



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 301, 11 June 2020

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

“Statement by the IFLA President and Secretary General: Racism Has No Place in the Society Libraries are Working to Build”

https://www.ifla.org/node/93126?fbclid=IwAR2_ZIjOuoFloV22WwTrAzf-arfzf2Cw8YXIEgkuPSIMuAX6TI6wSWX6G_k

(Source: posting by Mark Perkins in IFLA LGBTQ Users SIG, 7 Jun 2020,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/617623038283547/permalink/3001825639863263/>)

“In response to the death of George Floyd and others globally, IFLA President Christine Mackenzie and Secretary General Gerald Leitner have made the following statement.

IFLA condemns all forms of racism as fundamentally contrary both to human rights, and to the values of our profession.

Libraries are institutions with a mission to improve the lives of the individuals and communities they serve. They do this not just through rejecting discrimination, but through actively promoting inclusion, giving everyone a meaningful opportunity to realise their rights to information, culture, information and science. Racial discrimination and race-based violence – most recently in the case of George Floyd, but also worldwide – have no place in the society we wish to build.

As a global organisation, IFLA is committed to enabling all to engage in and benefit from our activities, without regard to citizenship, disability, ethnic origin, gender, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race or religion.

Through the IFLA-UNESCO Public and School Library Manifestos, as well as the Statement on Intellectual Freedom, these same values apply to the work of our institutions. As highlighted in the Multicultural Library Manifesto, this requires a conscious and meaningful effort to solicit, understand and reflect the needs of all members of the communities we serve in our collections, practices and staffing. Furthermore, it sets out a duty to advocate proactively for inclusion in wider society.

Alongside our colleagues at the American Library Association, Australian Library and Information Association and elsewhere, we therefore stand in

solidarity with those who are subject to racial discrimination both inside and outside of our field. In doing so, we will continue to work to promote library and information services that make a reality of a better society for all.”

“Museum activists say real change needed to combat racial injustice”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/museum-activists-real-action-racial-injustice?utm_campaign=1757212_08062020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,11NVG,27LU0M,3ZQEH,1

News story from the MA:

“Achieving racial justice in the museum sector will involve current trustees and directors stepping down from their roles to make way for more diverse voices, BAME museum workforce representatives have suggested.

The comments are part of a Twitter thread from the Museum Detox network calling for institutions to take concrete, radical action in response to ongoing Black Lives Matter protests.

The group argues this will involve a change in personnel, saying: ‘We need organisations with trustees and directors that are willing to step down because they contribute to a system where different voices are not heard. We need museums and galleries that are willing to make radical statements and acts that will get people listening.’”

The Twitter thread is at:

https://twitter.com/museum_detox/status/1268230499098603521.

“Black Lives Matter”

https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/blog/black-lives-matter?_cldee=aWFubGlicmFyaWFuQGxpdmUuY28udWs%3d&recipientid=contact-2510414ed975e61184b7005056915655-c88bf23bf9644745a55e7843ce4efc69&esid=150f4cda-35a7-ea11-bc4a-005056911737

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 7 Jun 2020)

Blogpost by Darren Henley:

“[...] I have often said that talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not. Although nearly all cultural spaces are formally open to everyone, in practice they may only be accessible to a select group who have the financial, social or cultural capital to feel at home in them. Even leaving aside the economic or social arguments for greater diversity, which are compelling, this situation is unjust [...]

We will also reflect our commitment to inclusion and antiracism in our relationships with the organisations we fund. In the last few days, we

have seen organisations throughout the sector expressing solidarity with Black people in the struggle against racism. But we have also heard stories of people experiencing prejudice, intolerance and racism when interacting with some cultural organisations. This is unacceptable, and if any concerns are raised with us about an organisation or project we fund we will challenge those in receipt of public investment to show how they are complying with equality legislation, and their funding agreement with us. Where they are found to be in breach we will not hesitate to take appropriate action.

Once again, allow me to be unequivocal here: it is clear that despite our best intentions, we have so far failed to create the systemic, structural changes needed for our sector to be truly diverse, inclusive and welcoming to people from all backgrounds. There is still a long way to go to ensure that the creative industries reflect the way England looks today.”

“Statement on the death of George Floyd in Minnesota, USA”: Statement by the CILIP BAME Network

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/statementGeorgeFloyd>

The CILIP BAME Network has issued a powerful statement which includes:

“We demand justice for George Floyd and for all those who have gone before him and we stand in solidarity with the statement of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association [see below]. We encourage our members and supporters of anti-racism to consider the recommendations of the Black Caucus to amplify their voice against racism and injustice.

George Floyd’s death is also a symbol, one of those watershed moments that publicly confronts the global racism which has been faced by black people and people of colour for generations and demands that we acknowledge racism’s very existence; that we genuinely commit to dismantling it. However, there will be no change without our collective action.”

and concludes:

“Library, information and knowledge professionals have a key role to play in dismantling racism. The CILIP BAME Network calls on professionals to pro-actively deliver collections, services, space and teaching with the objective of creating an anti-racist society. We ask everyone to personally reflect and take action.”

The “Statement Condemning Increased Violence and Racism Towards Black Americans and People of Color”: Statement by The Black Caucus of The American Library Association, issued 28 May 2020 is at:

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/Statement%20>

[Condemning%20Increased%20Violence%20and%20Racism%20Towards%20Black%20Americans%20and%20People%20of%20Color.pdf](#).

“Anti-Racism – Resources and Support”

<https://www.cilips.org.uk/about/anti-racism-resources-and-support/>

(Source: *CILIP Scotland Newsletter*, Jun 2020)

CILIP Scotland have produced a page of resources:

“CILIPS supports the #BlackLivesMatter movement and is firmly anti-racist. We recognise the need to educate ourselves as well as to raise greater awareness in our networks and communities. In order to do this, we have gathered some links and resources from Scotland and beyond together on this page. This is not an exhaustive list and we want to learn from others and update this as needed as we realise this requires ongoing action. If you would like us to add anything please email admin@cilips.org.uk.”

“Nelson, narrative and national identity: a contested history?”

https://gem.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GM158-GEM-Journal_Wilson-Article.pdf

(Source: email from GEM, 11 Jun 2020)

GEM have decided to share an article from the recent *Journal of Museum Education* (March 2020) on sensitive histories and contested narratives – really useful consideration of issues around statues, whom we honour, etc.

“Moments of Power: Uplifting, Empowering & Connecting the Black LGBTQ+ Community”

<https://itgetsbetter.org/blog/initiatives/moments-of-power-uplifting-connecting-empowering-the-black-lgbtq-community/>

(Source: email from It Gets Better Project, 5 Jun 2020)

“The Black community continues to serve as a beacon of hope for all marginalized communities. Even when being subjected to ongoing and unwarranted violence and persecution, they continue to find the strength to pave the path to equality for all people. This is a heavy and unfair burden that we must all share together.

The LGBTQ+ community’s ability to live openly with Pride is the direct result of the revolutionary actions of Black trans people, such as Marsha P. Johnson and Miss Major Griffin-Gracy. The It Gets Better Project serves to share these powerful stories of the LGBTQ+ community, both past and present, for the purpose of uplifting, empowering, and connecting all LGBTQ+ youth around the globe.

Moments of Power is a collection of stories and resources intended to uplift Black LGBTQ+ youth and highlight the direct services available to them. It also includes information on how allies can be better informed and get involved in the fight for equality. [...]”

As well as the video messages, the site also includes:

- Resources for Black LGBTQ+ Youth
- Resources for Educators
- Resources for Allies.

“Black Lives Matter: Book lists for ages 0-16+”

https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/black-lives-matter-book-lists-ages-0-16/?mc_cid=8ea2999360&mc_eid=a2d98ab814

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Literacy News*, 10 Jun 2020)

The National Literacy Trust:

“[...] have brought together a series of book lists for children and young people of all ages to share black stories and promote black voices.

All books featured in the book lists are by black authors and illustrators and exemplify the principles of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The age-appropriate book lists have been curated to help children, young people, families and teachers explore race, identity, family and community.

The book lists available are:

- Book list for ages 0-4
- Book list for ages 5-8
- Book list for ages 9-12
- Book list for ages 13-16
- Book list for ages 16+”

The booklists are available to download as pdfs, you just need to register on the NLT website.

The Black curriculum: Black British history in the National Curriculum report 2020

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c4325439d5abb9b27980cd4/t/5e1530a2ecbb473fb909584c/1578447045883/The+Black+Curriculum+Report+2020.pdf>

(Source: email from HOPE not hate, 4 Jun 2020)

“This report explores how the current History National Curriculum systematically omits the contribution of Black British history in favour of a dominant White, Eurocentric curriculum that fails to reflect our multi ethnic and broadly diverse society.” [p2]

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“There is no recovery without migration”

<https://www.socialeurope.eu/there-is-no-recovery-without-migration>

(Source: email from Social Europe, 2 Jun 2020)

Interesting brief article looking at some of the impacts of not allowing migration:

“The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the essential role of migration in a globalised economy. The recovery must not be jeopardised by self-harming xenophobia.”

“COVID-19 intensifies the struggles of asylum seekers”

https://www.thetcj.org/in-residence-articles/covid-19-intensifies-the-struggles-of-asylum-seekers-by-jade-mc-rury?mc_cid=d2cce8b659&mc_eid=6c2c393f7c

(Source: *The Therapeutic Care Journal Newsletter*, 1 Jun 2020)

Important brief article by Jade MacRury (Immigration Advice Service), which looks at some of the main reasons why asylum-seekers are at serious risk of being adversely affected by COVID-19.

“The equality and human rights impacts of Covid-19”

[https://www.equallyours.org.uk/resources/the-equality-and-human-rights-impacts-of-covid-](https://www.equallyours.org.uk/resources/the-equality-and-human-rights-impacts-of-covid-19/?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter&utm_campaign=57d3d493de-April+2+2020+newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_104ed5022f-57d3d493de-58965893)

[19/?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter&utm_campaign=57d3d493de-April+2+2020+newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_104ed5022f-57d3d493de-58965893](https://www.equallyours.org.uk/resources/the-equality-and-human-rights-impacts-of-covid-19/?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter&utm_campaign=57d3d493de-April+2+2020+newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_104ed5022f-57d3d493de-58965893)

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 23 Apr 2020)

Equally Ours has launched a one-stop information hub for policy-makers and the voluntary sector on Covid-19, equality and human rights.

It includes, for example, info on:

- Children & young people
- Immigration
- LGBTQ+ rights
- Older people
- Race equality.

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

“Horniman Museum launches community action research project into collections”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/04062020-horniman-launches-community-action-research-project?utm_campaign=1754911_05062020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,11M3J,27LU0M,3ZIRU,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 5 Jun 2020)

“Horniman Museum and Gardens in London has launched a digital project with community action researchers from the Caribbean and African diaspora to investigate and respond to objects in its collections [...]

The project, which is being funded through Arts Council England's Designation Development Fund, will run alongside Rethinking Relationships and Building Trust Around African Collections, a project

that is developing new practice around the Kenyan and Nigerian collections at the Horniman and a number of other museums in England.”

How prison libraries support rehabilitation efforts

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373367?posInSet=1&queryId=2100c586-86ab-4fbe-bdc4-b21116b532b5>

(Source: email from Tom Barker to prisons@jiscmail.ac.uk, 8 Jun 2020)

“The policy brief *How prison libraries support rehabilitation efforts* highlights that prison libraries should not operate in isolation, but work closely with the local (public) library system. They need to be managed by qualified prison library staff with access to sufficient budget and resources.

Implementing and funding a well-functioning prison library service is a cost-effective way of sharing valuable resources by creating a constructive and transformative meeting and learning space with far-reaching and lasting effects. Taking security issues into account, inmates should be able to enjoy the same-quality library services and materials available to citizens living in freedom.” [Taken from:

<https://uil.unesco.org/uil-policy-brief-11-how-prison-libraries-support-rehabilitation-efforts>]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“UK food banks report busiest month ever ...”

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/2020/06/03/food-banks-busiest-month/>

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 5 Jun 2020)

New blogpost from The Trussell Trust – headline stats include:

- “The Trussell Trust reports a soaring 89% increase in need for emergency food parcels during April 2020 compared to the same month last year, including a 107% rise in parcels given to children
- The number of families with children receiving parcels has almost doubled compared to the same period last year
- Food banks in the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) report a 175% increase in need for the same period”

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

“Going back to Grunwick”

<https://phm.org.uk/blogposts/going-back-to-grunwick/>

(Source: email from the People’s History Museum, 10 Jun 2020)

New blogpost from the PHM, which starts with a striking poster from 1977, and broadens out into a brief exploration of migration issues now:

“Covid-19 has highlighted that the British economy, particularly the NHS and care systems, cannot function without the contributions made by migrant workers. Throughout history the UK has relied on migrant labour, particularly in its essential industries. UK governments have often encouraged migrants into the country, as they bring economic benefit,

but legislation has often forced these migrants into low paid and essential services regardless of their previous experience.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Migration statistics: What is changing and why?”

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/home-affairs/immigration/migration-statistics-what-is-changing-and-why/>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 662, 8 Jun 2020)

“Insight” briefing by the HOC Library:

“The current migration figures are estimates based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS), which is run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS’s plan is to replace this with a new series based on administrative data. This process has been accelerated as the IPS is suspended due to the spread of Covid-19.

This Insight explains how migration statistics are transforming and the implications.”

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

Value study of GLAMs in Canada

https://museums.ca/uploaded/web/LIBRARY_20-032_HTML/pdfs/value_study_GLAMs_EN.pdf

(Source: email from John Pateman, 19 May 2020)

Published at the end of 2019, this study of Canadian galleries, libraries, archives and museums highlights the value that they have in society:

“Canadian GLAMs receive in the region of 150 million visits every year, but they are much more than simply visitor attractions. They preserve and promote Canadian heritage domestically and around the globe, while providing access to resources for education, research, learning and artistic creation. This report aims to capture the fundamental role played by non-profit GLAMs in Canada, using a combination of quantitative value metrics and qualitative assessments of societal values.” [p7]