



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 284, 19 August 2019

Events

Events have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/courses>.

Funding & Opportunities

“Engaging libraries”

<https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/project/engaging-libraries/>

(Source: *CILIP Weekly News*, 14 Aug 2019)

“Engaging Libraries Phase 2 will support public libraries to run public engagement activities on research within the themes of health, society and culture. It will help to facilitate partnerships between public libraries and researchers, and spark people’s curiosity around topics that are relevant or interesting to them [...]

We are aiming to support around 20 projects. We expect projects to come on board late November 2019 and to spend 3-6 months further developing and refining their idea, with activities coming to a close in May 2021.”

Equality Act 2010

Enforcing the Equality Act: the law and the role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/1470/1470.pdf>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 15 Aug 2019)

Report of the HOC Women and Equalities Committee inquiry:

“We started this inquiry with a sense from our work over the past four years that for equalities legislation to be more effective the burden of enforcement needed to shift away from the individual facing discrimination. This inquiry has confirmed that not only is this burden too high, but that that the individual approach to enforcement of the Equality Act 2010, and its predecessors going back to the 1960s and 70s, is not fit for purpose. While individuals must still have the right to challenge discrimination in the courts, the system of enforcement should ensure that this is only rarely needed. This requires a fundamental shift in the way that enforcement of the Equality Act is thought about and applied. We want to see a model that can act as a sustainable deterrent to achieve system-wide change that tackles institutional and systemic discrimination.” [p3]

This includes:

“[...] making obligations on employers, public authorities and service providers explicit and enforceable; and ensuring that all who have powers to change the way in which employers, public bodies and service providers operate use those powers to eliminate discrimination and to advance equality.” [p3]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“When museum activism comes to life”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/q-a/11072019-museum-activism-comes-to-life?utm_campaign=1547709_08082019&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,X67X,27LU0M,3GUSH,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 8 Aug 2019)

MA Q&A session with Carrie Supple, founder of the Journey to Justice exhibition which is:

“[...] a travelling exhibition that takes an explicitly activist approach, founded with the aim of galvanising visitors to challenge injustice and ‘fight for social change’ [...]

Currently on display at the Library at Willesden Green in Brent, London (until 1 September), the exhibition tells local and international stories of those who have fought for civil and human rights, freedom and equality, and examines the events, themes and tactics that made those movements succeed.

Alongside the exhibition, the JtoJ charity runs arts and education events tailored to address local issues, and offers resources and training to inspire other organisations to take a more activist approach.”

“As tech changes homelessness, libraries roll with the punches”

https://techcrunch.com/2019/07/31/as-tech-changes-homelessness-libraries-roll-with-the-punches/?guce_referrer_us=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_cs=ZAJZWm0O_Lr91S2MibLhQA&guccounter=2

(Source: *STV Bulletin*, 272, Aug 2019)

Interesting US article which looks at the changing library demands from homeless people – and asks whether libraries are keeping up with them.

“Social Cohesion Means Survival | Sustainability”

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=social-cohesion-means-survival-sustainability>

(Source: *LJXpress – Library Journal*, 13 Aug 2019)

Starting with the effects of the recent heat-wave on people in the US, this powerful article then looks at the importance of social cohesion:

“While many view natural disasters as levelers – events that do not differentiate based on ethnicity or economic status – this is not the case. Low-income citizens are often hit harder by extreme weather events, due to everything from poorly constructed or aging housing to housing located closer to flood plains to a lack of amenities such as air conditioning or transportation to move their family out of a danger zone.

Systemic racism in our country has disproportionately relegated distinct ethnic groups to economic insecurity, meaning they often populate those areas in our communities that are most vulnerable during natural disasters.

Economics, the environment, and social inequality are just some of the ingredients in determining the fate of a neighborhood. There is another critical ingredient that transcends the triple bottom line of sustainability to help a neighborhood defy the odds: social cohesion [...]

Social cohesion is an ingredient that libraries can cultivate by actively fostering connection and activating our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in new ways, as each piece connects to the next. Libraries have, for many years, focused on economic development— helping residents find jobs or start small businesses, and supporting the creation of a trained workforce to attract employers to an area. As much of our focus, if not more, needs to be put on social cohesion.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Denver Public Library: Opioid Response Profile”

https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/denver-public-library-opioid-response-profile.html?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_content=August+7+2019+Crossroads&utm_campaign=&utm_term=WebJunctionCrossroads_COM
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(Source: WebJunction *Crossroads*, 7 Aug 2019)

Brief intro to the Library’s response to the opioid crisis.

The posting is also an intro to a longer report, *Public libraries respond to the opioid crisis with their communities – profile: Denver Public Library*, see: <https://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/Topics/opioid-crisis/Denver-Public-Library-Profile.pdf>.

“The culture cure: how prescription art is lifting people out of depression”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/31/upside-denmark-culture-mental-health-singing-theatre>

Just in case you didn’t see this article which looks at how:

“From singing together to being read to in a library, an arts participation scheme is transforming lives in Denmark”

Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance case studies

<http://museumsandwellbeing.org/>

(Source: email from Ruth Gidley, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, 12 Aug 2019)

Just a reminder that the Alliance has developed a searchable database of some 700 case studies, including dementia-friendly activities.

Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Prioritizing Accessibility and Disability Inclusion at Your Library”

https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/prioritizing-accessibility.html?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_content=August+7+2019+Crossroads&utm_campaign=&utm_term=WebJunctionCrossroadsCOMM

(Source: WebJunction *Crossroads*, 7 Aug 2019)

“Putting a focus on accessibility helps create a library that can be enjoyed by more people and can connect more people to the information and resources they need. Opportunities to make libraries more accessible can include decisions about your collections, offering technology that improves the patron experience, designing or improving a physical building, and managing the library's online presence to be accessible and inclusive. With such a broad scope, it can be easy to get overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenge and some are afraid that they might not get everything right. However, even small changes make a difference, so it is important to get started. Don't wait for someone to ask for these changes, create the space and opportunity for everyone. Here are a few ideas to help you begin or take further steps.”

Useful article with lots of (US) links.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Mental health promotion and mental health care in refugees and migrants: policy brief

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/388069/tg-pb-mental-health-eng.pdf

(Source: Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services *Bulletin Alert*, Aug 2019)

Important short briefing from the WHO, which recommends key policy considerations, eg under “Social integration”:

- “Promote initiatives that increase social inclusion and integration, including access to employment and educational opportunities, as these support good mental health.
- Encourage collaborations across health care and social services, as well as with providers of legal and employment support.
- Consider school-based programmes for children, particularly if unaccompanied or separated.
- Encourage volunteer initiatives or training of refugees and migrants as peer supporters.” [p1]

EMN Country Fact Sheets

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/factsheets_en

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Jul/Aug 2019)

The European Migration Network has produced these factsheets for 2018, which:

“[...] provide a succinct summary of the main developments in the year in all Member States and Norway. An overview of the most recent migration and international protection-related statistics is presented.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Understanding Trauma Faced by Syrian Refugees: Challenges and Community Solutions”

<https://ojcs.siue.edu/ojs/index.php/ssa/article/view/3281/1305>

(Source: Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services *Bulletin Alert*, Aug 2019)

Useful background info in this article from the *Syrian Studies Association Bulletin*.

(The Syrian Studies Association is “[...] an international association organized to encourage and promote research and scholarly understanding of Syria in all periods and in all academic disciplines. The SSA is a non-profit, non-political association affiliated with MESA (The Middle East Studies Association of North America).” [Taken from: <http://www.ou.edu/ssa/>])

The impact of Brexit on EU nationals’ vulnerability: the case of Polish nationals

https://blogsmedia.lse.ac.uk/blogs.dir/107/files/2019/06/Polish_Vulnerability_report_v6-screen_pages.pdf

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Jul/Aug 2019)

“Multiple evidence sources indicate that the Brexit vote has normalized racism and has led to an increase in daily micro-aggressions. Against this background, we investigated changes in the vulnerability of EU nationals in the UK as a consequence of the British Referendum (BR) campaign and vote, focusing, specifically, on the experiences and feelings of the Polish community in Southampton [...]” [p3]

The report highlights four key issues:

- Increase in hate crime and prejudice-driven incidents
- A heightened sense of being different
- A heightened feeling of being unwelcome
- Uncertainty about their future legal status.

LGBTQ issues – Other Agencies

Gender Recognition Act reform – mythbuster

<https://lgbt.foundation/gra/mythbuster>

(Source: LGBT Foundation *OUTspoken*, 6 Aug 2019)

Very helpful answers to common questions about the GRA.

“LGBT people are 'being made homeless due to religion”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-49150753>

(Source: email from the Peter Tatchell Foundation, 8 Aug 2019)

BBC “Newsbeat” story: “Nearly half of young LGBT people who are left homeless after coming out are from religious backgrounds.”

“The truth about Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)”

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/truth-about-relationships-and-sex-education-rse?utm_source=Stonewall+Newsletter&utm_campaign=092f8eac06-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_07_02_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2efb92031c-092f8eac06-211168265&mc_cid=092f8eac06&mc_eid=bfb9d438cb

(Source: *Stonewall Newsletter*, Aug 2019)

New posting from Stonewall:

“In April this year the government announced new regulations for teaching Relationships and Sex Education.

This was a great step forward in the fight for equality, marking a significant change in the way children and young people are taught about LGBT relationships and identities. We’ve put together these questions to help you understand what the new regulations mean, how they will be implemented, and why LGBT-inclusive education is so important.”

“10 ways to step up as an ally to non-binary people”

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/blog/10-ways-step-ally-non-binary-people?utm_source=Stonewall+Newsletter&utm_campaign=092f8eac06-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_07_02_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2efb92031c-092f8eac06-211168265&mc_cid=092f8eac06&mc_eid=bfb9d438cb

(Source: *Stonewall Newsletter*, Aug 2019)

After some basic definitions, this very useful posting suggests 10 ways to support non-binary people.

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Britain’s infrastructure is breaking down. And here’s why no one’s fixing it”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/14/britain-social-infrastructure-money-national-grid>

Just in case you didn’t see this terrific article which argues that, just as people created a fuss about the recent breakdown in the National Grid, so they ought to be protesting about the reduction in libraries, parks, youth clubs (and pubs).