

TACIT



Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh – March 3rd, 2010

News

We attended an informative seminar on the **Evolution of Library Education in Scotland** on February 5th. The first presentation was entitled "People, Politics and the Profession - a View from the Tower" presented by Professor Forbes Gibb from the University of Strathclyde. He discussed the beginnings of library education in the UK, development of teaching schools, exams and the professional bodies, for example one of the first exam questions from 1885 was "Give a list of Dickens's work in order of importance!" He went on to describe the birth of the Scottish school at the University of Strathclyde and its development over the years. One of the main conclusions was how Library Studies has never found a permanent home. There does seem to be a question in which faculty librarianship should belong to, could this be due to the various forms of information?

The second presentation was from Dr Peter Reid entitled "Evolution of Professional Education in Scotland – the Aberdeen Question." The main focus of his talk was to highlight the need of the second school in Scotland by the mid 1960s. This was a very detailed account of the troubles between the various parties in particular the Scottish Library Association and the Library Association in the lead up to the birth of the second school in Scotland based at Robert Gordon University which enrolled its first student in 1967.

Both of these presentations were very informative and interesting.

*Catherine Davies & Elaine Simpson
National Library of Scotland*

The first part of Central Library's new **Library2go** service is now available at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Leisure/Libraries/CE_C_library_online_services or via the homepage <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libraries/>

It provides access to e-books from any internet enabled PC/MAC or portable device with Library Borrower number.

*Alison Stoddart 0131 242 8032
alison.stoddart@edinburgh.gov.uk*

TACIT now has a **blog at Wordpress:**
<http://nickyintute.wordpress.com/>

The **Scottish Poetry Library is offering a short-term unpaid library assistant internship position** from April 2010 (minimum length of one month). This position will provide an excellent opportunity for a recently qualified Information and Library Studies graduate to gain CV experience and to receive practical training. In return the

successful candidate will make a valuable contribution to the day-to-day work of a special library. To learn more about the work of the SPL, please visit

<http://scottishpoetrylibrary.wordpress.com/> and <http://www.spl.org.uk>

Essential skills/qualities needed include a recent Information & Library Studies post-graduate qualification or current enrolment on a distance learning programme, a friendly, helpful manner (this is a frontline position dealing with the public), IT skills (although specific training will be given where necessary) and an ability to multi-task. A knowledge of Scottish literature, and an interest in poetry is desirable.

To apply, please send, by email, a covering letter explaining why you are applying, together with a CV, to Julie Johnstone, Librarian, Scottish Poetry Library julie.johnstone@spl.org.uk Closing date: Friday 19 March 2010. Interviews will be held for this post.

A group from the National Library of Scotland recently enjoyed a visit to the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) where they were given an insight into a modern parliamentary information service. SPICe provides a stream-lined, impartial enquiry service with a research team in place to produce briefings on current issues under debate. The Centre has an enquiry desk located close to the debating Chamber and the team are on hand to answer queries, remaining until the close of session. SPICe provides 70% of its material in electronic format. It is required, nonetheless, to keep a hard copy of every official paper the parliament produces. With limited space, the Centre is considering working with other institutions to ensure that material is preserved for future researchers. Work is also being undertaken to redesign the parliament's website to make it more user-friendly and to develop a set of information standards, a "master data register" to ensure consistency. With a changing group of users every four years, this unique and innovative service looks forward to new challenges ahead.

*Julie Black
National Library of Scotland*

Forthcoming Events

A Celebration of Poetry from Scotland and the Middle East.

Tuesday 16th March 19:00-20.45
<http://www.mesp.org.uk/>

PTEG Mentoring Workshop

Friday 19th March 09:15 - 16:15

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EventShow.cfm?uEventID=2422>



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RAISING THE PROFILE University of Edinburgh Main Library Redevelopment

The £60 million project to redevelop the University of Edinburgh's Main Library has just reached the half way point. The transformation of the 40 year old 'A' listed Sir Basil Spence building started in 2006 and is due to complete in 2012. On January 28th the new First Floor



opened and it was great to see that by lunchtime all of the new study spaces were occupied by busy students.

The primary aims of the redevelopment are to:

- Provide a variety of user spaces to support contemporary methods of working.
- Reconfigure the collections so they are easier to find.
- Upgrade the storage of special collections to an appropriate standard of preservation and security.
- Replace and modernise services including wiring, heating and ventilation

The finished results deliver much more than this in the sympathetic way the style of the original building has been enhanced by the redevelopment. The use of colour is particularly notable in the redevelopment and brings a new dimension to this iconic building.



The First Floor is the fourth one to be completed and adds to the variety of new spaces which range from the



busy Ground Floor to the serene Centre for Research Collections at the top of

the building. The First Floor provides a variety of study space from the 120 seat quiet space combining PCs and desks with power for laptops to the 12 group study "pods" designed for conversational group use. The pods are part of a larger less formal conversational study area which leads into a specialist IT study space with scanners and large format printers. There are also facilities for disabled

students with 15 individual study rooms - some to book and some for drop in use.

The final part of the floor comprises a suite of meeting and training rooms for use by University staff. With four meeting rooms, three training rooms and a



video conference facility the staff are breathing a sigh of relief as meeting rooms have been in short supply during the redevelopment.

The next stages of the project tackle the two book floors with over a million volumes to be shuffled round (and out

of the) building before being located in their final resting place on Floors Two and Three. Just under 300 Information Services staff will occupy the Fourth Floor and the final floor, Lower Ground, will be multiple use including study space, collections and storage.

It is and continues to be an ambitious project not least because all services remain fully operational throughout the redevelopment. Our user

figures have risen by around a third since the Ground Floor reopened in the summer which is fantastic but perhaps most importantly the redeveloped space is genuinely popular with those who use it. In the words of a recent tweet:

"The 1st floor of the library is my new favourite thing. I love it. So so so so much! Thanks @UniofEdinburgh"

*Fiona Boyd
Main Library Redevelopment Project Co-ordinator*

CILIPS Annual Conference will be held 7 -9 June 2010 at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. There will be a range of keynote speakers, flexible packages, sponsorship opportunities and online participation using web 2.0 tools. For information about the programme, contact Rhona Arthur r.arthur@slainte.org.uk

WANTED: contributions for TACIT

We're always looking for news items (50-150 words), announcements of forthcoming events, event reports (500-800 words) and profiles of library services (500-800 words).

Deadline for short pieces is the last Friday of the month, and for longer articles the middle Friday of the month.

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The View from the West

The next missive from your harassed School Librarian in the west of Scotland.

Those of you who read that excellent journal *The Glasgow Herald* may already be aware of the hilarity that's been caused in Ken Smith's Diary over the last few weeks. It all started when one of the Coatbridge gangs decided to dump some of their guns (recently used in a killing "to order") behind the local public library. Cue much consternation from neighbouring Airdrie folk, who up until that point had no idea that the residents of Coatbridge needed a library.

Of course, the reply next day from Coatbridge was in the form of a question – Why does Airdrie Library open at 9am? Because it's the only warm place to hide until Buckfast goes on sale at 10am!

On to more serious matters. Why does waiting for the HMIÉ Inspectors to finally turn up feel like an ever looming dentist's appointment? No, this one's not a joke – just a general aura of tension and gloom descending "like a blanket on a cage" over the whole school. Come on teachers, really, how bad can these inspectors be? To hear some of the talk in the staffroom, you'd think they were like JK's Death-Eaters. During one of last week's In Service days, you could see groups of staff rehearsing their answers to questions about Curriculum for Excellence questions that might come up. I've not seen so much last-minute cramming since I took my French Standard aural exam...

In the category of "The things I find myself doing for this library...", a trip with a trannie van is planned over the weekend to the now defunct Borders bookshop in Buchanan Street, Glasgow, to try and scrounge some shelves, display racks and spinners before the new tenants move in. I only mention this in the knowledge that by the time this is published, the chance will have gone...well, it's an ill wind, I guess...

As I'm sure you're all aware, next week has World Book Day making its' annual appearance on 4th March. Like many other School Libraries, we'll be trying to instigate the 15 minute "DEAR" project – Drop Everything And Read – where everyone reads something (book, magazine, back of a crisp packet, the latest SNP proposals for referenda) – on pain of a fine if caught not complying. Objections so far have come from the PE department, who are worried that pupils might be getting changed when the order comes

to drop everything, and the canteen staff – as similarly, tureens of soup could go flying everywhere... For those of you who are interested, the fine will be one book donated to the library – Heaven knows what I might end up with!

There was a great deal of hilarity in the school on Wednesday, when the annual ski trip to Italy set off in a snowstorm. Mind you, if the bus had diverted to Aviemore, as some were suggesting, they'd probably be stuck in a snowdrift on the A90 by now...

Finally for this month, a word about the public perception of librarians. Of course, we all know that the twin-set, pearls and glasses on chains stereotype is now very out-dated – but recently I saw on sale one of those car bumper stickers announcing "Librarians do itquietly!" No, I didn't buy one...

*Literally Yours
Lomax Allwood (School Librarian)*

ELISA Full Committee Meeting

The second ELISA Full Committee meeting took place at McDonald Road Library on 1 March with representatives from a range of different library services and sectors in Edinburgh. The issues discussed were: ELISA's strategy priorities for the next 18 months; ELISA's Secretariat; and, whether ELISA should investigate having a constitution. Additionally ELISA Chair Jim Thompson presented Wendy Ball, ELISA's former Development Officer, with gifts and flowers from the ELISA membership to thank her for all her hard work. A full report on the meeting will appear in the next issue of TACIT.

*Ellen Peacock
Information Service Manager*



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