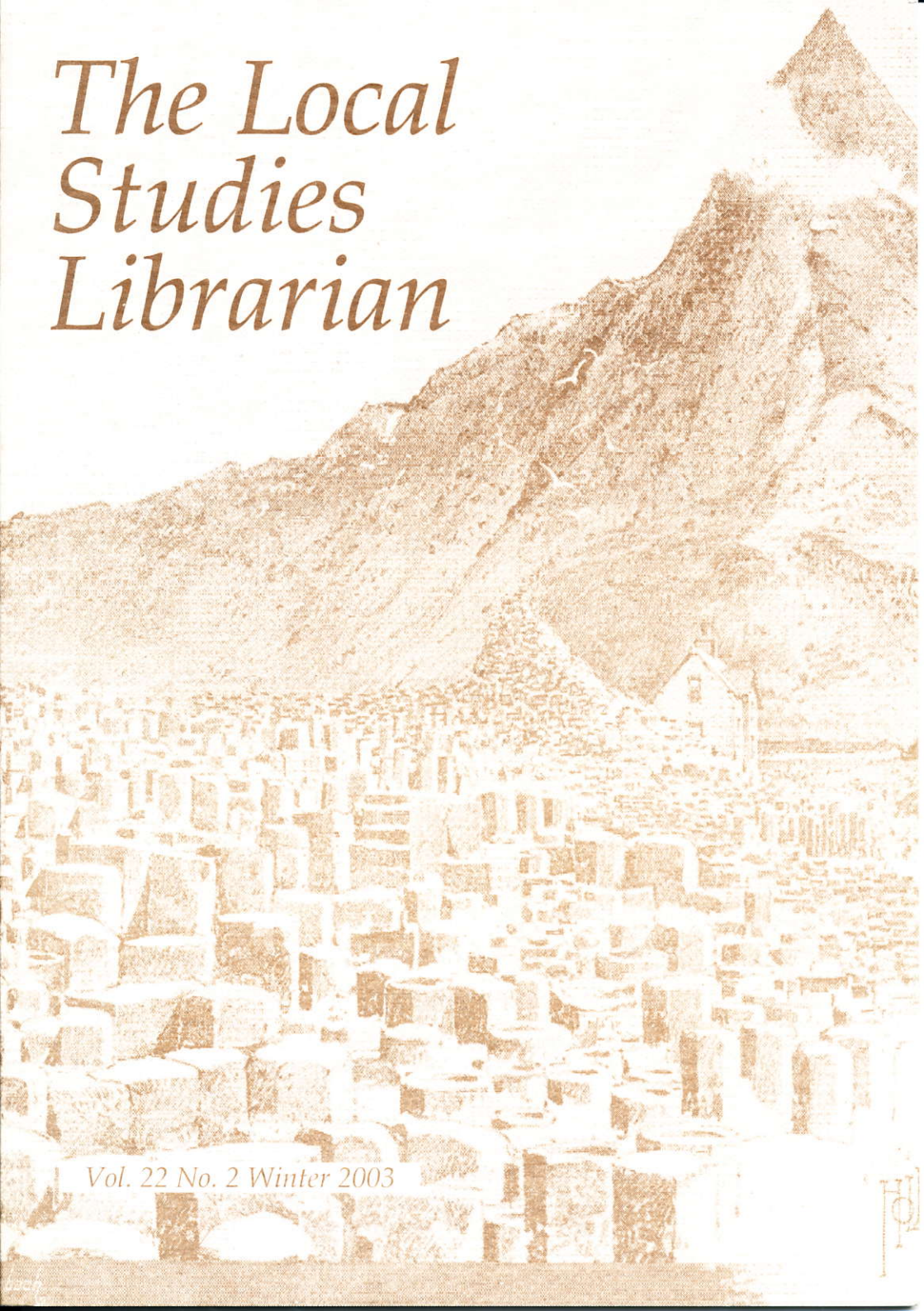


The Local Studies Librarian



Vol. 22 No. 2 Winter 2003



Quality & Reliability for over 120 years

SERVICES FOR LOCAL STUDIES

BOOKBINDING - REBINDING - REPAIR &
RESTORATION
FOR MODERN AND ANTIQUARIAN MATERIAL

PAPER CONSERVATION FOR BOOKS,
MANUSCRIPTS, MAPS, PRINTS AND MUCH MUCH
MORE

MANUFACTURERS OF
ULTRABOX
AND OTHER BESPOKE BOXES AND PORTFOLIOS
SURROGATES PRODUCED AS BOUND HARDCOPY
OR MICROFILM

PUBLISHING PACKAGE
(PRINT AND PUBLISH BOOKS UNDER YOUR IMPRINT)

DISASTER EMERGENCY SERVICE

*CEDRIC
CHIVERS*
LIMITED

1 Beaufort Trade Park, Pucklechurch, Bristol BS 16 9QH
Tel: 0117 937 1910 Fax: 0117 937 1920
E-mail: info@cedricchivers.co.uk

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

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
Gifts Guidelines and Gigabytes: local studies past and future	2
Lending Time: the Knowsley way	7
Local Studies They Wrote	9
Our Region in the Twentieth Century	13
Local Studies Collections and Academic Libraries: A PhD research project	14
From our CILIP Councillor	16
From our Sub-Groups	18
Local Studies Librarian of the year 2003	19
Have you seen....?	20
Notes and News	23

Cover Illustration: *Giants Causeway 1893*
Courtesy: *North Eastern Education and Library Board*

EDITORIAL

Twenty five years is not very long in the life of an organisation, but LSG does feel that it has provided a useful channel of communication for local studies librarians, and is therefore entitled to celebrate. As with most anniversaries, 'taking stock' is part of the act, and we have done that at our Jubilee meeting and in LSL. In our last issue Ian Maxted provided a brief history of our Group, and in this one we continue with two further articles. Michael Dewe takes a look at local studies librarianship over the last fifty years, with an eye to the future, and Diana Dixon gives a brief outline of the literature of local history librarianship.

Michael Dewe argues in his article that local studies centres are the way forward, though certainly not universally welcomed. Resource was set up to bring libraries, museums and art galleries together, and local studies is an obvious field. One danger, however, is that a single body in the local studies field might be seen as a way to save money rather than improve services – if so, this must be resisted.

Local studies collections are often seen as mainly a public library activity. However, with so many courses with local connotations in further and higher education nowadays, academic institutions need to supply local studies material, either in original form or by surrogates. Surprisingly little research seems to have been done on local studies collections in academic libraries, so the PhD work by Marie E. Nolan will be welcomed.

Volunteers in libraries are a topic of concern today, though many public libraries are and have been using them for specific projects such as indexing – and we recently carried an article about volunteers (though qualified librarians) doing work for the National Trust. To widen the discussion we include an article on Knowsley library, where volunteers are taking part in a government scheme. The topic seems relevant in the light of our Group's concern about declining numbers of designated local studies librarians, particularly in the smaller public libraries emerging from local government reorganisation – though we must not forget the new first-time appointments of local studies librarians in Dorset and North Yorkshire.

Also relevant to the above is the news that CILIP is conducting a review of all its special interest groups. We are an active group and we believe we serve our members well whether they are designated local studies librarians, reference librarians, assistants in a branch library – or even volunteers, who can join as associates. We think that we can continue to serve them best as an independent Group, but to do this we need to have a solid membership base. **Subscription time has arrived: please renew your LSG membership and encourage others to join us.** After all, local studies is a subject for everyone in the community and certainly helps to satisfy part of the government's agenda for social inclusion and lifelong learning.

GIFTS GUIDELINES AND GIGABYTES: local studies past and future

Michael Dewe

This article is an overview of local studies librarianship past and present, but it also tries to look to the future. It is based on many years of practising, teaching, research and publishing on the subject, and was originally prepared for a day school of the Welsh subgroup of LSG in late 2002: I now feel, however, that it is worth presenting to a wider audience.

Before reorganisation

When I was interviewed for a place at Latymer Upper School in 1951, the headmaster asked me what I wanted to be. I said I wanted to be an archaeologist. I didn't in fact become one, as a knowledge of Latin (which I did not have) was required: another requirement was to attend university, while in fact I left school just before my sixteenth birthday. Instead I became, through evening classes, a qualified librarian. This was not a second choice, but a very deliberate decision and I now feel that I have had an almost perfect career: twenty years as a practising librarian and, after I joined the then College of Librarianship, Wales in 1975, twenty years talking about being a librarian – and continuing to do so even after seven years in retirement!

Although I did not become an archaeologist, history has always interested me. It was my best school subject, and at one time, when I was aged about fourteen I thought seriously about writing the history of a local church, although I never did so. My real interest in local history, however, really took off when I became a member of staff in Fulham Reference Library – later I became Reference Librarian. The post included responsibility for the local history collection and at that time I knew little about local studies librarianship (it was not taught as part of my professional education), nor for that matter much about the history of Fulham. This changed over the next few years, as I found myself making a contribution to a new history of Fulham, to be published by the local history society, writing a biographical sketch of Fulham's most important local historian – and lecturing on local studies librarianship at the local college of commerce!

Nobody has written a detailed study of the development of local studies collections in public libraries and I am not attempting that here. What I am trying to do is to present my personal experience of local studies librarianship over the years in order to appreciate the great strides that have been made and understand some of the challenges that still face the profession. In order to do this let us return to the 1960s and Fulham Reference Library.

Apart from two or three standard local history texts on the open shelves in the Fulham reference library, the local collection was housed in the borough librarian's office, which fortunately was nearby. Some local authority archives, such as 18th century rate books, were stored in the large walk-in safe in the basement – along with the petty cash. In addition, for want of more appropriate accommodation, a small collection of donated paintings was stored on an unused side staircase. The

fact that the collection contained works by the local Pre-Raphaelite painter Burne-Jones, who lived in Fulham for many years, was not taken into account in providing such poor storage: Victorian painting and Victorian library buildings were very much out of favour at this time.

This, it seems to me, is a typical picture of local studies around fifty years ago: a collection which was often inaccessible, as were the catalogues and indexes; no special accommodation, so that important materials such as the paintings mentioned above were inappropriately stored; no specialist staff and few users, even though there was an active local history society. However, as with most aspects of public librarianship then and now, the situation varied round the country. Plymouth had always had a local room in its central library (erected 1910) and improved local studies facilities were a feature of the main library buildings of the 1930s – Manchester, Sheffield and Huddersfield for example. Edinburgh under Ernest Savage is credited with being the first UK public library to make the local collection a subject department in its own right in 1932.

While working in the reference library in the 60s I became very interested in the man who had written the three-volume standard history of the parish, later the Borough of Fulham, published in 1900. At the time he was working in the late nineteenth century there was no local collection of significance – Fulham Public Libraries only began in 1887 – and there was no local or county record office. He therefore formed his own working collection of material and engaged local photographers to take pictures for inclusion in his book. His manuscript of the book, including material not included in the printed version, and his collection of material that he used was subsequently acquired by the library by gift and by purchase. These formed a major part of the Fulham collection in the early part of the twentieth century. Later on the library acquired the paintings previously referred to through a generous bequest. This is not the only case of stock acquisition by these means: Robin Ansell, writing about the history of local studies collections in *A Manual of local studies librarianship* instances a number of libraries in various parts of the country which originated with the acquisition, by donation or bequest, of an important private collection. That at Derby, for instance, began with a donation by the then Duke of Devonshire of his Derbyshire books in 1878. This draws attention to the importance of the “gifts” in my title and also to the fact that municipal libraries, in the absence of county libraries prior to 1919, often collected beyond their boundaries: for instance Derby collected Derbyshire and Birmingham covered Warwickshire, while in Wales Aberystwyth collected material about Cardiganshire.

In 1965 local government reorganisation saw Fulham merged with the neighbouring metropolitan borough of Hammersmith. Hammersmith had an archivist, who in the new larger authority had an increased remit and so the two Borough's archives were brought together in a large branch library. In addition the archivist had overall charge of local studies provision, although the two local studies collections remained separate, in the Hammersmith and Fulham reference libraries. At Hammersmith the collection was housed in a large cupboard in the reference stack in which shelves had been fitted. Reorganisation therefore brought some improvements for the archives service but the local studies collections had to wait.

Mid sixties to mid eighties

Twenty years later, during which time my practising librarianship was replaced by my teaching librarianship, including local studies, I edited *A manual of local studies librarianship*, published in 1987. This was partly an attempt to create a new version of J.L. Hobbs's standard work *Local history in the library*, last published in 1973 as a revision by George Carter of the original work of 1948. Since then various changes and developments had taken place in the local studies field and I tried to identify these in my Introduction to the *Manual*:

- **Increased public interest in local and family history.** This was in all sectors of education and as a leisure pursuit. It was much stimulated by radio and television programmes.

- **Local government reorganisation in all parts of the UK from 1965 to 1975.** A re-casting of boundaries posed some problems but, on the whole, the larger authorities that resulted allowed a public library staff structure in which specialist local studies librarians could be employed, often with a senior librarian often having authority-wide responsibility for local studies.

- **The local history collection was renamed the local studies collection in many libraries.** This reflected the fact that they contain materials other than the purely historical and that they are concerned with the present (and the future) as well as the past.

- **Accommodation for local studies collections was improved.** The numerous new buildings of the 60s through to the late 80s usually provided special accommodation – the *Manual* mentioned Birmingham, Cardiff, Reading and Portsmouth Central Libraries as well as Shrewsbury Library and Glasgow's Mitchell Library.

- **There was a need to improve the approach to the preservation and conservation of local studies materials.** This was stimulated by the influential 1984 Ratcliffe report on the subject. Local studies librarians began to realise that acquisition and organisation was insufficient in itself and that there had to be a concern for their long-term preservation through satisfactory conservation and storage.

- **New local studies library activities were emerging.** These included oral history recordings and publications programmes.

- **The use of computers in libraries and local studies departments was developing.** This was a major development since the 1973 edition of Hobbs. However, while examples could be found of a computerised local studies catalogue, a bibliographical database, and the use of computers for indexing local newspapers, local studies departments were generally speaking slow to take advantage of computer techniques (and our archive colleagues even less so). Perhaps it was because the computing priorities of public library systems lay elsewhere.

- **In 1977 the Local Studies Group was founded.** This provided a national focus for librarians working in the field, and the establishment of regional sub-groups of LSG helped too.

The cumulative effect of an increased interest in local studies, specialist staff, better accommodation and a higher professional profile in the public library service led to greatly increased use of local collections which, while welcomed, took place during times of financial stringency.

Mid eighties and nineties

Four years later I edited a follow-up volume to the *Manual*, which included chapters on information technology, preservation and conservation, and genealogy and family history, as a response to some of the trends I had identified in local studies librarianship. However, in the short period under review, the most significant event for local studies librarians was probably the publication in 1990 of the Local Studies Group's *Local studies libraries: Library Association guidelines for local studies provision in public libraries*.

The trends identified this time were:

- **The promotion of new standards for local studies libraries.** These guidelines provided the first concise statement, endorsed by our professional association, about what local studies provision entails for public libraries. The *Guidelines* covered everything from a definition of local studies, through types of material and classification and cataloguing to copyright.
- **New service opportunities.** These might be through reminiscence work, cooperation with local societies, the use of computers, and income generation.
- **The needs of user groups.** This took account of the growing demands from all levels of education and family historians, for example.
- **Preservation and conservation.** This was now highlighted in the *Guidelines* and also, as mentioned above, in a chapter in this second volume.
- **Cooperation with other source providers.** These providers included record offices and museums.
- **The need for marketing the local studies service.** This might include the targeting of specific community groups, rather than always attempting to reach the entire community.

The second volume of the *Manual* was followed by the writing in 1994 of a distance learning module, along with Jill Barber, for the Department of Information and Library Studies, Aberystwyth. The challenge here was to cover local studies librarianship in six module units and we paid particular attention to sources and their use, management and marketing. As a result of this experience I embarked upon a new edited work, not so much to replace the now somewhat elderly two volume *Manual* of 1997 and 1981, but to provide a more concise view of local studies in a New Labour political context and as it enters a new millennium. Published in 2002 as *Local studies collection management*, the book followed hard on the heels of the publication of Diana Dixon's world bibliography of local studies librarianship and the greatly expanded second edition of the Local Studies Group's *Guidelines*; which pays much more attention to matters such as different user categories, relationships with other professions and groups, and marketing and promotion.

The future?

If you look at *Local studies collection management*, you will see some familiar themes from the *Manual* but there is one significant difference - in a final chapter I have tried to consider the future of local studies both in terms of what is likely to happen and what possibly needs to happen:

• **Convergence, integration or cooperation.** The idea of a local studies centre housing library, local archives - and possibly other elements, such as the local museum and archaeological unit- is not new. It was aired in the 1987 *Manual* and has been suggested at least since the early 1970s. Formerly a feature of urban authorities, it is now being taken up by the counties, as such examples as the Shropshire Records and Research centre and more recently the much publicised Surrey History Centre indicate. The idea of the local studies centre is anathema to some, accepted by those who are willing to go along with convergence, and welcomed by those who are prepared to agree to complete integration. The least acceptable outcome is continued, but obviously improved, cooperation between institutions. However, whatever our opinions may be, the local studies centre seems to be the future, and the one which to me offers the most benefits to all parties, including users and local authorities.

• **Education and skills.** Convergence, or more specially integration, is likely to lead to a demand for new kinds of local studies professional and non-professional staff - the kind of people who have the education and skills to work in an integrated local studies environment. This means that opportunities must be provided for staff to obtain cross-discipline education and skills in order to feel at ease working with printed material, records and artefacts.

• **Information and communications technology.** As indicated earlier in this paper ICT is changing the local studies environment in a way that it was almost impossible to imagine ten to fifteen years ago. What is worrying to the onlooker is that there appears to be no real shape to development. For instance a great deal of money is being spent on digitisation without the basic question being asked about the fundamental things we want to use computers for in local studies libraries - perhaps it might be to provide integrated database software - and how we go about achieving these in a way that is not unstructured, haphazard and wasteful of resources.

• **A national plan for local studies material of all kinds and wherever located is needed.** What these brief comments on the use of ICT lead on to is the lack of a national plan for local studies provision and resources. Such a plan would recognise the need for legislative change. Such legislative changes would recognise:

• **The British National Archive.** This must recognise the contribution that each local studies collection makes to the concept of a British National Archive, as each collection is a unique local record. Local collections should thus receive some central funding for the role they play in preserving the nation's memory.

• **Copyright.** It is suggested that some rights could be devolved to public libraries local studies libraries/centres in recognition of their role in collecting and preserving for posterity unique and other local material.

• **Leadership role.** Consideration should be given to the setting up of a national body to lead and guide local studies provision and development. This might perhaps be a unit of Resource, or perhaps a revamped role for the National Preservation Office.

• **National standards.** These need to be even more demanding than the LSG's guidelines, and might, for example, even express mandatory requirements for storage.

These, then, are some suggestions for the future of local studies which librarians might consider and discuss. Finally, to return to the first part of this article, you

might like to know what happened in Fulham and Hammersmith after the initial changes of 1965. Eventually the local collections and the archives were brought together in a new building called the Archives and Local History Centre: this is the future as envisaged in this paper.

Michael Dewe is an author and speaker and a committee member of the LSG.

LENDING TIME: the Knowsley way

Eileen Hume

When it comes to getting things done, it is often said that one volunteer is better than a few pressed men. Knowsley Library Service is testing this maxim in an exciting new volunteering initiative, called "Lending Time", aimed at encouraging people in the community to get involved with their local library service.

Knowsley is the only library service in the North West to have been chosen to participate in this scheme, which is being piloted in only six local authorities in the whole country. The other authorities are Gateshead, Staffordshire, Merton, Bournemouth and Kent. The project is coordinated by Community Service Volunteers (CSV), in consultation with participating library services and local authorities, the DCMS and the ACU (Home Office Active Community Unit). The time span of the pilot is three years. Shared Intelligence who act as independent evaluators are evaluating the projects periodically throughout this period. There is also a National Reference Group that includes representatives from DCMS, ACU and CILIP.

CSV thinks public libraries provide an important service, and one in which more opportunities to involve volunteers are greatly needed as they can bring a real and lasting improvement to the quality and range of services. In Knowsley the community will benefit by having an enhanced information base in the archives, and schemes such as the Reading Group for visually impaired residents. Volunteers will benefit too, not only by making a contribution towards their community, but also by developing new skills. They gain work experience, share expertise, gain a reference and meet new people whilst developing a personal interest.

The volunteers can become involved in a range of innovative projects and can also be involved in more than one project at any time.

The main focus of the Lending Time project in Knowsley is the creation of a social archive. The archive in Knowsley at present contains mostly local authority material and archivist Eileen Hume decided that what was lacking was the social history of the area. Volunteers are documenting their local community through photography, taking a "snapshot" of their community today. Events and experiences are being photographed alongside buildings and places of natural beauty. With the aid of digital recording equipment, volunteers are also able to record reminiscences. These are being transcribed and archived. Some of the material is being included in another project, "The Past Goes Live", which is an interactive web interpretation of National Curriculum material for Key Stage 2 pupils. The images, research and recordings

are being incorporated into the 'World War Two' and 'Britain Since 1930' sections. This site, on the Knowsley Education Intranet, focuses on these time periods, as well as the Victorians, but includes examples of the influence and effect the area of Knowsley had on events.

Other volunteers are mapping local graveyards and recording memorial inscriptions to aid family historians in their research. Other volunteers are helping sort and list material in the archive store so that full access can be facilitated.

Special projects of interest to the volunteers and of relevance to the area of Knowsley are also being undertaken. These include a history of Huyton College School, The BICC works in Prescot and details of the Atherton family. The development of the large housing estates in the area is also being documented. These areas are changing rapidly as large amounts of money are being used to upgrade buildings and provide facilities that are needed: all this needs to be documented for future generations.

Although local history has proved to be the most popular topic for volunteers to want to be involved with, other projects have been initiated. These include a reading group for visually impaired people, where volunteers are using their creativity to help words come alive: the Special Needs Librarian provides training to the volunteers. The volunteers even drive the bus that brings the visually impaired users into the library for the reading session.

The younger age group is not being forgotten either. Peer Mentors are being recruited for the 11 – 15 year olds; they will help their peers with homework and accessing library resources.

All the volunteering activities are coordinated by CSV. The Lending Time Knowsley Project Manager (unfortunately currently vacant) produces, in conjunction with library staff, the documentation required to support the project, recruiting and allocating projects to the volunteers and also organising feedback days and displays of work completed.

The project has been in progress for nearly 20 months now and is well on target. Year 2 and 3 projects are being or about to be undertaken. There are opportunities to suit any skill: it is possible to tailor each assignment to meet the needs of the volunteers.

We hope that the Lending Time Projects will set a framework for other local authorities to start thinking about using volunteers in public libraries. In Knowsley the Lending Time Project is providing the future residents of Knowsley with a valuable social archive. People are the greatest asset of any community. It is people who create history. In partnership with CSV, Knowsley Library Service is leading the way by recognising how volunteering can enable people to realise their potential, whilst also building the future.

For further information about Lending Time please contact Eileen Hume at Eileen.hume.dlcs@knowsley.gov.uk, or view the activities at <http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/leisure/lib/news/index/html>

Eileen Hume is Information and Heritage Coordinator, Knowsley Council

LOCAL STUDIES THEY WROTE: THE LITERATURE OF LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIANSHIP

Diana Dixon

There is a thriving body of literature worldwide on the collection and development of local history material. The first major pronouncement dates from 1878 when W.H.K. Wright spoke about 'Special collections of books in provincial libraries' ¹ at the first annual meeting of the Library Association. He ensured that local history collections were recognised and he also discussed their current provision in Britain. Many nineteenth-century British antiquarians, historians and librarians compiled bibliographies of local material and the result is an impressive quantity of substantial county bibliographies, such as *Bibliotheca Cestrensiensis* and *Bibliotheca Buckinghamiensis*.² Although the momentum for compiling such major bibliographical works slowed down in the twentieth century, a few such as the *Lancashire bibliography* and the *Kent bibliography* have appeared. Bibliographical compilations are no longer the essence of local studies writing and attention has moved away from recording material to ways of exploiting and organising it.

During World War I an identifiable literature on local studies librarianship emerged. Articles in *Library World* by Berwick Sayers posed questions on defining a local history collection and its organisation³. These may have stimulated a number of librarians to publish their library catalogues, making historians and others aware of the rich resources contained in their local history collections. Among these the printed catalogues of Birmingham, Gloucestershire and Liverpool remain useful to historians, although with the increasing availability of OPACs their significance wanes.

The growth of substantial municipal collections ensured that matters of administration and organisation were of great concern to their custodians. The uniqueness and specificity of the materials meant that existing schemes for cataloguing and classification did not readily accommodate them, prompting a series of articles in *Library World* in the late 1920s⁴. In 1933 Ormerod's *How to catalogue a local history collection* ⁵ might have encouraged Berwick Sayers to bring out his ground breaking *Library local history collections*⁶. This examined the collection, types of material, arrangement, cataloguing and classification, and exploitation. A classic of its kind it remained the Bible of local studies librarianship until 1948 when J.L.Hobbs's *Libraries and the materials of local history*⁷ was published. Replacing Sayers, it became indispensable for all local studies librarians and was revised by George Carter⁸ in 1973. Despite the growth of excellent local history collections in North American state libraries, state historical libraries and public libraries, there was no equivalent of Hobbs in North America and until 1979 American librarians were still being urged to consult Hobbs. However, in 1979 the ALA published Thompson's *Local history collections: a manual for libraries*⁹ which was intended for historical societies and universities and was particularly concerned with issues of conservation and legal deposit.

By the late 1970s local studies was firmly established as part of the library schools' curriculum and it was for this market that Harold Nichols wrote his introductory textbook, *Local studies librarianship*¹⁰. This went beyond previous works in its

discussion of assistance to readers, publicity and displays. In recent years the most substantial contribution to the literature in the United Kingdom has come from Michael Dewe with his *Manual of local studies librarianship*, complemented by a second volume in 1991 and a completely new volume in 2002¹¹.

Despite the continuing preoccupation with organisational matters, strategic changes were being discussed in Britain in the 1970s. This was due largely to Dorothy McCulla's inspirational paper at the 1977 LA Conference in Scarborough¹². She pointed out that there had been few changes since the 1890s in the way in which large libraries met their requirement to collect material relating to their locality and the time was ripe for greater cooperation between museums, archives and libraries to gather material in single designated repositories. Her thinking undoubtedly influenced the establishment of joint local studies heritage centres. Her views were not entirely original, as an article in *New Zealand Libraries*¹³ in 1951 urged greater coordination for collecting historical records and in America such views had already been voiced in *Illinois Libraries* and *Texas Libraries*¹⁴. The Annual Conference of Scottish Librarians in 1984 carried a paper urging greater cooperation and the same theme was reiterated later on in France¹⁵. Northern Ireland too has been particularly innovative in this area and a number of articles in the *Local Studies Librarian*¹⁶ outline some of the developments towards establishing regional studies centres. Scandinavia and France are both well advanced in this respect. However, not everyone has taken such an enthusiastic stance and in 1998 David Rimmer, an archivist, launched a hard-hitting attack on regional studies centres, preferring archives, museums and libraries to continue with separate collections¹⁷. The lively debate that followed is likely to continue.

Until the 1970s the emphasis was firmly on the printed word, including newspapers, maps and photographs but it was apparent that these materials were becoming increasingly vulnerable to the ravages of physical deterioration and theft. It was recognised that such materials are unique and, that unless steps were taken to preserve and conserve them they could be irretrievably lost. The idea was not new. In 1941 an article in *Pennsylvania Libraries and Museum Notes*¹⁸ indicated the need to preserve materials but most of the early articles on the subject were more concerned with collecting rather than conserving valuable material. There was an awareness that valuable material could be inadvertently destroyed with a 1942 article begging librarians to think carefully before sending irreplaceable material for paper salvage for the war effort¹⁹.

Attitudes changed irrevocably following the Florence floods in 1996 and disastrous fires in Los Angeles and Norwich libraries: these all made librarians consider the external threat to their collections. Although the literature of preservation and conservation is not specific to local studies, much of what it contains is of prime importance and it cannot be ignored. The United States was ahead with a number of important conferences in the 1960s and 1970s. In Britain things only really changed after publication of the Ratcliffe report in 1984²⁰ which resulted in the setting up of the National Preservation Office and a number of research projects funded by the British Library²¹. Similarly the work of IFLA through its Preservation Advisory Committee (PAC) makes an important international contribution to preservation issues and disaster planning. A number of guidelines by IFLA have been published, and also nationally as in Australia²².

Although not distinguished by this name until the 1990s, surrogacy is now regarded as the obvious means of allowing public access to vulnerable and fragile materials. For instance, the rapid physical deterioration of nineteenth-century newspapers meant the New York Public Library started microfilming them in the 1930s. In the UK the NEWSPLAN programme has both audited and facilitated the exchange of information about microfilming newspapers since 1984. The process has been accelerated by the grant of £5 million from the Heritage Lottery fund and has stimulated an informative web site²³. As a sideline *Guidelines for the preservation microfilming of newspapers* (1996) have been produced along with those for reader printers and in 2002 IFLA published *Managing the preservation of periodicals and newspapers*²⁴.

In recent years digitisation has become a major component of the literature of local studies. Work in the Rhône Alpes region of France demonstrated how it was possible to digitise local studies photographs and make them available on CD ROM. Cheap reproduction methods have led to a proliferation of initiatives in the UK and overseas. The *Local Studies Librarian* regularly carries articles outlining exciting new projects varying from 'Pretty pixels in Kirkcaldy' to the 'Sheffield Time Machine'²⁵. The Internet too means that material can be made available on an international basis and the success of the Croydon libraries, the Virginia Digital initiative and the Colorado digital program serve as a model for all. Newspaper indexes, too, can be accessed via the web from library authorities such as Bexley. The literature is full of descriptions of such initiatives, as well as helpful advisory material such as Anne Kenney's work on digital imaging for libraries and archives²⁶ and our own Virtually new²⁷. Clearly technological advances will continue to dominate the literature of local studies librarians in the future.

Technology has revolutionised the whole question of access to collections and the way in which local studies librarians are regarded. It is far removed from the perceived curatorial role with a distinct cosy, white middle class image. The development of oral history and genealogy stimulated demands on the collection from all sectors of society leading to a number of studies in the 1990s on use and also on ways to promote and publicise the collections to everyone. In conjunction with NEWSPLAN, studies have been carried out throughout the UK on the way in which people use local newspapers.

Local studies has been involved in education for a long time and the growth of project-based learning led to heavy demand from schools. Patrick Baird outlined the way in which Birmingham cooperated with local schools²⁸. How to produce learning packs has been featured in the literature and a number of articles from the United States and Scandinavia discuss producing appropriate material for use with schools. Libraries in the former Soviet Union were urged to help schools to encourage local identities by providing local folklore societies and other promotional activities. With their customary dedication and inventiveness, local studies librarians have devised attractions such as local history walks, literary festivals and exhibitions. These range from Napoleon and Polish history in Poznan to commemorating the birth of a local celebrity in Sussex. Additionally local history weeks, local history fairs and story-telling sessions all gain healthy representation in the literature.

Besides the fun of making the collection come alive, local studies librarians devote considerable energy to bidding for funding, and performance measurement and best value targets are all part of the everyday work of a local studies librarian but they receive less attention in the literature.

Standards and guidelines to ensure that the best possible service is provided remain important. In 1990 the LA *Guidelines for local studies provision in public libraries*²⁹ were well regarded and a model of their kind. In Australia too considerable effort was put into producing guidelines for various aspects of local studies librarianship³⁰. In the US RASD published brief guidelines in 1979³¹. Nowadays guidelines exist for a vast range of activities associated with local studies. The recently published LA Local Studies Group guidelines³² are unique in the broadness of their coverage and their emphasis on social inclusion, diversity and technology.

So rich is the literature of local studies that the Local Studies Group decided in 1997 to commission an international bibliography of the subject. This, *Local studies librarianship a world bibliography*³³ appeared at the end of 2001 and lists 1646 items. The healthy growth of writing on local studies means that it is already out of date. Local studies is alive and has a thriving literary output. To this end it seems appropriate and timely to advocate that an annual bibliography on the subject be published in the *Local Studies Librarian*.

Diana Dixon is Hon. Secretary of the Local Studies Group and is at present completing a Ph.D at University College, London.

²⁹ W.H.K. Wright, 'Special collections of books in provincial libraries' in *Transactions and proceedings of the first annual general meeting of the Library Association in the United Kingdom*, 1878 - Whittingham, 1879.

³⁰ These were the subject of a study by Linda Julian, An assessment of local and regional bibliographies in England. MA thesis, Loughborough, 1984.

³¹ Berwick Sayers, 'Local collection problems' *Library World* April (1916) 287-9; June (1916) 340-3; September (1916) 60-4; January (1917) 177-80.

³² Ormerod, J. The cataloguing and classification of local literature and antiquities *Library World* 29 (1926-27) 147-52; 168-74; The cataloguing and classification of local literature and antiquities *Library World* 30 (1928) Classification of local collections. *Library World* 30 (1929) 207.

³³ Ormerod, J. *How to catalogue a local history collection*. Birmingham: Combridge 1933.

³⁴ Berwick Sayers, *Library local history collections*. Allen and Unwin, 1939.

³⁵ J.L. Hobbs, *Libraries and the materials of local history*. Grafton 1948 revised as *Local history and the library*. Deutsch 1962.

³⁶ George Carter, *J.L. Hobbs's local history and the library*. Deutsch 1973.

³⁷ E. Thompson, *Local history collections: a manual for libraries*. Chicago: American Library Association 1979.

³⁸ Harold Nichols, *Local studies librarianship*. Bingley, 1979.

³⁹ Michael Dewe, *A manual of local studies librarianship*. Gower 1987; *Local studies collections: a manual*. Gower, 1991 and *Local studies collection management*. Ashgate, 2002.

⁴⁰ Dorothy H McCulla, *The right to know, the privilege to tell and the power to conserve*. In *Proceedings, papers and summaries of the discussions held at the National Conference held at Scarborough, 9th-9th September 1976*. The Library Association 1976, 50-3.

⁴¹ M.W. Simdich, 'Historical records'. *New Zealand Libraries* 14 (1951) 42-4.

⁴² W. de John, 'Interlibrary cooperation to provide access to local documents in Illinois'. *Illinois Libraries* 57 (1975) 286-7; and M.K. Donahoe 'Expanding the role of local history collections into neighbourhood information centers'. *Texas Library Journal* 51 (Fall 1974) 33-4.

⁴³ John Riddle, 'Collecting French regional history'. *Collection Management* 8 (Summer 1986) 63-77.

⁴⁴ John Killeen, 'Cooperation in Northern Ireland: local studies provision and the providers'. *Local Studies Librarian* 11 (1) (1992) 12-15 and D. Lammey, Regional studies centres: the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland's latest outreach venture. *Local Studies Librarian* 17 (2) (1998) 5-7.

⁴⁵ David Rimmer, The organisation of local studies: a permissive view. *Local Studies Librarian* 17(2) (1998) 11-13.

⁴⁶ W. W. Bryson 'Methods of preserving local history'. *Pennsylvania Libraries and Museum Notes* 18 (January 1941) 17-18.

⁴⁷ E. R. Yarham, 'Salvage and history'. *Librarian and Book World* 31 (May 1942) 158-9; (June 1942) 76-81.

⁴⁸ P. W. Ratcliffe, ed. *Preservation policies and conservation in British libraries*. Library and information report 25, British Library 1984.

⁴⁹ Eden P. Feather and Matthews M. 'Preservation and library management'. *Library Management* 15 (4) (1994) 5-11 is a good example.

⁵⁰ *Local history: conservation and restoration procedures for public libraries*. Sydney: Library Association of Australia 1980.

⁵¹ Information about NEWSPLAN is available at: www.bl.uk/collections/npln and bl.uk/concord.

⁵² Jennifer Budd ed. *Managing the preservation of periodicals and newspapers*. IFLA 2002.

⁵³ Janet Klak 'Pretty pixels: digital imaging in Kirkcaldy'. *Local Studies Librarian* 16 (2) (1997) 2-9. M. Spick 'Entrepreneurship and the Sheffield Time Machine'. *Local Studies Librarian* 19 (2) (2000) 5-6.

⁵⁴ Anne Kenney, *Digital imaging for libraries and archives*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP 1996.

⁵⁵ *Virtually new: creating the digital collection*. LINC, 1998.

⁵⁶ Patrick C. Baird, *Local studies and education: a librarian's viewpoint*. Study school and national conference proceedings. Brighton 1978. Library Association 1979, 143-4.

⁵⁷ Diana Winterbottom, *Guidelines for local studies provision in public libraries*. LA, 1990.

⁵⁸ J. Flint and J. Franklin, *Local studies guidelines for organizing and indexing resources*. 2nd ed. Sydney: LAIA New South Wales Branch, 1985.

⁵⁹ RASD Guidelines for establishing local history collections. *RQ* 18 (Fall 1979) 42-3.

⁶⁰ Don Martin ed. *Local Studies Libraries: guidelines for local studies libraries*. Library Association Publishing 2002.

⁶¹ Diana Dixon, *Local studies librarianship a world bibliography*. Library Association Publishing 2001.

OUR REGION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: Local History Month in Yorkshire and Humberside

Elizabeth Melrose

A second Local History Month took place across Yorkshire and Humberside in October. Local studies librarians and archivists, all represented on the Yorkshire and Humberside Local History Librarians' Group and supported by Yorkshire Libraries and Information, built on the success of the previous experience two years before. A bid for funding to assist with promotion and publicity was sent to the Yorkshire Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and was successful. The grant will help to pay for the production of the regional programme, 'Our region in the twentieth century: local history in Yorkshire and Humberside', which was distributed to the public, and for some promotional events.

Over eighty-three talks, lectures and displays were highlighted. There was a great variety – only some examples can be given here. Sheffield showed off the unusual bindings held in the library collections. The East Riding, Hull and Kirklees provided popular guided walking tours. North Yorkshire asked library users for their memories to create timelines: Wakefield launched their nof-digi website "*Twixt Aire and Calder*" and Doncaster presented talks on '*High days and holidays*'. Barnsley offered the public photographic exhibitions, while Rotherham and Bradford encouraged their users to view and explore the resources of their Local Studies Libraries, and Leeds gave a prize for the best family legend, "*Tales your Granny told you*".

Other associations joined in the Month also: among these were the Northallerton and District Local History Society, which organised three distinct local history Saturday conferences. The Old Western Synagogue in Hull had an Open day with a buffet lunch and the Bradford Industrial Museum sponsored the Bradford City Football Club Centenary Exhibition.

One of the conditions of the YMLAC grant was that there should be an honest appraisal of the month. Event organisers had to cost the number of hours they spent planning displays and organising speakers and this was often salutary. However evaluation forms handed out at some venues showed that the effort was always worthwhile. 1,350 people passed through a two-day exhibition of Stokesley history in the Town Hall while a fifth of the evaluation forms at Barnsley's Local History Fair indicated that the attendees had not attended a similar event in the past but would certainly do so in the future.

Elizabeth Melrose writes on behalf of the YLI Local History Librarians' Group

LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTIONS AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: A PhD research project

Marie E Nolan

In May 2003, a proposal was submitted to the Arts and Humanities Research Board requesting funding for research into local studies collections in further and higher education establishments in the United Kingdom. The proposal was approved and work has now begun on a PhD to be completed in late 2006 at the Department of Information Management at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. The Director of Studies is Dr Peter Reid.

As Derryan Paul and Michael Dewe have noted, 'Local studies collections in Great Britain have traditionally been the responsibility of public libraries.'¹ Local investigation itself, however, is becoming increasingly popular within academia. While arguably once considered a lesser activity in comparison to wider historical research, it is now acknowledged, as Margaret Bryant put it, that investigations at a local level can 'actualize and substantiate' those 'generalizations' that history, as a discipline, has tended to focus on.² Furthermore, although a strong association remains between the two, local studies is no longer confined to the ranks of the history department; it is, instead, as we know, actualising and substantiating the generalisations thrown up by many different disciplines. Newcastle College, for instance, cites subjects as diverse as art, business and science when describing the role of its local studies collection.³

However, despite the broadening appeal of local studies within university and college study, the value of the collections that support this type of investigation remains itself under-investigated. Indeed, the last major study of this subject was conducted almost twenty years ago, in 1984. Paul and Dewe surveyed a number of universities, polytechnics and colleges on their local studies collections, but acknowledged that the study, based on sixty-six questionnaire responses, represented 'no more than a preliminary inquiry into the scope and administration of collections which have not been examined before as a whole.' They noted that 'there is much more that could usefully be done,' adding that 'it would be particularly helpful to know more about the practice of individual libraries and to have some discussion of the total range of local and regional collections held in specific institutions.'⁴

The aim of the recently commenced PhD study is to provide this more thorough investigation. Not only will the inquiry be contemporary, but those issues not covered in the 1984 survey will be addressed: individual practices are to be more fully investigated and collections will be analysed for content and scope, and inventoried to enable the compilation of a comprehensive register of local studies holding in academic libraries. However, perhaps most significantly, the role of local studies collections and their impact on both the theory and practice of teaching, learning, and research within universities and colleges will be examined and the importance of these collections assessed.

In order to carry out the study successfully, several objectives have been defined. Definitions of 'local studies' will be examined in order to determine the different

interpretations suggested by this term - historical or geographical, for instance. An analysis of the relationship between local studies collections and institutions' curricula and research activity will also be undertaken, allowing the influence of the collections and the parent institutions' approaches to study on one another to be established. The acquisition and management of collections will be studied, including an examination of information technology's contribution to the organisation and use of local studies material. Users of these collections, of course, often include visitors from outside the institution, so access by external users, a potentially quite considerable issue, will also be investigated with a view to assessing its impact on this service. Indeed, looking at users' perceptions, as well as those of collection managers, will also help to establish the value placed on local studies collections by the libraries concerned and their institutions. Other influences that might shape a library's priorities, such as financial concerns or the institution's principal 'catchment area' will also be considered.

To summarise, the aims and objectives are:

Aims:

- To examine the content and scope of local studies collections within further and higher education libraries in the United Kingdom.
- To investigate the effects local studies collections have on pedagogy, learning and research within these colleges and universities.
- To compile an inventory of local studies collections in academic libraries.

Objectives:

- To identify and examine definitions of 'local studies'.
- To analyse the relationship between local studies collections, the curriculum, and research.
- To investigate the acquisition, organisation and management of local studies collections.
- To examine external influences, including non-institutional users, on local studies collections.
- To identify and analyse the value placed on local studies collections within academic institutions by both managers and users.

While an ongoing review of secondary literature relating to local studies and academia will be a necessary component of the research, the principal method of study will consist of primary investigation. To begin with, questionnaires will be distributed to all college and university libraries in the United Kingdom, with an appropriate number of users to be included as respondents. While questionnaire responses will provide useful results, it will be necessary to follow up on this technique in order to enable more significant knowledge to be gained on collections and their relationship to the institutions. A representative sample will, therefore, be selected for case study analysis. In this way, interviews can be conducted with appropriate members of staff and with users, and visits made to libraries so that relevant documentation can be studied and specific practices observed.

It is intended that, by undertaking this research, a significant contribution will be made to an often neglected aspect of local studies librarianship. As Dewe commented, because there has been a tendency to view such collections as a 'public library specialism,' they are 'largely treated as such in much of the literature.'⁵ There is no question that the 1984 survey was valuable. Yet, by taking that study several stages further, a more comprehensive evaluation can be made of the role of local studies collections in academia. Not only will the study outlined here contribute to an understanding of academic institutions at the present time, but research in this area may prove valuable to those concerned with the future development of local studies, academic libraries, and the pedagogy they serve.

Marie E Nolan is a research student in the Department of Information Management, Aberdeen Business School, The Robert Gordon University, Garthdee Road, Aberdeen AB10 7QE. Email prs.Nolan@rgu.ac.uk

References:

- ¹ Paul, D. and Dewe, M. Local studies collections in academic libraries. Dewe, M. (ed.), *Local Studies Collections: a Manual Volume 1*. Aldershot: Gower, 1991, pp.52-69.
- ² Bryant, M.E. Review article. *Journal of Educational Administration and History*, 4(1), December 1971, pp.62-64.
- ³ Arnsby, A.F. and Morgan, L. Newcastle College local studies collection. *Local Studies Librarian*, 9(1), Spring 1990, pp.9-13.
- ⁴ Paul, D. and Dewe, M. *Op cit*.
- ⁵ Dewe, M. Introduction. Dewe, M. (ed.), *Local Studies Collections: a Manual Volume 1*. Aldershot: Gower, 1991, pp.1-6.

FROM OUR CILIP COUNCILLOR

The last meeting of CILIP Council was held in Manchester in early July immediately before the start of Umbrella 2003 and the day before the Local Studies Group Annual General Meeting. This seems a long while ago. CILIP meetings have been fragmented over the summer. A possible autumn meeting of Council to re-examine CILIP accounts was transformed into a correspondence email consideration of a revised budget while another outstanding meeting of the Policy Development Committee (PDC) was postponed for seven weeks. Eventually the committee timetable must be rationalised, as email discussion cannot cover all points of view. The PDC has produced a paper proposing, among other things, that a fast-track procedure should be put in place to deal with issues requiring speedy reflection and resolution.

However, the July Council meeting did have a useful outcome in that CILIP took another look at balancing the budget in the next financial year. The corporate plan does aspire to much that could be undermined by economic restraints – the website and the information society agenda for example – and Council was insistent that there should be priorities and a hard look at costings. Included in important core activities should be the work of Groups and Branches.

Other issues of interest to the Local Studies Group were:

- membership figures – student recruitment had risen in the past year. The Local Studies Group might consider capitalising on this with a positive programme of promotion in this sector;
- the need for focus and precision in the language of rules for Groups and Branches – this echoed the comments of the LSG committee at its last meeting;
- the councillor representing the Library and Information Research Group (LIRG) suggested that librarians completing in-house research for their organisations should be allowed to present this as part of their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) portfolios;
- the Policy Development Committee will invite a representative from Resource to its next meeting to start a dialogue over the Citizens' Agenda – information literacy, continuous learning, culture;
- all committees are urged to consider the 'Spectrum' project – part of CILIP's Corporate Plan for 2003 and the responsibility of the Equal Opportunities and Diversity Panel. This programme originated in the USA with the creation of bursaries for students from minority ethnic backgrounds, not advocating positive discrimination, but rather the evening up of opportunities for certain communities. CILIP is consulting with Branches and Groups on what type of Spectrum programme might be useful in this country.

Two further items of direct interest to LSG:

- As a member of the Policy Development Committee, which feeds into Council, I am contributing to CILIP's discussion forum on the consultation paper on 'Proposed National Records and Archives Legislation'. This consultation has a very short deadline and is being conducted by electronic message board. The consultation includes the important issue of the long-term preservation of electronic and digital records and whether this should be the responsibility of a central authority such as the National Archives.
- I am being kept in touch with the IFLA Family History and genealogy Section through their list-serv. The committee members are producing a form requesting details of family history resources held by national libraries. As well as this their twice-yearly newsletter will be circulated towards the end of the year.

Elizabeth Melrose
Tel: 01609 767800

email: elizabeth.melrose@northyorks.gov.uk

 **cilip**
Chartered Institute of
Library and Information
Professionals

FROM OUR SUBGROUPS

LOCSCOT, our Scottish sub-group, reports a very successful meeting on 'Graveyards and Gravestones' in October. It included a guided tour of the Glasgow Necropolis, during which many of the different types of tombstones and inscriptions to be found in a city graveyard were described. The excellent attendance may have been in part due to the fact that the 2004 Scottish Local History Week (17th-24th April) will also be on the theme of graveyards and gravestones. LOCSCOT hopes to compile a *Bibliography of Scottish Graveyards* to link in with the Week. Meanwhile, the AGM, along with a Day School on oral history, is planned for March.

Midlands and Anglia report the success of their Day School on 'New Directions in Family History', held in October. Over 40 people attended, and the assessment carried out (41 forms were returned) produced a very high satisfaction rate. The topics included provision for family history in libraries (Richard Harvey); new developments online from the PRO (Helen Campbell, PRO); and an overview of the most important family history websites (Jean Archdeacon). The subgroup's AGM was also held during the day, and there is still room for more volunteers to sit on the committee (particularly from the West Midlands). The Newsletter continues to be published.

The North West Sub-group had a very successful visit to the Anderton Boat Lift, where over 30 members had a trip on the lift down to the Weaver River, and the visitor centre gave a good account of the renovation work. There was also a visit to the Salt Museum in Northwich where, in addition to exploring the museum, delegates also heard a talk on the Mersey Gateway, a NOF funded digitisation project on Merseyside. Lynn Knowling has put the Newsletter and other material on the subgroup's website and a small subcommittee is considering how the page could be expanded. The AGM was held at Northwich: there were several changes in personnel, with Alice Lock becoming Secretary and Eileen Hume taking over as Treasurer. Morris Garratt remains as Chair. It is hoped run the postponed day school on funding in Liverpool in March. Plans for printing some of the contributions to the day school on 'Looking forward to looking back' are still progressing.

In Northern Ireland, LISC continues to be very active. In September the annual seminar, on Copyright, attracted some 50 people. Open to everyone interested/involved in the field of local studies research and publishing, the programme provided an enlightening, if at times alarming, day. Speakers included Tim Padfield (National Archives), and Roger Dixon and Clifford Harkness (Ulster Folk and Transport Museum). The second Newsplan survey has been carried out in libraries throughout Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Reminiscence Network held a conference on 'Reminiscence and Community Integration', with a wide range of delegates. LISC is encouraging all Education and Library Boards to take part in the BBC's 'People's War' initiative, and Local Studies Departments will provide backup and advice.

The Welsh and London and Home Counties sub-groups are in suspension at the moment, mainly due to lack of committee members. If anyone would like to help in

seeing them resume activities, please contact the respective sub-group representatives, Mick Scott (London and Home Counties) – m.scott@ms.corpoflondon.uk, or Rheinallt Llwyd (Welsh) – rhl@aber.ac.uk

LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR 2003

The Local Studies Group is delighted to present the Dorothy McCulla Award for 2003 to Ruth Gordon, Local Studies Development Librarian for Derbyshire. It recognises her many-sided achievements in the years before and after local government reorganisation in the 1990s, including a leading involvement in two lottery funded projects – *Peakland Heritage* (about which an article appeared in our last issue) and *Picture the Past*. She has also served for many years as chair of the regional Newsplan group and works hard to link local studies work across the region in other ways, for example coordinating the services provided by Derbyshire and the unitary city of Derby and also working with the East Midlands Local Studies Forum. Her work has not gone unrecognised previously as she was awarded a Centenary Medal by the Library Association. Her achievement in winning the award is the greater as there were other very strong nominations.

Perhaps this is the place to urge more librarians to make nominations for this prestigious award: there are many local studies librarians doing excellent and innovative work who ought at least to be given the chance to win it. The nominator does not have to be a chief librarian – nominations are welcomed, for instance, from line managers, colleagues and service users: the nominee must, however, be a member of the Local Studies Group. Start thinking about it now so that you can be ready with your nomination when they are called for later in the year.

Details about the Award can be obtained from our Hon. Secretary, Diana Dixon.

HAVE YOU SEEN...?

Some recent items of interest to local studies librarians

DEWE, Michael, ed. *Local studies collection management*. Ashgate, 2002. 196pp. £45.00. ISBN: 0 566 083655.

This book's stated aims are: 'to provide an overview account of local studies librarianship, to offer practical guidance on various aspects of local studies work, such as collection management, and to report on developing areas of local studies activity...' [p.xi]

Its text, ably edited by Michael Dewe, is divided into nine chapters – many of whose authors will be familiar names to readers of the *Local Studies Librarian*: Michael Dewe ('Local studies and libraries', 'Resource providers', 'The International context and the future in the UK'); Elizabeth Melrose ('Management'); Jill Barber ('Materials', 'Marketing'); Diana Dixon ('Collection management'); Eileen Hume and Alice Lock ('Information access and retrieval'); and Nicola Smith ('Enquiries')

Chapter one (Local studies and libraries) issues a salutary reminder to those of us employed in English local authorities, that we alone are blessed with the (as yet incomplete) volumes of the *Victoria County History* (1899-). Not surprisingly 'social inclusion' gets its first mention as early as page four. Its up-to-the-minuteness in describing various central government initiatives (Lifelong Learning Plans, Local Cultural Plans, Library and Information Plans) is a particular strength. The chapter also provides a good overview of where we've come from, where we are now – and the current role of the Local Studies Group.

Within chapter two (Resource providers), I was pleasantly brought up-to-date with news of recent administrative changes by one of my former employers – and the creation of the Merton Local Studies Centre (London). The perennial discussion over the merits (or otherwise) of local studies centres gets another useful airing. This is of particular interest to me at the moment, since there is a possibility that we may be travelling down that particular route in Dorset. Some slightly surprising Resource providers, such as art galleries and historic houses, are listed – though their inclusion is well-justified. However, some 'registry offices' [p.37] ought to become 'register offices' in any subsequent reprint.

Predictably, perhaps, chapter three, on Management, covers some of the difficult issues that time-pressed local studies librarians have traditionally ignored or shied away from: departmental audits, SWOT analysis, Best Value Performance Plans (the '4Cs' mantra), mission statements, action plans, monitoring and evaluation exercises... However, such isolationist tendencies are no longer to be tolerated in our Brave New Millennium – if indeed they ever were. It did come as a slight relief to read that 'the application of management principles are not only straightforward but largely a matter of common sense' [p.62] – hurrah! This particular chapter benefited from the author's extensive consultations with an additional 17 practitioners in the field – and due acknowledgment is given.

Chapter four (Materials) provides an exhaustive survey of material types likely to be encountered within the modern local studies collection, from the humble pamphlet to CD-ROMs and the Internet. There is, however, some unavoidable duplication of content with that appearing in chapter one (county histories, VCH) but this does not detract from its usefulness. The section dealing with the Ordnance Survey would appear to be somewhat confused over 'national grid' and 'county series' sheets.

Given the title of chapter five (Collection management), it could easily be assumed to be the very essence of this publication. Indeed, one could possibly argue that all the other chapters are superfluous – though I think that would be a mistake. Several knotty problems concerning Collection development are addressed informatively, such as decisions on purchasing material on local authors and celebrities. The Barbara Cartland/Birmingham case study is described as a useful example. Topographical collection policies are also discussed with the same pragmatic style and it is made abundantly clear that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not an option. Treating each case on its own merits seems to be the generally favoured route. The remaining sub-topics of Collection evaluation and review and Preservation and conservation are treated in somewhat lesser detail.

Chapter six is devoted to Information access and retrieval and among numerous topics, discusses the current vogue for digitising, digitising, digitising! Quite properly the authors (as in other chapters), defer to the recommendations contained within the Local Studies Group's own *Guidelines* (2002) when considering digitisation of local studies materials. The planning of a digitisation project is treated in some detail, with useful reference being made to the Higher Education Digitisation Service (HEDS), based at Hertfordshire University. 'Cataloguing', 'Classification', 'Indexing' and 'The Internet and other ICT applications' complete the contents of this full and wide-ranging chapter.

Marketing (chapter seven) kicks-off with a useful hook on which to hang a marketing strategy – namely the '4Ps' (Product, Price, Place and Promotion). After Identifying the market and Developing an action plan it comes down to the Evaluation and review stage, where your strategy's objectives are assessed. Apparently, this is best achieved by the setting of targets, which ought to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-related). Obviously, the local studies librarian is now expected to possess the skills of a marketing guru – on top of ECDL and the rest!

Chapter eight (Enquiries) not surprisingly features the omnipresent www, providing several well-known, though incredibly useful website addresses. Staff training and 'Self-help' (if only!) also benefit from a general airing – along with Services to enquirers and Publications. A case study succeeds in reinforcing some often overlooked points when face-to-face across the enquiry desk.

Michael Dewe rounds off the volume with Chapter nine (The International context and the future in the UK) – an all-embracing and thought-provoking discussion, in which he re-visits several topics from earlier chapters, for instance resource providers, cooperation, and cataloguing. His take on what the future might hold

places great emphasis on just how universal the convergence/integration of library, archive and museum services might become. Are they, as stated here, three integral parts of a greater whole? Cooperation is clearly seen as the cement that binds us together – made even stronger through the liberating influence of information technology in all its multifarious facets. Finally, there is a persuasive plea for the creation of a national plan for local studies – which would ultimately lead to a UK-wide local studies libraries strategy. Only time will tell if this is to be anything more than wishful thinking...

Purchased in conjunction with the LSG's own *Guidelines*, this book covers all you'll need to know on local studies collections for some considerable time to come. Its chapter-end bibliographical notes are a treasure-trove in themselves! Furthermore, don't be put off by its less-than-inspiring dustjacket – as a practitioner in the field I commend it to you.

Robin Ansell, County Local Studies Librarian, Dorset.

Nevell, M. and Roberts, J. The Park Bridge ironworks and the archaeology of the wrought iron industry in north west England, 1600-1900. Tameside MBC, 102pp. £7.95. 2003. £7.95+p&p. ISBN 1 871324 27 0. [The Archaeology of Tameside vol.3].

This well presented volume deals with recent excavations and survey work at one of the area's most important industrial heritage sites. It describes the rise and decline of the ironworks and places Park Bridge in its regional context. Produced in conjunction with the Field Archaeology Unit of Manchester University, it includes maps, drawings, plans and photographs. There is a substantial list of sources and a list of surviving remains of the iron industry in north west England. This is a substantial and well produced book for the local historian at a very reasonable price and is one of a series on the archaeology of Tameside: it is good to see a local authority producing a series of works of this kind.

East Lothian 1945-2000: East Lothian Fourth Statistical Account, ed. S. Baker. Vol. 1. The County. East Lothian Council Library Service for the East Lothian Fourth Statistical Account Society, 2003. 288pp. £19.95+p&p. ISBN 1 897857 34 9.

Most historians are aware of the importance of the three series of *Statistical Accounts* of Scotland published over the last 200 years. This major project attempts to provide an up to date account for East Lothian and is on a large scale. This first volume covers general topics in a series of essays, and it is to be followed by five further volumes on the individual towns and villages. Over sixty expert authors have contributed to this volume: the chapters are fairly short and include a wide range of tables, diagrams and statistics. There is a substantial and detailed index.

Unlike the national bases for the first to third *Accounts*, this work for East Lothian is a standalone effort by a society set up specially for the purpose. On first evidence it seems to be a successful "labour of love" which will become a major reference work about the area. East Lothian Library Service is to be congratulated on the design and production of this work, which has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. There is also a CD Rom version in preparation which includes some additional material.

Wilde, F. Chetham's Library, Manchester, 1653-2003, *The Local Historian* 33(4), Nov 2003, 221-225.

A brief account of recent progress and developments at the library, whose collections have a strong emphasis on the local history of north west England, including cataloguing, conservation and the repair and restoration of the library buildings.

NOTES AND NEWS

The new IFLA Section, Genealogy and Family History, covers subjects ranging across the field of local studies. At IFLA's World Library and Information Congress in Berlin in August the theme for the Section's Open Session focused on co-operation among libraries, archives and museums. An appreciative audience heard four lively views of collaboration. Professor Martin of the US Institute of Museums and Library Services explained how his institution underwrites co-operative library, museum and heritage centre programmes through federal funding and national leadership grants. Ruth Hedegaard of the Vendyssel Historical Museum in Denmark gave an introduction to the NOKS database www.noks.dk whereby the catalogues of nine institutions, archives, and museums can be accessed through the same internet portal. In Norway cultural associations will be expected to integrate their efforts in the future and Bozena Rasmussen described how, in her own small-town community of Gjerdrum, this has resulted in a combined library, museum and local archive. Elizabeth Melrose summarised the dilemmas and achievements of a NOF-digitisation project, comparing the North Yorkshire Unnetie Illustrations Project with other schemes involving collaboration across cultural sectors. The Section also organised tours in Berlin, to the Centre for Berlin Studies, and to the celebrated Jewish Museum with its Garden of Exile. Other memorable excursions arranged by IFLA during the conference were to the lakeside villa at Wannsee, where Heydrich in 1942 clarified the Final Solution, and to the memorials by the remains of the Berlin Wall. Anyone in the UK wanting to learn more about the IFLA Genealogy and Family History Section of IFLA should contact Janice Macfarlane, National Library of Scotland (jmcfarlane@nls.uk).

The Northern Ireland Publications Resource (NIPR) has launched its *Celebrating our Local History* competition. NIPR, based at the Linen Hall Library and Belfast Central Library, collects books, government publications, journals, community magazines and newsletters published since the year 2000, and the competition aims to highlight the availability of this archive. With prizes of £500, £200 and £100, it is open to everyone who has published a local history or biography in Northern Ireland since January 2000. The closing date is 30 March 2004 and the winners will be announced as soon as possible after that. Archive information and a bibliographic record of each publication held is available at the NIPR website: www.nibooks.org

The Newsplan database of 2,500 local newspapers is again available on the web (www.newsplan.co.uk). It has been developed and improved and, thanks to a grant from the Laser Foundation and the British Library, has been developed and improved and is now hosted by V3FM.

The second London Maze, hosted this year by the Guildhall Library and Guildhall Art Gallery, attracted over 2000 visitors. The event was devoted to London and its history and over 40 stalls from London's museums, archives, local studies libraries and historical societies were present. Also featured were local history talks, guided walks and visits, children's storytelling and even Victorian parlour magic.

Backtracks from Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre always provides interesting reading. The current issue records the establishment of a new website called 'Ten Generations' (www.tengenerations.org.uk). Camden, along with archives in Brent, Hackney, Islington and Westminster, as well as other organisations, have worked together to offer 300 years of history at the touch of a mouse. The website draws on the partners' stock to create a social and cultural history of north London over the last 300 years under seven main themes: Health, Homes, Leisure, Transport, Communities and Education. Users can explore aspects of London's history in a range of specially written 'learning journeys'. About 350 images from the Camden collections have been included. Also mentioned is a further donation of material from a member of the public and, in a note about a recent user survey, a comment that many more people now have access to the internet – 71.2% in 2002 compared with 43% in 1998.

Pathe News has made its entire 3,500 hours of film archive available online. This means that you can look up, for example, places in your own area and see stills of items which have appeared in newsreels. Sometimes these are surprisingly many, but the indexing under place is not always very specific and a general heading may produce false drops. Nevertheless a most interesting and useful tool. Log on to www.britishpathe.com

Following the retirement of Michael Cowan as Administrator of the British Association for Local History, Annmarie Jones has been appointed Business Manager and there has been a change of address. The BALH address is now: BALH, PO Box 6549, Somersal Herbert, ASHBOURNE DE6 5WH. Tel: 01283 585947, email: mail@balh.co.uk

There is no LSG subgroup in the South West because of membership numbers and geographical spread, although it is possible to have local studies related meetings through the main CILIP South West Branch. However, SWELLS (South West England Librarians in Local Studies) has now been established as a forum for local studies librarians. Apart from twice-yearly meetings on the same day as Newsplan, it is proposed to establish a web newsletter. As a start, Ian Maxted offered for a trial period to produce a special edition of the existing local studies newsletter from Devon County Library, which he edits, and which would incorporate news and articles from local studies librarians in the area. This seems to be an excellent idea to keep people in touch. A summary of discussions at the initial meeting already appears in the November issue (386) of the Devon newsletter, p3-5, address below.

Leicester University is hosting the NOF-funded Digitisation of Local Directories project, which continues to make good progress. By mid November there were 280 directories on-line, with 55 further volumes in the process of being scanned: this

is over half way towards the target. A considerable number of libraries are involved, though there are problems in obtaining volumes to digitise, especially in the priority decades of the 1850s, 1890s and 1910s, as they need to be in good condition and open flat. Phase 1 of the project finishes late in 2004 and the project is already making plans for its continuation. For further information and to offer help contact the project at www.historicaldirectories.org We hope to have an article on the project in our next issue.

Already mentioned above, the Devon County Local Studies Newsletter is worth taking a look at. Published monthly, and now available only electronically, it has now reached issue 387 (December 2003), a huge achievement for County Local Studies Librarian Ian Maxted. Although basically intended for Devon readers – its major part is a list of newly accessioned books about the county – it contains much material of interest to outsiders. Recent notes, for instance, have included a report on the latest meeting of BRICMICS (an organisation for map librarians), a comment on the recent LSG committee meeting, information on the NOF-funded Digitisation of Local Directories project, and a note on the BBC Legacies local history website. Some of the Devon-related material, e.g on the 2003 Newsplan survey of newspaper use in Devon, is of interest outside the county. The address for previous issues is <http://www.devon.gov.uk/library/locstudy/home4.html> and further information can be obtained from imaxted@devon.gov.uk

Just a reminder that LSG has a page on the CILIP website (www.cilip.org.uk/groups/lsg/index.html). This contains information about the Group and, among other things, lists of contents from LSL, though at present this is in the process of updating. The main contents of recent issues are as follows:

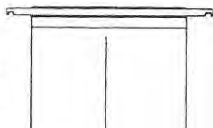
Vol 21(1) Summer 2002. Local studies collections; our untold stories [Gloucestershire]; Archive 2000 [Dudley]; emergency planning; creating a permanent digital archive of local materials; indexing local studies collections; from our CILIP councillor; LSG Treasurer's report and accounts; recent LSG publications; from our subgroups; notes and news; have you seen..?

Vol 21(2) Winter 2002. IFLA Glasgow 2002; Craggside, Northumberland; cataloguing the books; black history and local studies; local studies and social inclusion; local studies Librarian of the Year, 2002; LSG annual report, 2001; from our CILIP councillor; from our subgroups; Alan Ball local history awards, 2002; more recognition for local studies publications; community, collaboration and celebration: Vac, 2002; Notes and news.

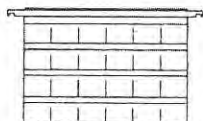
Vol. 22(1) Summer 2003. Jubilee: a short history of the first 25 years of LSG; Peakland heritage; local studies library services in Northern Ireland; from our subgroups; LSG annual report, treasurer's report and accounts, 2002; from our CILIP councillor; LSG committee 2003; Familia in peril; Alan Ball local history awards, 2003; notes and news; have you seen..?

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

Email: info@photofilling.com

Tel 01865 727292 Fax 01865 200051

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: TVBC@btinternet.com

Visit our web site at www.valentinecarronvale.btinternet.co.uk



MicroFormat

MicroFormat UK Limited

Image House,

344 High Street, Rochester,

Kent ME1 1JE

- Preservation microfilming
- Digital capture
- Microfilm duplication
- Reformatting roll to fiche
- Retrieval equipment



Telephone 01634 813751

Facsimile 01634 831557

archiving@microformat.co.uk

www.microformat.co.uk