

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 190, 14 September 2015: Refugee special issue

As many of you will know, this Ebulletin was one of the legacies of the “Welcome To Your Library” project, a national project connecting public libraries with refugees and asylum-seekers, which was funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and ran (in two phases) between 2004 and 2008. We have continued to have a focus on Migration, with items in each issue of the Ebulletin. In addition, the key documents produced by WTYL – and which are still useful – have been added to The Network website (see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/topics/migration/welcome-to-your-library>) alongside broader documents about migration, some of which have been updated – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/topics/migration>.

It’s important that we look urgently at what libraries, museums, archives and cultural heritage organisations can do in the current situation, especially to prepare for when new refugees (such as those coming from Syria) arrive in the UK, and we have drawn together a very basic guide – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/post/how-can-the-cultural-sector-support-refugees> .

However, this is still very much in its early stages, and I would like to ask if you could supply more ideas of what we could do, with examples and case-studies, all of which could then be added to this resource. They don’t have to be huge, expensive pieces of work – anything that you think would make a difference to the support we can offer refugees would be welcome.

Look forward to hearing from you.

John Vincent
The Network

14 September 2015

Thanks to Shirley Burnham for starting this off by saying how important the role of WTYL could be; and to Helen Carpenter for her continued support.