

TACIT



Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh – May 5th, 2010

News

ELISA is looking for volunteers to join a short term task and finish group investigating whether ELISA should set up a formal constitution.

ELISA members agreed at the recent Full Committee meeting to set up this group to look at ELISA's governance. It is hoped that the group will investigate over the summer and report back in September. The group will be facilitated by Janice McFarlane from the NLS who is part of the ELISA Business Committee and has experience of how other regional groups have been set up. For further information or to take part in this exciting project please contact Janice directly at J.Mcfarlane@nls.uk before the end of May.

Poetry Library on Twitter...

Julie Johnstone, the Librarian at the Scottish Poetry Library, is now on Twitter. Find her at [@poetrylibrarian](https://twitter.com/poetrylibrarian) and follow to hear about new acquisitions, poetry news, thoughts and quotes, what she's reading, cataloguing, and other library-related activities she finds herself involved in. And she's not the only Twitterer at the SPL – you can follow the library's highly ranked [@ByLeavesWeLive](https://twitter.com/ByLeavesWeLive), posted by their Communications Officer, Peggy Hughes, as well.

You don't have to sign up to an account at Twitter, you can just go to <http://www.twitter.com/poetrylibrarian> or <http://www.twitter.com/ByLeavesWeLive>

I had an email from a company providing a new search engine <http://zakta.com/zakta/> which has personalisation features and the ability to collect resources to form subject guides which others can use.

I've had a brief look and it doesn't appear to be a scam, so it might well be a useful tool.

There's a review at

<http://www.altsearchengines.com/2009/09/14/zakta-is-no-ordinary-search-engine/>

Nicola Harrison
TACIT

NLS Rationalisation Project

Collection management remains an enormous problem for libraries in the twenty-first century in spite of the growing digital revolution. This was the message that Jim Young had for a group of information professionals at a recent SCURL Chartership event. Jim highlighted how the amount of print material received by the NLS continues to grow rapidly. In 2008 the NLS required 3167 linear metres of space – the Forth Road Bridge is only 2512 metres!

Finding themselves running out of space in 2004, the NLS decided to tackle a legacy of inefficient storage practices.

This led to a change of thinking in the institution and they adopted a radical rationalisation project which has seen them make great gains. They have done this through a variety of methods such as re-boxing, re-shelving, rearranging, adding to existing shelving and even manufacturing new components to allow shelving to be used to its full capacity.

Since 2004 the rationalisation team have saved 7204 linear metres. To provide such storage in a new building would cost £2.4 million. This work has become vital to the library especially during the current economic climate and the team plan to make further gains in upcoming years.

Julie Black
National Library of Scotland

Forthcoming Events

Visit to Edinburgh University Library Special Collections

Sat 8th May 14.00

<http://mcs.qmuc.ac.uk/EBS/programme.htm>

Workshop: Beyond Google

Thurs 13th May 10.00-11.30

<http://www.nls.uk/events/index.html>

AGM of the Cataloguing and Indexing Group Scotland

18th May 13:30 - 14:00 (Glasgow)

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EvtShow.cfm?uEventID=2488>

Digital Access Scotland: Next Steps

Tues 18th May 10:30 - 16:00

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EvtShow.cfm?uEventID=2491>

Choices and challenges: youth services in libraries

Thurs 20th May 10:00-16:00 (Glasgow)

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EvtShow.cfm?uEventID=2452>

Introducing Twitter as a professional development tool

Thurs 27th May 9:30-12:30 (Glasgow)

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EvtShow.cfm?uEventID=2451>

Guid Crack: Scotland- Africa

Fri 28th May 19.30-22.00

<http://www.cityofliterature.com/whats-on-results.aspx?sec=5&pid=23&item=1949>

Shore Poets

Sun 30th May 19:45 to 22:15

<http://www.cityofliterature.com/whats-on-results.aspx?sec=5&pid=23&item=1751>



linking edinburgh libraries

edinburgh libraries & information services agency

www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info

Editor: Nicola Harrison

nicola.harrison@harleyhaddow.com

TACIT - Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh

My Journey to Chartership

I graduated with my Postgraduate Diploma in Information and Library Studies from the University of Strathclyde in 2000. Upon first entering the job market I was unemployable because I had the qualifications but no experience. After spending many months looking for a trainee Librarians post I still had no success. As a single parent of 3 at this time I eventually took an administration post with a big finance company to make ends meet. I became totally disheartened with my career opportunities and continued to work in the finance sector, I also added another child to the mix in 2004. At this point I knew the job I had was not providing any job satisfaction so I managed to secure a part time library assistant's position at my local library in Denny.

Although I worked as an assistant the two supportive Librarians gave me a lot of responsibility and I was allowed to participate in reader development projects, order stock and develop my own skills. I started taking family history sessions; I wrote a teenage newsletter and started to focus on gathering skills that would aid me in my career path. I began enrolling in courses that would let me grow as a library professional and enhance my experience and qualifications. Now I was looking after 5 children and trying to take charge of my career. I began to apply for more job opportunities such as school librarian's posts and I also knew there was going to be some trainee posts coming up within Falkirk Council. I was still as yet unsuccessful although the interview practice was beneficial to me.

As a direct result of the council's financial situation these posts were not to be advertised to try and save some money. I then decided I needed to venture elsewhere to learn from new experiences, so I secured a job at a brand new library in Polmont.

This allowed me to get in at the setting up stage and help other staff members come to terms with procedures and computer systems. I now had two very supportive bosses who allowed me to help keep the library ticking over whilst they could concentrate on other matters. I began to take class visits to the library, attended school fairs, visited school libraries and was able to attend meetings about getting more young people involved in the library. I took family history sessions for both staff and customers, including my own line managers. I helped carry out tours of the building, fielding questions during the Meet the

President event when we invited the president of the Scottish CILIP.

I also kept taking classes in being an effective team member, customer care and a second degree in Literature with the Open University. I asked if I would be



able to start my chartership process whilst still a library assistant. I have now devised a plan to get more teenagers actively using their local libraries. I have started talking to librarians in all the local schools and garnered information from local teens about what they would like to see in their local library. My plans have been adopted into the service plan for my library and other public libraries have jumped on the bandwagon. I am actively preparing my portfolio and trying to maximize the opportunities given to me as a library assistant at Meadowbank library. This precise moment in time is very exciting for me whilst also very worrying when you take into account the local council financial position.

I am more focused than ever on applying for Librarians post although these are thin on the ground. My own

council is cutting back everywhere and is planning on setting the libraries and sports centre's as a charitable trust to try and save themselves some money. This is a time of uncertainty and change. In all my experience over the years I have learned to cope very well with change. I am looking to the future as a challenge and an opportunity and find that this is helping me in the chartership process. I am creating my own opportunities

where there was once no available scope for me to progress. The way Falkirk Council libraries are set up there is no possibility of progression through the ranks so I am having to take every experience as a possibility of growth. I will still keep my eye on the job market and will apply for jobs as they arise. This chartership process has allowed me to reflect on my journey and development as a library professional. I know that the journey to Chartership has been a very long

and arduous one but this has meant I am more knowledgeable, experienced and able to fully take part. I thrive when learning new skills and find all obstacles a challenge and an opportunity for personal growth. No matter what the future holds I am ready for it and this Chartership process has given me time to reflect and examine the journey I have already taken whilst showing me how far I have actually come.

*Lisa Ryan
Meadowbank Library*



WANTED: contributions for TACIT

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

RAISING THE PROFILE

The Edinburgh Architectural Association and its Library

The Edinburgh Architectural Association (EAA), founded over 150 years ago (1858), was established to advance the professional interests of members including Architects, Architectural Students and Practices within its geographical boundaries of Edinburgh, the Lothians, Clackmannan, South-west Fife and the Borders. Based at 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, the Association is represented by an elected President and Council and its office-bearers include an Honorary Librarian.

The EAA is one of several Chapters throughout Scotland that combine to form the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), which is allied to the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in London. The EAA is one of the oldest Associations of Architects in the UK, after the RIBA and the London Architectural Association.

The objective of the EAA is to advance within the Chapter's sphere of influence the cause of good Architecture and, by uniting all members of the Profession, to provide for the community the highest standard of Architectural service.

The work of the EAA includes representation of architectural interests on external organisations relating to the built environment: e.g. town planning, building standards and health and safety, together with cultural matters such as conservation, education and sponsorship of Architectural competitions and awards.

The EAA also serves needs and aspirations of members through the dissemination of information relating to the theory and practice of Architecture, and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including seminars and building visits. These activities enable members to experience at first hand examples of finished work by the profession and may incorporate the disciplines of architecture, engineering, applied arts and crafts such as sculpture, interior design and landscape architecture besides workmanship of the building industry in general. Many of these activities are recorded in the year book, The 'EAA Review', copies of which are retained in the Library.

The Library

The EAA Library is situated at 15 Rutland Square within the premises of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), which was bequeathed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson, KT, LLD, FRSE, Hon. RSA, FRIBA (1834-1921), one of the foremost Scottish Architects of his generation. The Library is a

private reference library containing a specialised collection of several hundred books, manuscripts and other literary material relevant to the Architectural profession. Names range from A – Z (Sir Patrick Abercrombie's City of Edinburgh Civic Survey and Plan 1949 to Zo Zarp Krakow – Polnische Architekturzeichnungen der Gegenwart). There are also some books on such well known luminaries as Robert Adam, Sir Patrick Geddes and Charles Rennie Mackintosh. A publication list has been compiled.

EAA Publications

The EAA has also published several works including:

- Details of Scottish Domestic Architecture, 1922 (pictured), reproduced in 1981
- Edinburgh, An Architectural Guide, EAA, 1964, describing and illustrating buildings in Edinburgh (subsequently expanded and updated by the RIAS)
- Transactions of the EAA, (late 19th-early 20th century), followed by The EAA Year Book, (1922-1957) and EAA Review (from 1973). Contents comprise EAA Presidents' Foreword, various articles on architecture and a synopsis of related subjects, architectural awards, achievements and other notable events, with references to people, practices, projects and places of interest in the Chapter area

EAA Honorary Librarian

The Office of EAA Honorary Librarian is nominal, in that the office-bearer need not be a Librarian. The present Honorary Librarian is David Waugh, MLA (Penn), ARIBA, FRIAS, MRTPI, FLI, who, besides being an Architect is also a Town Planner and Landscape Architect, having studied in Glasgow, Edinburgh and the USA. On return to Scotland he has been continuously engaged in private practice within these three professions. He is author of

several articles and papers related to these professions. Interests include travel and photography.

EAA Library Review

The Library is undergoing a review in order to rationalise the Collection. This work is being undertaken through the auspices of ELISA/TACIT by a volunteer, Ms Louise Clark, BA(Hons.), MA, who is an experienced information professional and conservator. She has set out a planned programme of action including cataloguing and conservation with recommendations for improvements which could benefit the Library and members.

Enquiries

EAA Members may apply for access to the Library to: The Secretary, EAA, 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2BE or mail@eaa.org.uk



David Waugh (inset); part of EEA Library sample publication; Louise Clark

WANTED: contributions for TACIT

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

TACIT - Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh

intute at Heriot Watt University

For over fourteen years, librarians and information professionals at Heriot-Watt University have been helping students to find the best Web resources for their studies and research. From the launch of EEVL (Edinburgh Engineering Virtual Library) in 1996, through to the current Intute service and the Virtual Training Suite online tutorials, Heriot-Watt staff have used their expertise to review and evaluate thousands of resources, and to write and develop online Internet research skills tutorials as part of a UK wide project spread across many universities.

But things are changing at Intute. By now, you have probably heard the news that JISC will reduce funding for from August 2010, meaning the end of Intute at Heriot Watt, and you may be wondering what will happen to the service as a whole at the end of July. Here's what the future holds for Intute.



Intute - 2010-2011

The story is not over, and, although the Heriot Watt team will no longer be involved after July 2010, some staff in Bristol and Manchester Universities will remain and the website will not disappear this summer. JISC has provided funding to maintain the Intute database for one more year, and this means that you can continue to use the site until July 2011. The resources in the Intute catalogue will still be available, and although we will be unable to add new sites to the database, we will be link checking the existing content and fixing any broken links. If you are one of the many institutions that has integrated Intute into your own websites and information literacy teaching, we will be offering advice and support about ways forward.

With 14 years of history behind the Intute catalogue, we are also keen to ensure that our legacy is not lost. We are looking into ways of making sure that the content lives on, and we are in discussions with other organisations in the sector to find new homes for the resources. We also have some good news about two Intute services; the Virtual Training Suite and Informs.

Virtual Training Suite

The Virtual Training Suite has been helping students to develop their Internet research skills for over 10 years, and information professionals at Heriot-Watt have written and reviewed many of the current tutorials in engineering, mathematics and ICT. In 2010, this service will enter a new phase of development.

In 2009, we carried out some market research to find out how users would like to see the Virtual Training Suite develop. One thing emerged clearly from this research - that librarians and information professionals would like the ability to customise the tutorials for their own students' needs. We are very pleased that JISC has allocated funding to develop this idea further. The project will be led by the team at the Institute for Learning and Research Technology (ILRT) at the University of Bristol, and over the next year they will be undertaking the following work:

- Revising the content of the current tutorials, which will be made freely available to the community after 2011.
- Developing a new toolkit to allow the community to adapt existing tutorials and/or create their own tutorials using their own content.
- Writing new core Internet research skills content that will be integrated within the toolkit for use or adaptation by institutions.

It is likely that the new Virtual Training Suite will be offered as a subscription service, and we will be investigating membership models over the coming months.

Informs

We have also received JISC funding to allow Intute to maintain and develop the Informs online tutorial service. Informs will continue to be made available at its existing level in 2010-11, and during this year we will be refreshing the software in line with user feedback. We know that this service has many users in the Edinburgh area, and we will be keeping you up to date with any developments through the Informs JISCmail list, and the Intute website. In addition to the software developments, over the next few months we will also be looking at ways to ensure that Informs remains sustainable beyond July 2011. Like the Virtual Training Suite, we will be investigating possible membership and licensing models, and we will be getting in touch with users to get their feedback on this soon.

Tell us what you think

The next year will be a challenging one for Intute. We are still working

out what the future holds for us, and we are interested in the views of the community. If you have any comments and want to help to shape the future of Intute, please get in touch through the website

(<http://www.intute.ac.uk/helpdesk.html>).

*Lisa Charnock
Intute Executive*



WANTED: contributions for TACIT

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