



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 302, 18 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

#### **Libraries Connected Statement on Black Lives Matter**

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/libraries-connected-statement-black-lives-matter>

“Libraries Connected believes that Black Lives Matter.

We condemn racism and discrimination in all its forms.

Public libraries were founded 150 years ago on principles of social justice and equality. This is as true today as it was then.

This is a critical moment for Libraries Connected, and the public library sector we represent, to make a renewed commitment to the fight for racial equality.

Words are not enough. We must stand up for our principles and consistently demonstrate them in all our programmes and practices.

Public libraries attract more diverse audiences than any other cultural activity, but this diversity is not reflected in the library workforce. Libraries also have a key role to play in the promotion of diverse content and a better shared understanding of our colonial past.

Libraries Connected will work on four specific areas to address the challenges in the sector:

- **Leadership:** We are committed to promoting opportunities to build the leadership skills of global majority staff, through our Transforming Leadership programme and more.
- **Recruitment:** We will identify, share and advocate for transformative recruitment practices which attract more people from diverse communities
- **Understanding our past:** We will work with libraries to promote a deeper common understanding of the history and horrors of empire and its enduring impacts on local and global communities

- **Promote diverse content:** We will reflect our communities' literary and cultural heritages and contemporary culture and support diversity in publishing.

**We want to look back at this moment as the time when racial injustice is finally eradicated.**

Libraries Connected believes in a society where that racism and discrimination are replaced by equality and justice for all. We will work with libraries and partners to ensure that we use every resource at our disposal to make this happen.” [emphases theirs]

***Anti-racism resources for UK archivists***

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I-8V6wwmE9vhPaW\\_oP5M-\\_j4C0IJVFYUjoRM-k4xkSI/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I-8V6wwmE9vhPaW_oP5M-_j4C0IJVFYUjoRM-k4xkSI/edit)

(Source: email from Lucy Brownson to [archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk), 12 Jun 2020)

This is a terrific new resource:

“This document serves as an ongoing pool of resources for UK archivists and record-keepers who want to understand and engage in anti-racist work, challenge privileges and inherent biases, and take action towards a fairer profession and society at large. It includes suggested actions to actively recognise, challenge & disrupt racism, links to archives, heritage organisations & educational initiatives with a focus on Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC), anti-racism tools for you & your workplace, reading/listening/watching lists, and links to related tools & resources.”

**“Time to accelerate decolonisation”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/comment/time-to-accelerate-decolonisation?utm\\_campaign=1762168\\_17062020%20MA%20newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Museums%20Association&dm\\_i=2VBX,11RP4,27LU0M,407E2,1](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/comment/time-to-accelerate-decolonisation?utm_campaign=1762168_17062020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,11RP4,27LU0M,407E2,1)

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 17 Jun 2020)

Important “Comment” piece by Haitham Eid (Southern University at New Orleans), which concludes:

“Everyone in the museum profession can help construct a more diverse, inclusive and tolerant environment. This is the time for museum directors, curators, board members, educators, registrars, technologists, and everyone involved in museums to accelerate the hard work of decolonisation, diversification and inclusion. Shying away from this responsibility is an inexcusable act of complacency that leads to preserving white supremacy structures.”

## Coronavirus/COVID-19

### ***The COVID-19 pandemic, financial inequality and mental health: a briefing from the 'Coronavirus: Mental Health in the Pandemic' Study***

[https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/MHF-covid-19-inequality-mental-health-briefing.pdf?utm\\_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=11559284\\_NEWS\\_L\\_HMP%202020-05-26&dm\\_i=21A8,6VR78,V54ZAI,RNEBF,1](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/MHF-covid-19-inequality-mental-health-briefing.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11559284_NEWS_L_HMP%202020-05-26&dm_i=21A8,6VR78,V54ZAI,RNEBF,1)

(Source: MARCH Mental Health Network *Newsletter*, Jun 2020)

“The distribution of infections and deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic, the lockdown and associated measures, and the longer-term socioeconomic impact are likely to reproduce and intensify the financial inequalities that contribute towards the increased prevalence and unequal distribution of mental ill-health.

This briefing discusses the mental health effects of these financial inequalities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.” [p3]

### ***Hidden figures: the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on LGBT communities in the UK***

<https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/lgbt-website-media/Files/7a01b983-b54b-4dd3-84b2-0f2ecd72be52/Hidden%2520Figures-%2520The%2520Impact%2520of%2520the%2520Covid-19%2520Pandemic%2520on%2520LGBT%2520Communities.pdf>

(Source: email from the LGBT Foundation, 29 May 2020)

“This research has uncovered some of the wide-ranging and profound effects the pandemic has had on the lives of LGBT people across the country.” [p5]

Key findings include:

- 42% would like to access support for their mental health at this time. This rises to 66% of BAME LGBT people, 48% of disabled LGBT people, 57% of trans people and 60% of non-binary people.
- 30% are living alone at this time. This rises to 40% of LGBT people aged 50+.
- 25% would like support to reduce their isolation, such as a befriending service.
- 8% do not feel safe where they are currently staying. This includes 9% of BAME LGBT people, 15% of disabled LGBT people, 17% of trans people and 17% of non-binary people.
- 16% had been unable to access healthcare for non-Covid related issues. This rises to 22% of BAME LGBT people, 26% of disabled LGBT people, 27% of trans people, 27% of non-binary people, and 18% of LGBT people aged 50+.
- 23% were unable to access medication or were worried that they might not be able to access medication. This includes 37% of BAME LGBT people, 36% of disabled LGBT people, 45% of trans people, 21% of non-binary people, and 21% of LGBT people aged 50+. [Taken from p6]

### **“Coronavirus: Social distancing is cutting asylum seekers off from education and support”**

[https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-social-distancing-is-cutting-asylum-seekers-off-from-education-and-support-134951?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%206%202020%20-%201585515185&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%206%202020%20-%201585515185+CID\\_8021267e67d1a5bd749f353e5b72216f&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Coronavirus%20Social%20distancing%20is%20cutting%20asylum%20seekers%20off%20from%20education%20and%20support](https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-social-distancing-is-cutting-asylum-seekers-off-from-education-and-support-134951?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%206%202020%20-%201585515185&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%206%202020%20-%201585515185+CID_8021267e67d1a5bd749f353e5b72216f&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Coronavirus%20Social%20distancing%20is%20cutting%20asylum%20seekers%20off%20from%20education%20and%20support)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 7 Apr 2020)

Important alert from a researcher studying migrant communities in the UK:

“The UK’s social distancing measures in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic have caused unprecedented changes to individual and social lives.

The necessity of the measures to control the disease is not in question. However, it is becoming clear that the effects of social distancing will hit refugees and asylum seekers harder and in more complex ways than others as the informal networks they rely on disappear.”

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

#### **“Will it be worth it? The re-opening barriers facing visually impaired people”**

[https://www.artsprofessional.co.uk/magazine/article/will-it-be-worth-it-re-opening-barriers-facing-visually-impaired-people?utm\\_source=non\\_subscriber\\_features&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=nid-214234&utm\\_campaign=11th-June-2020](https://www.artsprofessional.co.uk/magazine/article/will-it-be-worth-it-re-opening-barriers-facing-visually-impaired-people?utm_source=non_subscriber_features&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nid-214234&utm_campaign=11th-June-2020)

(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to [gem@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:gem@jiscmail.ac.uk), 11 Jun 2020)

Matthew Cock (CE, VocalEyes) and a group of VocalEyes trustees and user panel members look at some of the barriers that visually-impaired people face in trying to access museums, galleries, theatres and other public spaces.

### **Disability issues – Other Agencies**

#### **Henshaws Knowledge Village**

<https://www.henshaws.org.uk/knowledge-village/>

(Source: email from Sarah Mollitt, Henshaws, 17 Jun 2020)

“Welcome to Henshaws Knowledge Village, a place to share our knowledge and expertise with those experiencing or working with sight loss and disability.” [website]

As Sarah says in her email:

“There have been a number of changes to our Knowledge Village site in recent months, as we have changed our way of working due to the

pandemic and increased the amount of content we are adding on a regular basis to ensure that we are still supporting our community through these challenging times.

The Knowledge Village is now split into 11 distinct sections, covering:

- Covid-19 resources (specific content to help with social distancing, reducing isolation, etc.)
- Apps
- Technology
- Children and young people
- Eye conditions
- Health and wellbeing
- Benefits and support
- Daily living skills
- Life Hacks
- General sight loss support
- Specialist College resources (focus on autism and sight loss)”

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

**“From 'unskilled' to 'essential': histories of migrant workers in PHM's collection”**

<https://phm.org.uk/blogposts/from-unskilled-to-essential-histories-of-migrant-workers-in-phms-collection/>

(Source: email from PHM, 17 Jun 2020)

New blogpost from the People’s History Museum:

“Here PHM’s Researcher Dr Shirin Hirsch takes a closer look at the history of migrant workers documented in the museum’s collection.”

### **Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

**“Immigration statistics, year ending March 2020”**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Apr-May 2020)

Webpage with links to latest info, including “Summary of latest statistics”, May 2020, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/summary-of-latest-statistics>. This has the latest figures for sanctuary-seekers:

“The UK offered protection – in the form of asylum, humanitarian protection, alternative forms of leave and resettlement – to 20,339 people in the year ending March 2020, 17% higher than the previous year and similar to levels seen in 2003.

The Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) accounted for over three-quarters (4,030) of those resettled in the UK in year ending March 2020. 19,768 refugees have been resettled since the government announced the target of resettling 20,000 refugees under the scheme.

There were 35,099 asylum applications (main applicants only) in the UK in the year ending March 2020, 11% more than the previous year, but lower than the recent peak in the year ending June 2016 (36,546). In the year ending March 2020, 54% of initial decisions on asylum applications were grants of asylum, humanitarian protection or alternative forms of leave (such as discretionary leave or UASC leave). This was the highest initial decision grant rate on record, up from 39% in the previous year.”

### **Migration issues – Other Agencies**

### **LGBTQ+ issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations**

#### **“Queer Heritage and Collections Network”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/27052020-queer-heritage-and-collections-network-launched?utm\\_campaign=1751499\\_29052020%20MA%20newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Museums%20Association&dm\\_i=2VBX,11JGR,27LU0M,3Z6UU,1](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/27052020-queer-heritage-and-collections-network-launched?utm_campaign=1751499_29052020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,11JGR,27LU0M,3Z6UU,1)

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 29 May 2020)

“Art Fund has provided a grant to establish a UK-wide Queer Heritage and Collections Network to provide training, networking and peer support to people working with LGBTQ+ collections and histories.

The network is a partnership between the National Trust; English Heritage; Historic England; Historic Royal Palaces; and the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG) at the University of Leicester.

The grant will be administered by the National Trust and overseen by a steering group made up of volunteer representatives from the five partners. Consultant Dan Vo has been appointed as project manager and lead researcher, with additional research and support being provided by Richard Sandell, director of the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries.

The network plans to consult with the sector to identify what support it can offer, and develop a programme of activities in response with an emphasis on regional needs.”

Museums that want to be involved in the Network can contact Dan Vo via email [d.vo@vam.ac.uk](mailto:d.vo@vam.ac.uk) or Twitter @DanNouveau.