the medieval abbots and to John Russell, sixth duke of Bedford (1766-1839) the major landowner of the time who did much to develop the town. Information on the mines can be found in the biography of John Taylor (1779-1863), mining manager and entrepreneur. There are some puzzles. James Burton or Haliburton (1761-1837), builder and developer, appears in a search for Tavistock, but there is no mention of that town in the text. He is indexed as a resident, presumably because he worked for the Duke of Bedford, but this is an example of the indexes being more exhaustive than the biographies. The entries for Tavistock also include writers and others born there, but whose subsequent activities had little to do with the locality.

A text search for printer in the statement of occupation combined with Devon produces four results: Thomas Flindell of Exeter in the 19th century, Andrew Brice of Exeter in the 18th century and Thomas Richards of Tavistock in the 16th century, but also the 16th century London printer Richard Totell because he was the son of an Exeter fishmonger. This has nothing to do with the history of Devon printing, although it may demonstrate the Dick Whittington effect – provincial lads seeking their fortune in the metropolis. Once in London, printers and publishers can be revealed by a place search for Paternoster Row, as streets and buildings can be searched for as well as villages, towns and counties. For this centre of the London book trade there are 56 results, including several publishers.

Back in Devon a place search for Killerton, a country house in Broadclyst, just outside Exeter, reveals not only the Acland family, its owners for several generations, but also the Veitch family, horticulturalists who worked for the estate. Another National Trust property, Castle Drogo, the last castle to be built in Devon calls up the name of Julius Charles Drewe whose fortune paid for its construction, but not Lutyens, the architect. Castle Hill produces 36 hits but an attempt to limit it to the Devon house by adding Filleigh does not work, so caution must be observed in undertaking place searches. Castle Hill and Filleigh searched for separately both call up the Fortescues who owned it and the writer Henry Williamson.

Another way to check the relevance of place searches is to look for a place-name as part of the text search. This displays the occurrence in context, so that it is possible for example to identify mentions of Exeter Change or Exeter House in London.

One way of obtaining bigger samples is to combine the field of interest search, which has broader scope, with counties or larger towns. For example a text search for Exeter combined with Art as a field of interest produces 131 lives. Sorting these by date of birth brings together for the later 16th century the engraver Franz Hogenberg, the miniaturist Nicolas Hilliard, and the sculptor Nicholas Stone – an indication of the city's contribution to creativity in that period.

In summary, much of local significance can be pieced together by examination of the on-line indexes. The biographer working at a national level can often reveal information that is missed by the researcher concentrating on local historical sources. However it would be a strange history of a community that was written purely from piecing together biographies in the *Oxford DNB*. At the local level, the selection can be erratic and the content often irrelevant to the investigator of local life in the past. Nevertheless use of the indexes can ensure that the more important local figures are not missed – and there is more to the heritage of the community than the chronicling of those who passed their lives toiling within the parish boundaries. To know of those who achieved fame outside the place where they were born or died can be something for any community to celebrate – and this is knowledge that the *Oxford DNB* now unlocks at the local as well as the national level.

*Ian Maxted is County Local Studies Librarian, Devon Library Services and until recently was Chairman of the Local Studies Group.*

## BLACK COUNTRY ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDIES – Working Together

Peter Evans

This short article traces the recent history of co-operation and partnership working amongst the archive services of the Black Country in the West Midlands,

About three years ago the archives and local studies services of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton initiated discussions on future options for improving our services, particularly in the area of accommodation. In all four services there were (and still remain) issues around poor building stock not meeting national standards, together with acute storage capacity issues. Two of the four services were practically full, one was on a medium term lease with no firm plans for a permanent home and one was housed in the basement of a Victorian library in very poor conditions. Travelling the road of seeking a single solution to these pressing issues brought with it some interesting (and forthright!) comments from staff, elected members and of course, users.

Each service was looking for solutions to accommodation issues – either for the long term by the use of extensions or a move to different premises, or medium term by the provision of secure outstores for less frequently used archive material. However, during joint discussions we began to look at options for a step change in accommodation and service delivery – uniting all four separately administered services in a single repository. The very suggestion of investigating the idea of a single repository as a way forward caused an immediate reaction. Suspicions had to be overcome and fears allayed. We were always sensitive to civic pride and the need to ensure our stakeholder's heritage was accessible across the whole of the Black Country. That was never in doubt. Officers were seeking to improve and enhance archives and local studies provision and some of us (but by no means all) accepted the challenge of investigating perhaps the most radical and controversial option of all.

After a fairly lengthy consultation period involving an independent consultant who sought views from all stakeholders, including public meetings, one to one interviews with users, staff, senior officers and members the idea of a single Black Country archive service moved to the back burner – a joint solution seemed unlikely to garner enough support from any quarter. However the whole episode was to lead to some significant positive spin offs. It had got people talking – from chief executives and political leaders to grass roots users. It was also clear that the services were highly regarded by all the stakeholders. What developed from the initial discussions was a desire to continue to share expertise and knowledge across the four services.

From the highest level came a financial commitment – if the services could work together and lever in funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund then £75,000 in match funding – a huge amount for our medium sized services – would be forthcoming from the Black Country Consortium. The motive behind the funding was to open up access to our collections – notably our large local studies photographic libraries to as wide an audience as possible. Completing a HLF application for one authority can be daunting – completing it for four local

authorities took considerable effort in developing and agreeing the ideas and collating all the supporting documentation. The resulting project, 'Documenting the Workshop of the World' which has received HLF approval involves three years of cataloguing and digitisation at a total project cost of £517,000. Involving six project staff based across the Black Country, the project will open up access to collections by the provision of an outreach worker, the purchase of professional exhibition and display materials, cataloguing of business collections, the digitisation of 10,000 images and the development of a single on-line entry point to all four catalogues using DS Calm and DScovey software.

The four services have also been successful in other external funding applications – in 2003 an application to the MLAWM (Museums Libraries and Archives Council West Midlands) for help towards the purchase of four electronically controlled height adjustable tables for use in our reading rooms was successful. Last year we developed a two-day programme of conservation and preservation training for all 25 of our staff – librarians, archivists and support staff. Entitled 'Keeping our Word', the training involved disaster preparedness, preservation programmes and basic handling techniques. This was of particular benefit to the offices that have no resident conservation staff. We were able to open up the training to museum staff as well. Again, the regional MLA council provided the funding for the training and for the purchase of conservation supplies.

Linked in with above projects has been our joint work in completing the first level of the Re:source *Benchmarks in Collections Care*. This proved an extremely useful exercise in ensuring each element of our service reached the clear standard of 'basic', 'fair' or 'excellent'. Undertaking the task jointly made for less work. Sharing knowledge and expertise as well as policies and practice made the task of reaching the first level a lot easier.

Our network of contacts continued to develop when archive and local studies assistants from Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Dudley all attended a Basic Archives Skills Training Day (BASTD).

During staff vacancies of professional posts (two of the services have only one professional archivist post, which when vacant can cause considerable operational difficulties) there has been a clear commitment to provide both advice and a physical presence when required.

All in all working together has led to benefits not foreseen when we began three years ago. Whilst respecting the fact that each service has its own character and strengths and has developed and grown over the years from different backgrounds, we have found that communicating and sharing has paid off. Though firm accommodation plans for each individual service have yet to come through, we are looking forward to the three year HLF project which will culminate in the launch of all four DS Calm local studies library and archive catalogues with a single search engine (DScovey) in 2007.

Peter Evans is Wolverhampton City Archivist. The other people involved are Jenny Childs, Dudley Archive and Local Studies Service, Ruth Vyse, Walsall Borough Archivist, and Teresa Nixon, Sandwell Borough Archivist.

## LOCAL STUDIES AND CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: a new course

Peter Reid

In recent years there has been considerable debate about the specialist training needs of those working in local studies. This debate mirrors a broader discussion taking place in the profession as a whole, where the development of expertise and continuing professional development needs have moved to the top of the agenda. One concern which has been expressed is that one-year postgraduate courses cannot develop specialisms in particular fields, because curricula are really full of the 'must know' basics. This is more significant because postgraduate courses have, in many cases, become the preferred route into the profession. The concomitant decline in numbers opting to study on undergraduate information or librarianship courses – where the development of specialism was perhaps easier – has contributed to the concern about training in highly specialised areas such as local studies.

At the Department of Information Management at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, we are currently developing a new module, entitled Local Studies Collection Management, which aims to fill the gap in specialist training within the local studies sector. The creation of this module is a natural progression from other work that I have been involved in over the last two to three years. This has included producing a book looking at the impact of the world wide web on local studies, and the supervision of two PhDs in the area, one looking at the existence and purpose of local studies within academic libraries and the other examining users' interaction with sources of and services for e-genealogy.

Currently, all of the department's existing modules are available on a continuing professional basis but this is the first time that we have developed one specifically focussing on one particular area for CPD purposes, completely independent of any of our degree programmes. The department has received funding from the University to pursue the creation of this module. It is anticipated that the writing of the modular materials will be completed by the early summer of 2005.

### Content

The module will cover a wide range of aspects relating to local studies collections, their management and their users. It will be structured around twelve individual topics. The emphasis will be firmly on practice, although there will be a theoretical underpinning through use of the literature in the field (most notably the likes of J.L. Hobbs and Michael Dewe). Inevitably, one of the major themes running throughout the module will be the innovations that are possible through information and communication technologies. The 12 topics will cover the following areas:

1. **The philosophies and principles of local studies** which will examine the background theories and principles of local studies librarianship.
2. **Scope, extent and topographical classification** will examine how we define our collections and manage the notion of local coverage.

3. **User groups and communities** will investigate who local studies users are, what their needs are and how we supply them with what they want.
4. **Sources for local studies 1** will concentrate on the 'conventional' sources in local studies and their delivery to users, while:
5. **Sources for local studies 2** will examine 'less conventional' sources in local studies and their delivery to users.
6. **Genealogy and family history** will explore the role and importance of the provision of family history material in local studies collections.
7. **Local history research** will examine how local history research is conducted, how users approach it and the role we have in teaching good research techniques in this field.
8. **Information retrieval in local studies** will cover indexing, classification and cataloguing, focussing on the particular issues for local studies in making our collections accessible.
9. **Local studies and education** will examine the place of local history in the curriculum and the links with education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, as well as what local studies collections can do to encourage lifelong learning.
10. **Digital development** will provide an overview of ICT developments and the challenges facing local studies.
11. **Training and staff development** will concentrate on what training and developmental requirements exist, and how to ensure their delivery in a local studies context.
12. **Promotion and marketing of services** will cover the effective promotion of the collection and also look at the building of collaborative relationships with others.

All of the topics will include full text 'lectures' of around 3,000 words, supported by practically-based activities, akin to seminar or tutorial work. The module will be assessed by course-work (a report covering specific aspects of local studies work).

### Delivery

Local Studies Collection Management will be delivered as distance learning using the Robert Gordon University's Virtual Campus (<http://campus.rgu.com>). The Virtual Campus provides full-text 'lectures', seminar activities, online discussion threads and fora, access to electronic resources and library facilities, in fact everything that one would expect of a virtual learning environment. The principal benefit of this remote delivery is that those enrolled need not travel away from their home or place of work in order to study, but can fit the module around their other activities. Since October 2001, the Robert Gordon University has offered its MSc in Information and Library Studies on a distance learning basis, using the Virtual Campus, and in that time more than 150 students, from around the world, have completed either the Postgraduate Diploma or full MSc.

The first intake for the module will be in February 2006. It will take one semester to complete, so those enrolled will have completed it by the following May.



Thereafter, it is intended to offer it twice in each academic year (with September and February start dates). However, if there is sufficient demand or interest in the module being run as a one-week residential course during the summer, this option will be considered although in order for this to be viable a minimum number of ten would be required. Accommodation costs would be additional to the module fee.

### **Entry requirements and cost**

As a CPD module, Local Studies Collection Management will be open to anyone, whether professionally qualified or not, whether working in local studies or not. The module will be at Masters Level and worth 15 SCOTCAT credits. The cost of the module is likely to be in the region of £600 per person.

It is anticipated that the module will attract interest from those who are working within local studies departments already, whether at a professional or paraprofessional level or those who wish to move into this sector. It is hoped that the module will be equally helpful to librarians and library assistants in understanding the dynamics of local studies.

This is an exciting development and one which I hope all those who share my passion for local studies will welcome. It will also, I hope, provide another forum in which those who share a common enthusiasm for and commitment to local studies can come together and learn from one another.

*Dr Peter Reid is the Subject Leader of the Department of Information Management as well as Course Leader for the MSc in Information and Library Studies, at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. He can be contacted on [p.reid@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:p.reid@rgu.ac.uk)*

Note: This article was first published in LOCSCOT, 4(5), Spring 2005, pp10-12, and we are grateful to the editor for permission to reproduce. Dr. Reid is also happy for the information to be published in this form in *LSL*.

### **HELP WANTED**

Randall Smith of the School of Policy Studies, Bristol University, has been awarded an ESRC grant to undertake a study of continuities and discontinuities in residential care for older people. This is based on a study by Peter Townsend in the late 1950s. As part of this he visited 173 Homes in England and Wales, but of these only some 20-25 of these are care homes today. Randall is looking for volunteers to undertake tracing studies of the rest, using archives and other sources, to find out what happened to these homes and the sites on which they were built. He already has a number of local volunteers, but there are some large geographical gaps in coverage, particularly in Yorkshire, Lancashire, London and Sussex. Do you know anyone who could help? For instance there may be individual local historians or local history societies who might like to get involved – or you might be interested yourself. For further information contact Randall Smith at the School of Policy Studies, University of Bristol, email [Randall.Smith@Bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Randall.Smith@Bristol.ac.uk)

## **POSTERS TO PRAGUE**

*Elizabeth Melrose*

The organising committee of INFORUM 2005, the 11th Annual Conference on Professional Information Resources, held in Prague, invited me to send a full-text paper on my local studies topic "Co-operation is the Key" to be published on their conference website – or to come to the conference in person and present a Poster session. Many conferences, including the IFLA Conferences, do include Poster sessions in their programmes and for the first time this year the CILIP Umbrella Conference has incorporated such a section in their Manchester programme. But this was a first for me. I had given presentations at conferences before, but never a Poster... a colleague from Denmark, who had been chosen as one of the main speakers, urged me not to forgo the chance of seeing Prague in May. We agreed that this would be a new challenge and the first step was to say yes, I would take part.

The subject matter was clear enough. I wanted to demonstrate that continuing co-operation between cultural organisations was essential to the completion of most promotional ventures if these were to give the public greater access to the local studies resources of all kinds. In my abstract I used as examples the North Yorkshire, NOF-funded, Unnetie Digital Photographic Archive, the Rowley Collection of historic photographs of Skipton built by a local web development group, and an on-going project where teachers are heavily involved with the County Record Office in the creation of a CD-Rom of archival curriculum-based source material. Not one of these projects would have got off the ground without the dedication of a team from libraries, museums, archives, a local history society, and the digitisation companies. The combination of co-operation and digitisation was essential to everyone.

However, I needed to contrive a Poster and here I was a complete novice. I looked on the extensive INFORUM website for any examples of Posters from previous years. There were, though I hoped I could improve on these. The conference organiser sent out advice and detailed instructions about Poster sizes. My niece, who had just finished a design degree at Birmingham University, dragged me round Birmingham Railway Station looking at posters in place there. She also obtained printing quotes, to give me an idea of costs. A graphic designer was put on standby in London to assist with the layout and I was taken to bookshops to examine appealing bookjackets, so as to decide on colour schemes. We agreed that two posters using a chequer-board design with my words and photographs from the digital collections in alternate blocks would look simple but impressive. Two posters with the same text but different illustrations allowed us to show eight of the outstanding photos from the collections. The graphic designer called asking me to cut down the number of words in the text blocks as I had written too much text. I used a website to translate my title into Czech. Fortunately I verified this with the conference organiser: "The website is nonsensical..." she emailed and gave the correct expression.

Eventually copies of the photographs were sent on disk to the designer and he liaised with a local printer. In good time two Posters appeared ready for transport to Prague in a huge cardboard tube. Since my luggage, along with my handouts, went missing at Prague airport for twenty-four hours, I was grateful that I was carrying the Posters as cabin luggage. Meanwhile the conference organiser had sent further instructions. Not only would the posters be displayed in the main conference hall, but Poster



presenters would be expected to give a public five minute powerpoint presentation informing around three hundred delegates, using simultaneous translation, about their individual projects. There was a flurry of last-minute work before the Posters were pinned in place and I met the other presenters.

From the beginning this conference was one of the most organised that I have attended. From the UK, Karen Blakeman conducted a well-attended workshop on new developments in search technology and Chris Batt of MLA gave a paper on Investing in Knowledge. Other speakers informed their audiences about several European initiatives in online access to cultural heritage through the digitisation of collections. There was time for sightseeing in Wenceslaus Square and a fine concert and reception in one of the beautiful buildings close to the Charles Bridge. So thanks especially to my graphic designer and the printer, I met up with Poster presenters from the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland and Estonia, and succeeded in a new venture.

*Elizabeth Melrose is Project Officer, Local Studies and Information, North Yorkshire Libraries.*

Note: an illustration of the poster appears at <http://www.inforum.cz/inforum2005/pdf/MelroseElizabeth1.pdf>

## LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize for 2004 has been awarded to Yvonne Hirst of the North Eastern Education and Library Board, Ballymena, for her outstanding contribution to Local Studies Librarianship in Northern Ireland. Yvonne is Local Studies Development for the NEELB and since taking office she has developed partnerships both within and without the service and established contact with numerous local societies. After supervising the move of the local studies department Yvonne has been involved in a vast range of activities including mounting exhibitions and providing talks, visits and workshops to every kind of local group as well as organising pilots or launches for projects such as the virtual Act of Union Library and the Northern Ireland Film and Television Council Digital Archive. She has also organised outreach visits to outlying areas such as Rathlin Island and at a wider level sits on the Newsplan (NI) Steering Group and the Northern Ireland Publications Resource Panel, as well as representing LISC (NI) on the LSG Committee. She has demonstrated outstanding commitment and enthusiasm and has become highly respected in Northern Ireland for the high quality of her work. Yvonne has raised the profile of local studies within the service, on the website and within the wider community, laying good foundations for future development.

Perhaps this is the time to remind more librarians to think about making nominations for this prestigious award. There are many librarians working in local studies who are carrying out excellent and innovative work and who at least should be given the chance to win it. The nominator need not be a chief librarian – nominations are welcome, for instance, from line managers, colleagues and service users: the nominee, however, must be a member of the Local Studies Group. The closing date will be September 30th - look out for the call for nominations in the Gazette shortly.

Details about the Award can be obtained from our Hon. Secretary, Jan Horrell ([jan.horrell@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:jan.horrell@plymouth.gov.uk)).

## CARING FOR HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS IN HULL LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY

*David Smith and Geoffrey Boland*

Many people in the world of local history, whether they are librarians or researchers, will know about the rich and diverse source of information that newspapers offer. However, caring for newspapers is a difficult and expensive process. At the Hull Local Studies Library this has been a concern for many years: do we microfilm or digitise them? Do we preserve the originals once filmed/digitised? How do we pay for the preservation of our newspapers in whatever format we choose?

At the Hull Local Studies Library these are problems that are constantly reviewed. The biggest problem we face is financial, as our finite budgets have to cover all our stock. We have always taken the view that we should keep our original newspapers and we have these dating back to 1787, but the public are not allowed to use these originals and have to confine themselves to those newspapers that have been microfilmed. These newspapers are part of the heritage of the City of Hull and keeping copies in differing formats ensures their preservation for the future: the British Library Newspaper Library also recommends that regional library authorities keep their own original copies for this reason.

However, caring for the originals has its own problems – for instance our current storage conditions are not heat, light, dust or humidity controlled. Keeping the originals is expensive and takes up space. We already use commercial storage for some of our original newspapers and we have to find new space solutions for all our stock as we are full to the seams. At a cost of approximately £75 per volume for binding we have also had to re-think how we preserve original newspapers. In the past they have been bound, but to bind our current newspaper runs would cost £900 for one year's worth of newspapers. Therefore, at the end of 2004, we changed our storage methods and are now using archival storage boxes by which means we are able to store four years worth of newspapers for around half the cost of binding one year's worth. As for the type of surrogate copies we use, many of our users would love to have it all on the internet or an easily searchable CD-ROM. However, digital formats have not yet been proved to be a long term archival solution whereas microfilm is a proven archival format and so we are sticking with this solution. Creating surrogate copies, in whatever format, also involves a large expense and so we are back to a question of finance.

To a certain extent many of these problems, particularly the financial one, have been overcome through the Heritage Lottery funded Newsplan project which provided £5,000,000 throughout the UK to microfilm historic newspapers in danger of being lost due to their condition and age. Microfilming the newspapers was chosen because of its proven long term archival format. For the Hull Local Studies Library the project has provided a microfilm archive of all three of the Hull daily newspapers which were published well into the twentieth century interwar period.

Not widely realised, perhaps, is that the familiar (Hull) *Daily Mail* was the most recent. Founded in late 1885 by a group of Conservative activists centred on Sir Albert Rollitt MP, the paper declared in its opening edition the purpose of propagating the Conservative interest. It thus joined a Hull press field dominated by two existing players, the *Eastern Morning News*, a well established major regional paper commanding a wide business and professional readership, and the more recently established *Hull Daily News*, directed to the evening market.

As both existing papers were generally Liberal in outlook, the political divide thereafter shaped the news values and editorial thrust of the protagonists. The *Eastern Morning* and *Hull Daily News* shared a common commitment to upholding free trade against pressure for tariff walls on imported goods, an evergreen issue of public affairs up to the First World War and beyond; and to the associated causes of curbing hereditary privilege and landlord power, improving working conditions, widening civil liberty (especially in redressing Nonconformist grievances) and, as the 20th century dawned, enacting early social insurance and curbing the brewery interests. At a nexus of commercial enterprise and social awareness, the two papers reflect a predominantly Liberal Hull which mobilised Nonconformist and temperance militancy: but were conspicuous, too, for committed reportage of the city's theatre, literary and musical life, and in the case of the *Daily News* particularly, rich in city incident, from public event and factory disaster to the corrosive tide of theft, drunkenness and assault sentenced in Hull's courts.

In contrast, the *Daily Mail*, overshadowed by its rivals' dominance until after the Great War and its integration into the muscular Rothermere Press, used its influence as its founders intended, upholding hereditary power and landlord interests, the licensed trade against chapels and temperance campaigners, and the veto power of the Lords against taxing for social provision. But with this thrust it deployed increasing journalistic expertise and strove for both home and international news coverage that would match its progressive rivals.

The era of multiple newspaper publication survived to the interwar period, thereafter facing a bleaker climate: first, with the impact of sound broadcasting by the early nineteen-twenties, then to be compounded only a little later by gathering world recession. By then, the *Daily Mail's* future had been secured by its parent Rothermere Press with its prospering national titles and wider industrial interests. After a preliminary step of closing the *Eastern Morning News* in November 1929, in favour of an expanded *Hull Evening News*, the holding company of both finally closed its remaining title on 17th April 1930 in a merger and buy-out by the *Daily Mail*.

These new filmed titles have helped to fill in the gaps in Hull's history. As an example of this *The Eastern Morning News* carried an article describing the visit of Oscar Wilde to Hull on the 16th October 1883 who, at the Royal Institution, gave a lecture on "The House Beautiful" to a crowded and fashionable audience". Wilde was described as wearing: "...a suit of black broadcloth, white kid gloves, and bright leather boots, swallow-tailed coat, and open vest. A large white lily was displayed upon the left collar of his coat, and a light red silk handkerchief hung out carelessly from the inside left breast pocket." The piece goes on to describe his lecture and the reaction of the audience to it. Until the filming of this newspaper Wilde's visit to Hull was unknown. There are many such examples that could be recounted if space and time permitted and all of them would demonstrate the value of historic newspapers and the Newsplan project. What is clear is that providing more access to newspapers has increased the usage of them and of the number of people visiting the Hull Local Studies Library to use newspapers for their research.

For more information on the Newsplan project visit: [www.newsplan2000.org](http://www.newsplan2000.org)

David Smith is Senior Local Studies Librarian and Geoffrey Boland is Librarian, Hull Local Studies Library.

## ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2005

The Alan Ball Awards were established to encourage local history publishing by Public Libraries and Local Authorities and this is the twenty first year they have been awarded. Organised by the Library Services Trust, they have become an established part of the library awards scene, and give local studies a welcome amount of publicity, particularly in the winners' home areas. In recent years there have been increasing numbers of non-print items such as websites published and the Award judges have recognised this by making one of the awards specifically for such items. The judges this year made the maximum number of three awards, and commended a further three publications.

The awards are:

**Norfolk County Council** for *Norfolk E-map Explorer Website*

([www.historic-maps.Norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.historic-maps.Norfolk.gov.uk)), This excellent website allows users to compare digital images of historical maps and aerial photographs of Norfolk. It has recently been updated, and has proved extremely popular with users:

**City of Newcastle upon Tyne** for *Beyond the Grave* by Alan Morgan. This is a nicely produced and well illustrated small book, providing concise information on many famous and less-known people buried in Newcastle cemeteries. It is a worthy complement to the same author's "A Fine and Private Place: Jesmond Old Cemetery", a revised edition of which was published with the new book:

**Somerset County Council** for *Traditional Houses of Somerset* by Jane Penoyre. This is a lavishly produced, well illustrated volume – a coffee table book of real value, because of the vast amount of hard information it contains.

The Commendations are:

**Fife Council** for *Kirkcaldy Links Market* by Carol McNeill, an innovative idea to celebrate a local anniversary with a multi-media package of book, music CD and DVD:

**City of Newcastle upon Tyne** for *Lost Shipyards of the Tyne* by Ron French and Ken Smith. An interesting and important study that is well researched, with good presentation and photographs:

**Wiltshire County Council** for *Wiltshire Community History Website*

([www.wiltshire.Gov.uk/community](http://www.wiltshire.Gov.uk/community)), which provides a wealth of information in an ambitious project that is being continuously developed.

Congratulations to all these authorities (and to the authors!)

**NOTE:** Did your authority enter for the awards this year? If not, why not look at your new publications programme and think about it for next year? As you can see, there is a wide range of material in type and size – the main criterion is quality. For more information about the Awards contact Eric Winter at the Trust's office at 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1 7AE, tel 0207 255 0648 or 020 255 0500, email [ericwinter@cilip.org.uk](mailto:ericwinter@cilip.org.uk)

## BY THE TEACHER FOR THE TEACHER:

### The Reaching the Teacher Project

Elizabeth Melrose

Times have changed at the North Yorkshire County Record Office. In co-operation with the Library Service open days have been organised at the Office, staff have given a series of lunchtime lectures, and archivists and librarians have joined forces as a presence at family history fairs in the region. The new archive development manager has been anxious to dispel the view that the archive collections are only available to the few. He is eager to develop new audiences and to encourage students and schoolchildren to regard the documents and information as open to all.

There are guides to the holdings of the Record Office, but these are academic listings hardly likely to appeal to either teachers, who want information that is related immediately to their curriculum subjects, or to first-timers who need to have a less academic approach to the records. However, rather than archives staff deciding what teachers might like to access for their class-work, the Record Office is focused on collaboration with teachers.

A successful bid to the Yorkshire Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has resulted in a grant for the project, *Reaching the Teacher*, which, in co-operation with the Library Service and North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership, will result in the production of an informative CD-Rom, based on local resources in the archives and libraries. This is to be a compendium for teachers, rather than their pupils, since it is intended that teachers should find the ideas and links a support for lesson planning rather than any kind of prescribed work template.

The CD will contain many images and some appropriate text. The information has been chosen and researched by a representative teachers' group, regularly meeting with archives and library staff. Material will cover the second half of the eighteenth century through to the beginning of the twentieth century. There will be two case-studies. One, for Primary school teachers, will be based on a Police Charge Book of 1869-1878, showing mug-shots of those unfortunates who appeared at the Northallerton Court of Quarter Sessions. The other, for Secondary school teachers, will be a circular study around the life of a local Harrogate Workhouse Master, Henry Peacock, who in his old age became himself an inmate of a Workhouse. The enthusiastic teacher-representatives will ensure that the material meets the real needs of the school curriculum and is worded in language that suits their colleagues.

The launch of the CD is due at the end of 2005, with the teachers-group actively promoting this introduction to archival records around the schools in the County. The underlying technology is to be web-based so that the material can be uploaded onto the internet when funds are available.

Elizabeth Melrose is Project Officer, Local Studies and Information, North Yorkshire Libraries.

## LOCAL STUDIES GROUP COMMITTEE 2005

Chairman:	Don Martin, East Dunbartonshire Libraries don.martin@eastdunbarton.gov.uk
Vice Chairman:	Alice Lock, Tameside Libraries localstudies.library@tameside.gov.uk
Hon Secretary:	Jan Horrell, Plymouth Schools Library Service jan.horrell@plymouth.gov.uk
Hon Treasurer:	Philip Thomas, Birmingham pthomasPdt@aol.com
Hon Editor, LSL:	Ian Jamieson, Newcastle upon Tyne imjamieson@c-pac.net
CILIP Councillor:	Elizabeth Melrose, North Yorkshire County Libraries elizabeth.melrose@northyorks.gov.uk
Members:	Diana Dixon, Southwold diana.dixon@cilip.org.uk Julian Jefferson, Rochdale Libraries julian.jefferson@rochdale.gov.uk Helen Pye-Smith, Resource Centre and Library, National Archives helen.pye-smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk Philippa Stevens, Hampshire County Library philippa.stevens@hants.gov.uk

### Representatives of the geographic subgroups:

Midlands and Anglia:	Terry Bracher, Northamptonshire Libraries tbracher@northamptonshire.gov.uk
North Western:	Alice Lock, Tameside Libraries localstudies.library@tameside.gov.uk
Scottish:	To be announced

There is no subgroup in Northern Ireland, but local studies librarians there are represented on the Group by a coopted member from LISC (Northern Ireland) Local Studies Panel. The present representative is Yvonne Hirst, NEELB, Ballymena (yvonne.hirst@ni-libraries.net)

The Group has a Liaison Officer at CILIP to keep us in touch with areas of concern. At present this is Caroline Cooke (caroline.cooke@cilip.org.uk), who is therefore an ex-officio member of the Committee.

There have been several changes to the committee this year. However, as can be seen from the foregoing list, the Group has committee members in most parts of the country. If you have any ideas or suggestions for meetings or day schools, workshops etc – or indeed anything you wish to bring to the attention of the Committee – please do not hesitate to contact your nearest Committee member, or the Hon Secretary at Plymouth Schools Library Service, School Library Centre, Manadon, Plymouth PL5 3EJ, email as above.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2004

The Local Studies Group continued to have representatives on a large number of organisations, including BRICMICS, SCAM, NEWSPLAN 2000, the Historical Directories Project and the British Book Trade Index. Elizabeth Melrose attended the IFLA meeting in Buenos Aires in August 2004: she represented the Group on the Genealogy and Local History section and also attended meetings of the Newspaper section.

The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize was awarded to Yvonne Hirst for her outstanding and innovative contribution to Local Studies Librarianship in Northern Ireland.





## FROM OUR SUBGROUPS

The **North Western** subgroup decided to go for a popular topic which is easy to justify to managers for the spring day school as there have been a few problems with numbers at recent events... so the group arranged a Family History Workshop for 25 May. The day was organised in conjunction the Manchester and Lancashire Family History and concentrated on internet and electronic sources. Participants were asked to send in some questions for a family history problem solving session. There was also an opportunity for a tour round the Manchester and Lancashire FHS Library which gave us a sense of the wide range of sources held there. The venue could only take thirty people and was well over-subscribed so we are hoping to run the day again in the autumn for the twenty-two who could not be accommodated. It is also hoped to arrange a visit to the Jewish Museum in Manchester this autumn to make up for the gaps in last year's programme, with a tour round the museum and a speaker on sources for Jewish history. Next year the subgroup would like to hold a day school on Education at Stonyhurst College. A really good programme has already been planned, but the venue is quite expensive so the group is hoping for some financial support from CILIP NW and from the national LSG committee – otherwise the cost to participants may be so high that it might not attract the numbers needed for it to go ahead.

The **Midlands and Anglia** subgroup held a well-attended visit to the Coal Authority's Mineral Heritage Centre in Mansfield. The Centre holds over 100,000 mining plans and some 50,000 coal mining images. The subgroup's annual day school will be held on 21st September at Nottingham Central Library: "Word of mouth – Managing Oral History Projects" will look at a range of techniques and guides for oral history with Cynthia Brown from EMMILAC, Rachel Orme from Lincolnshire Grid for Learning and Keith Benton of the BBC People's War project, together with writer, editor and workshop leader Jen Edgar. The subgroup's AGM will be held during the day. For further details contact Eleanor Nannestad on 01522 510 800, email [eleanor.nannestad@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:eleanor.nannestad@lincolnshire.gov.uk). The next Newsletter from the subgroup will be published later in the summer.

Our Scottish subgroup, **LOCSCOT**, reports that it organised another successful Scotland-wide Local History Week at the end of April, when librarians across the country organised displays, exhibitions, guided tours and other events on this year's topic of 'River History'. A new issue of LOCSCOT Magazine was published in May. It includes an important article by Dr. Peter Reid of Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen on 'local studies and continuing professional development'. This describes a comprehensive new CPD module in local studies that Robert Gordon's will shortly introduce at a cost of about £600 per student. On 25 May Dr. Reid provided LOCSCOT's contribution to the Cilips Branch/Group Day (Scotland's equivalent of Umbrella) at Peebles, when he produced an extremely competent and thought-provoking paper on local studies and the internet. LOCSCOT events planned in the near future include a day school on Housing, Health and the Poor in Glasgow in September and a training day on local studies for young people, jointly with the YLG, in November. Comprehensive changes to the LOCSCOT committee are currently taking place: Don Martin

has resigned as Secretary on his election as LSG Chairman, with Eleanor Harris of Argyll and Bute Libraries taking over, and the three committee vacancies have been filled by Susan Bell of Aberdeen Libraries, Sheila Millar of East Lothian Libraries and Jo Sherington of Stirling Libraries.

The LISC (NI) Local Studies Panel is continuing to prepare for Local History Year 2006: its application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund is awaiting a decision in late summer. At the meeting of the Panel in May a newly launched website ([www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)) was demonstrated by a representative from the Library Council of Ireland and there was a discussion about possible links between this and the similar project involving local authorities from the North of Ireland ([www.culturenorthernireland.org](http://www.culturenorthernireland.org)). At the meeting, too, members of the panel described the adverse effects restrictions on funding were having on services in areas of staffing, stock, resources and morale. The Panel is to write to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure in this regard to voice concern. Local activities have included reminiscence sessions by the North Eastern ELB for groups from an adult Day Centre and plans by the Belfast ELB to hold genealogical sessions in some branches during the summer in partnership with the Ulster Historical Foundation.

## FROM OUR CILIP COUNCILLOR

These are notes of items, discussed at two Council meetings, that are of interest to the Local Studies Group.



### CILIP Council, 9th February 2005

Council began with a minute's silence in honour of Lorna Paulin, the respected former President of the Library Association whose death was much regretted.

A discussion took place about the level of the CILIP reserve funds. This was because of proposed expenditure on the website, on the replacement of the membership and qualifications database and on the replacement of computer terminals in Ridgmount Street. This spending, necessary though it might be, would reduce the CILIP reserves. After debate and with some votes against the proposals, Council voted for the necessary outlay from the Reserves, and included in this an amount for equal opportunities and information literacy. The Chief Executive informed Council that a listing of costs had been received for the Web Development Programme and he agreed to investigate a rolling programme of PC replacement within the London office.

A slightly revised Strategic Plan 2005-2006 was introduced and eventually signed off. One member of Council felt that CILIP should be emphasising its role as an advocate for the profession, since many senior managers were less than understanding about the involvement of more junior staff in CILIP activities. A suggestion was that advocacy should be practised at all levels, individual, local, regional and national.

- A Working Party has been set up to develop protocols for the electronic workings of Committees. This will eventually affect the way officers and members of Branches and Groups conduct their business especially in connection with CILIP Headquarters

- The Policy Development Committee *Horizon Scanning* exercise was to be used as one investigative resource looking at the types of issues and problems that CILIP needed to address on behalf of the profession
- CILIP was following the Book Aid International Guidelines in supporting the countries affected by the Tsunami Disaster. This did include the waiver of membership fees to individuals and institutions in the affected areas
- DCMS had given the Science Museum additional funding so that the future of the library collections could be considered more carefully. Rather than being dispersed without thought, it now seemed possible that the collection might be divided between the British Library, Imperial College and the Science Museum
- On a more light-hearted note two members of Council reported that they had appeared on television, one on the *Food Programme* and the other on *Flog it*

#### **CILIP Council, 4th April 2005**

This meeting saw the formal investiture of Debby Shorley, University Librarian at Suffolk, as CILIP President for 2005/06. Martin Molloy, Director of Cultural and Community Services in Derbyshire, will become President Elect. There was the election of various other officers, Chairs of Standing Committees, members of the Disciplinary Committee, the Scrutineers' Board and an Appeals Panel.

The Chair of the Equal Opportunities and Diversity Panel asked Council to look again at the reserve funds as she felt that reserves held by Branches and Groups had been omitted from the calculations - her view being that CILIP ought to implement such equality projects as Spectrum and the West Midlands project favouring minority community recruitment into the profession. The matter was referred to the Executive Board.

- The CILIP Strategic Plan 2005 - 2006 was overseen by Council and the Chief Executive explained how CILIP would consult its members on the key issues for the CILIP Corporate Plan 2006 - 2009. Since then the four-page Member Consultation Questionnaire has been sent out and CILIP members are requested to fill this in and return it to Ridgmount Street
- Other issues that were aired were the pressures that were forcing the unfortunate cancellation of courses in Library and information management at the University of Central England; the situation at the University of Wales, Bangor; and a possible restructuring of the Oxford University Library Service

#### **The Review of Special Interest Groups**

The last meeting of Group Review Working Party was held on Friday 20th May 2005. The minutes of the previous meeting in October 2004 were agreed and we were given an update on the progress of consultation through the Group Review Questionnaire. The members of the Working Party were, however, asked to keep all discussion confidential. Please note that I will inform the Local Studies Group of the deliberations once the results of the questionnaires are examined in depth.

The Review of Special Interest Groups is to be the subject of the Members' Open Forum on 30th June at the CILIP Umbrella Conference 2005 and I will be present at that session.

I hope that any member of the Group who has any concern they might wish taken to Council level will contact me.

**Elizabeth Melrose, Councillor, representing the Local Studies Group**

Tel: 01609 777585 email: [elizabeth.melrose@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.melrose@northyorks.gov.uk)

## **PEOPLE**

Following the retirement of Ian Maxted our new Chairman is Don Martin, Assistant Chief Librarian of East Dunbartonshire Libraries. He has been on the LSG Committee for many years, where he has represented LOCSCOT with distinction. He was also the Chairman of the working party which produced the latest edition of our 'Guidelines'. He confesses that he has never actually been a local studies librarian, although for the past thirty years he has been a senior information librarian with local studies as part of his remit. Having started his career in Glasgow, at the local government reorganisation of 1975 he moved to his native Strathkelvin as Principal Assistant (Reference, Local History and Information) - like other reference librarians in small authorities in Scotland he soon found that he was expected to spend a large part of his time in local studies work. This was especially so as both the local archives service and the museum were part of his responsibility. He developed an extensive local studies publishing programme and built up a photographic collection from scratch. He has published several local history works and his main interests are Scottish folk music and transport. He was a founder member of LOCSCOT in 1980 and has been an office bearer throughout. As Hon Secretary of LOCSCOT he has worked enthusiastically to establish the Scottish Local History Week, which is now a major event in the Scottish library calendar. He joined the LSG committee in 1981 and was a member of the working Group which produced the first edition of our Guidelines and was the team leader for the second edition.

Our new Hon Secretary, following on from Diana Dixon, is Jan Horrell, who is the Schools Library Advisor, Plymouth Schools Library Service. Having qualified as a librarian at Brighton Polytechnic, she has had the chance to experience a wide variety of opportunities, none of them planned but all interesting. She started working in small branches, mainly with children, in Kent, and, having had two children of her own, now works with teachers with Plymouth Schools Library Service. En route she has worked with the WRVS as a special Services Librarian; managed a NOF Digitise project; worked with Museum and Archive staff as Local and Naval Studies Librarian and not forgotten the public, who for a short spell were FE students. In her spare time Jan runs a little, walks a little, researches a little into the history of the local area and generally avoids decorating or housework. When her eldest boy is 10 - in a few months time - she plans to take up target archery!

The outgoing Chairman, Ian Maxted, has been County Local Studies Librarian for Devon since 1977, a post from which he retired in early July. He first joined the LSG Committee in 1982, and has been Chairman for the past years. He started his career in Croydon Reference Library, studied librarianship at Sheffield, and worked in the Guildhall Library before taking up his post in Devon. As Chairman he has worked tirelessly for the Group, representing us on various national bodies and has spoken at Umbrella and at the Hungarian Local Studies Libraries conference in 1995. He has undertaken extensive research in the field of book history and has published a series of biographical listings, most of them now available on the internet. He has also been responsible for the Devon Library's Local History Newsletter, which has always carried news and comment on the local studies library world in addition to its function as a county bibliography. Available on the internet, it is a valuable source of information for local studies librarians outside the county. Ian is a figure of national importance and we have been fortunate to have had the benefit of his experience.

Diana Dixon, the outgoing Hon Secretary, has served in that capacity since 2001, having previously been a member of the Committee, then Minutes Secretary. As a member of the Library Association, then CILIP, Council she has been able to keep us up to date with events in the profession. As she is remaining on the Committee, she will be able to continue to give us the benefit of her experience, not least in the area of newspapers, as she has recently completed a PhD on the subject.

## HAVE YOU SEEN...? Some recent items of interest to local studies librarians

Marcan, Peter. *South East England history and heritage handbook*. Peter Marcan Publications 2004. 159pp. £35.00+£2.50 p&p. ISBN 1 871811 17 1.

This handy directory embraces fourteen counties in the southeast, from the Isle of Wight to Norfolk and is intended for researchers, booksellers, publishers and librarians. It covers libraries, record offices museums, local history societies and some booksellers and lists scope, contact information and relevant publications, many of which are not easy to trace.

Its compilation involved questionnaires and tapping a vast range of sources. There is no doubt that it is the result of prodigious investigative work and that its quality depends upon the responses received. As a result coverage is uneven with full information for some entries, whereas others, such as that for Peterborough Library are disappointingly minimal. It is unfortunate that the author ignores the *Familia* website from which missing details on many libraries can be found.

Although the arrangement within coastal counties is a little idiosyncratic, the helpful place index ensures easy access. The work is illustrated with attractive black and white drawings but I do wish we had been told where they all were. Identifications of elusive local publications make this work extremely useful but it is a pity that no bibliographic consistency was adopted.

There is a lot of interesting and helpful information here but with so much material now freely available on the Internet, I am not sure that it is worth the £35 asked. Even small museums such as the Southwold Museum now have an attractive and informative website. Nonetheless there are great advantages in having so much information conveniently packaged in one easy to navigate volume so this reason alone may justify its purchase.

Diana Dixon

Vaughan-Lewis, M. *How is your archive service coping after 1 January 2005?* *Local History News*, 74, Spring 2005, pp8-9.

Short article on aspects of the new Freedom of Information legislation. It is emphasised that this is not a legal interpretation of the Act, but it deals with issues which are still troubling librarians and archivists on specific guidance for their staff. Examples include what FOI enquiries are, what we say to our public and the question of fees.

Webster, J. *Genealogy: an information need we cannot meet?* *Update*, 4(4) April 2005, pp42-43.

The author argues that, while some librarians still sigh and roll their eyes at the mention of genealogy or family history, it is essential that they serve the increasing number of enquiries as fully as possible. Although the media is increasingly aware of the public's interest, as for example in the recent BBC series 'Who do you think you are?' they do not always help the people they have inspired with realistic guidance on searching for information. In addition there are increasing numbers of resources on the internet, many of them free, but which are the most useful? There are many courses available by, for instance, the Society of Genealogists, and local education authorities. As well as these, though, guidance needs to be given by librarians and archivists. The author, who is the Information Officer responsible for Reference and Local Studies at Scarborough Library, part of the North Yorkshire County Council's library services, describes family history taster sessions put on for the public dealing with both online and 'conventional' primary sources. He also feels that staff need

an academic grounding and suggests that library schools should develop options to train future librarians in the use of genealogical and family history sources so that they can both help the public and train other colleagues more effectively.

*Note:* some replies to this article appear in *Update* 4(6) June 2005 p23.

Trubshaw, Bob. *How to write and publish local and family history successfully*. Heart of Albion Press, 2005. 262pp. £16.95. ISBN 1 87288359 1.

This is a revised and enlarged version of a book first published in 1999. It sets out to guide even novices through all the stages needed to produce and promote booklets, magazines, CD Roms and websites on local and family history. It is, of course, based on computer technology, and some familiarity with their use is assumed: much of the volume is concerned with aspects of their use in publishing. The work is deliberately not concerned with research as there are already plenty of books on that, but deals with what to do with the results of that research. It does, however, deal with questions of what to publish and good writing style as well as design and typesetting, preparing illustrations and estimating costs and price. Publicity and selling to shops and distribution are also covered. There is a substantial section on designing websites and CD Roms, and consideration is given to various legal aspects such as copyright, moral rights and libel. Most libraries already use 'in-authority' production for their publications, so this work may not be seen as directly relevant, but it could be very useful to show to individuals and societies who are interested in self-publishing to a high standard. The author has fifteen years of experience of writing, editing, and publishing for himself and others works on local and family history.

*Local history past, present and future: perspectives from fourteen local historians*. *Local History Magazine*, 100, Jan/Feb 2005, pp 15-26.

To mark its hundredth issue, the editor asked a wide range of local historians to give their views on aspects of local history, and these fourteen short articles are the result. The authors are a wide-ranging group of people, from amateur local historians to academics, those facilitating local history studies - from local studies libraries, museums and archives, for instance - and writers. Altogether they provide a most interesting look at the issues with which local historians are concerned, both looking at how local history has changed in the twenty years since the first issue and looking briefly into the future. They make fascinating reading.

## NOTES AND NEWS

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre has recently published a revised edition of its 'Studying in Camden' guide for students. A handy pocket size, it was made possible by a grant from the Camden Leisure and Community Service Challenge Fund. It is primarily aimed at GCSE and A level students doing project work, but is also seen as useful to teachers at Key Stages 2 and 3 who may need guidance in preparing materials for use in the classroom. It briefly introduces the Centre, the development of the Borough, tackling project work, and the type of stock it holds and their uses, together with a note on copying conditions. Copies have been sent free of charge to all secondary schools in Camden and to Year 6 teachers in primary schools.

After several months of closure, Tameside has moved into its new purpose-built Local Studies and Archives Centre adjoining the Central Library in Ashton -under-Lyne. For the first time the Local Studies and Archives collections are brought together under one roof. This means faster retrieval of documents and with proper storage conditions the material can be conserved for future generations of users. There is also much more space for looking at large items, with for instance extra microfilm readers and public access computers. There is also a CCTV document scanner which will be a boon to visually impaired users and will be useful for magnifying documents which are hard to read.

Images of England has recently issued the tenth and last issue of its Newsletter. With the main part of the project completed, the project team and its numerous volunteers has created one of the world's largest free online image libraries and a photographic archive to preserve information about historic buildings into the future. In addition, through its Learning Zone, it has started to construct an educational resource to help ensure that our listed buildings are learnt about and appreciated today. The project will continue at a much-reduced level for the next two to three years to make sure that the last photographs are taken and all the loose ends are tied up, so that items in the pipeline are added to the website. The website itself has recently been redesigned and the issue includes a short description of the changes. In addition, there are brief notes on the Learning Zone, including a case study on canals which can be downloaded and used by schools.

The Queens Heritage Project in Croydon has received a Local Heritage Initiative Grant of £16,098, together with an additional grant from the Nationwide Building Society, to enable local people with learning difficulties to research the history of Queens Gardens, an eighteenth century park next to Croydon Town Hall. The project members will interview park users and make a video of the Gardens. They meet weekly in the Local Studies Library. The project is being facilitated by the London-based Action Space, who provide visual arts activities for people with learning disabilities.

Many local studies librarians will remember Dr. John Chandler, who before his retirement was well known as the Local Studies Librarian for Wiltshire. Equally well known as a local historian, he is now running the Hobnob Press, which he relaunched in 2001: the name, incidentally, is derived from the hobby-horse which accompanied Salisbury's mediaeval processional giant, now to be seen in Salisbury Museum. His list now includes some twenty five titles, including several of his own: while most of the list relates to Wiltshire it is now extending beyond, and the Press now also distributes publications for the Wiltshire Record Society and Wiltshire Buildings Record, as well as for Ex Libris Press. Contact The Hobnob Press, PO Box 1838, East Knoyle, Salisbury, SP3 6FA. Tel 01747 830015, email [john@hobnobpress.co.uk](mailto:john@hobnobpress.co.uk)

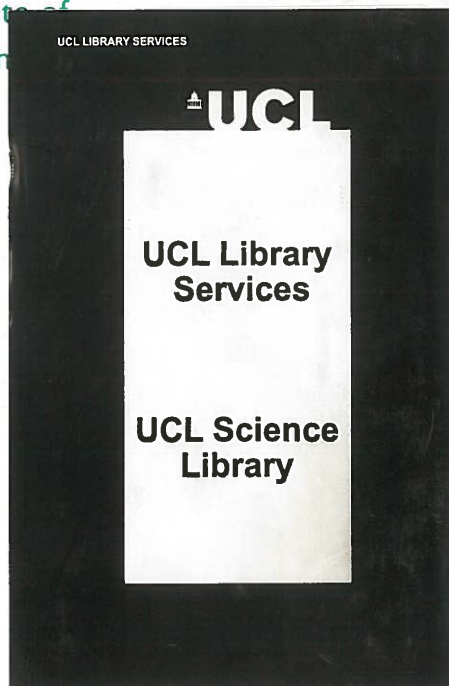
26 AUG 2005



ISSN 0263-0273



Chartered Institute of  
Library and Information  
Professionals



---

Typeset and Produced by  
**IMPRINT SERVICES**

Telephone (01609) 779142 • E-mail: [imprintservices@btconnect.com](mailto:imprintservices@btconnect.com)