

TACIT



Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh – July 2nd, 2010

The ELISA Summer Festival Party

Thursday 12 August 6-8pm
at the
Scottish Poetry Library
5 Crichton's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh
All welcome!

A relaxed and celebratory reception for anyone working in library and information services.

No business, just a bit of fun... not to be missed really! (but you can network and bring leaflets and business cards if you want to...)

There's no need to be officially part of the ELISA network to come. This party is for anyone working in Edinburgh's information services from any sector.

Please forward the invitation to others. Bring your colleagues and friends.

<http://www.cityofliterature.com/>

Inspirations at NLS: Mark Cousins

Thur 29th July 18.00

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

Guid Crack

Fri 30th July

<http://www.cityofliterature.com/>

The View from the West

June 29th, 2010 – a date that has been inked into all school librarian's diaries (and, I guess, those of a fair few teachers) since last August. IT'S THE LAST DAY OF TERM!

Yes, I know we are all taught not to write in capitals, it's rude to shout, etc etc.

However, the atmosphere here is so laid back today – I've just seen the PT Maths wearing a smile instead of a shirt and tie – that I think we can indulge ourselves and discuss what we have learnt this year.

- Always keep your "withdrawn" self-inking stamp well away from S4 pupils, and ideally under lock and key. Or maybe it might be easier to keep the S4 pupils under lock and key

- However many copies of "Twilight" are bought – you'll never have enough

- It always rains in Edinburgh when we traipse across for the Book Festival – next time make sure the coach driver has a map with alternative routes to avoid the tram works.

- Author visits to the school are guaranteed to age staff by 10 years, and reduce the average behaviour age of pupils by about the same amount

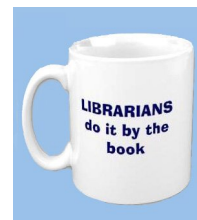
- Never, ever say to pupils that authors will be happy to sign anything (well, most of them are, but I draw the line at stookies and bare torsos)

- "I promise I'll bring it back at the end of the period, you don't need to issue it" should **always** be countered by "Aye right, give it here and I'll just get it stamped" – whether the potential thief is teaching staff, pupil, jannie or Depute Head Teacher (Yes, you know who you are!)

- It is not acceptable (although definitely understandable) to attempt to strangle probationer teachers when they say "Yeah, you could be a teacher instead of just a librarian"

- And finally: The hassle, aggro, shouting, water fights, tears and tantrums, puddles on the sofa, half-drunk cans of Irn Bru hidden in Teenage Fiction, half eaten bits of tattie scone being used as bookmarks – almost all of these are most surely countered when an S1 pupil brings you a box of choccies and a card that says "Thanks for your help and being my bestest book friend this year!"

Happy holidays....



Literally Yours
Lomax Allwood (School Librarian)

Other Forthcoming Events

Workshop: Discovering family history at NLS

Mon 5th July 10.30-12.00

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

Blackwell Book Quiz

Mon 5th July

<http://www.cityofliterature.com/>

Workshop: Getting started at NLS

Wed 7th July 14.30-16.00

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

James Macaulay discusses Charles Rennie Mackintosh

Thur 8th July

<http://www.cityofliterature.com/>

Workshop: Beyond Google

Thur 15th July 14.00-15.30

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

Christine De Luca - North End of Eden

Thur 15 July

<http://www.cityofliterature.com/>

Writing Your Crime Novel

Fri 16th July

<http://www.cityofliterature.com/>

Blackwell Book group

Mon 19th July



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edinburgh libraries & information services agency

www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info

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RAISING THE PROFILE Information and Knowledge Management in National Museums Scotland

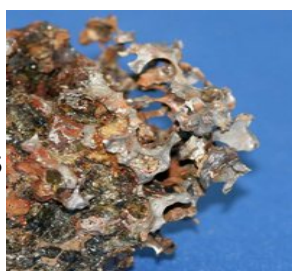
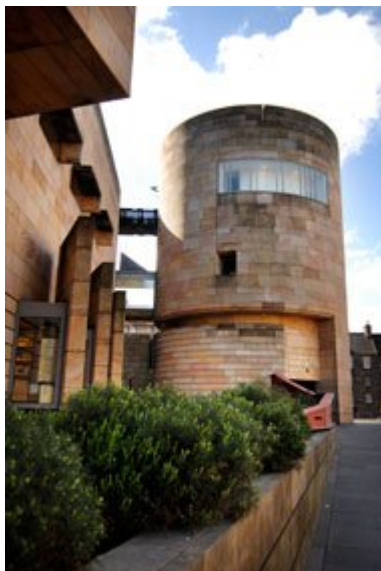
Like most students, when starting my Information Management post graduate degree we were asked the question “what is a Librarian?” Coming from a cross section of the private and public sector, traditional librarians to knowledge managers, the only definition we were all prepared to sign up for was “somebody who works in a library”.

This remains true for me, although I am in one of the most untraditional library jobs. I am about to start my 3rd year as the Information and Knowledge Manager for the National Museums Scotland. We are part of the Information Services department which has a wide remit across the organisation, and yes, also includes the Library. Two in fact, but more on that later.

So although I am sat surrounded by books, I deal with the more nebulous concepts of information and knowledge management for the organisation. As a team, we designed and built the staff Intranet two years ago. It is going from strength to strength in becoming the key place staff look for vital information and communication. If I had to pick the most fun part of my job, it would have to be managing the content for the Home page, which we update every week with newsy items. We even hold a competition every so often, having no shortage of “mystery objects” with which to bemuse the staff, and increase engagement with both the Intranet and our collections.

We have 450 staff working across 5 sites, and many cross organisational projects. This makes the Intranet a key tool and we are working more on developing the team-working and business process improvement potential of the various functions.

The Information and Knowledge management (IKM) remit also covers access to information and with that in mind last year we launched two Touchdown Centres, one at our Chambers Street site and another at the National Museums Collection Centre in Granton. The Touchdown Centres house PCs that can be used by staff members who don't have their own PCs for short periods of time, to



allow them to access our Intranet and other key information sources.

We look after regulatory compliance for the organisation, keeping everybody right on Data Protection and Information Security via our suite of records and information management policies and procedures, implemented through a network of Information Monitors across each department. And as if that wasn't glamorous enough we also deal with the Freedom of Information requests that come to the National Museums Scotland. Like most organisations these are mostly fairly mundane, but I did get to play conspiracy theorist last year

searching through our corporate records store looking for authenticity reports on the Stone of Scone. “Information Not Held” – unfortunately !

The jewel in the crown however is our newly launched Research Repository. Starting life in the Library, the Repository has recently come to IKM for continued development and growth. Accessible via our website at <http://repository.nms.ac.uk/> the Repository contains recently published articles and books written by our staff. It contains just over 100 articles and we aim to increase this to 500 over the coming year.

Those of you who slouch around Edinburgh at the weekend visiting museums and galleries will have spotted that the Royal Museum is currently closed for alterations, due to re-open in the summer of 2011. That has had an impact on the library service, which was

located in the Royal Museum. But never fear, the Museum Library will return bigger, better and more accessible to the public when we re-open as the Research Library in a newly renovated space next year. When you make your first visit to the Museum at re-opening, be sure to check out the new Info Zone in the Grand Gallery, where information about our collections will be made accessible to the public in new and innovative ways.

Our library at the National War Museum in Edinburgh Castle remains open as always, with fascinating collections to support research into Scottish military history and offering popular workshops in tracing military ancestors. For



more information about the library collections and opening times please check our web pages:

http://www.nms.ac.uk/about_us/about_us/collections_research/library.aspx

Helen Findlay

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).

Librarians say: Yes We Can ... play a big part in Curriculum for Excellence

The CILIPS Annual Conference was this year hosted in the prestigious surroundings of Glasgow's Mitchell Library from June 7th- 9th. Having never attended the conference before, I was rather daunted when asked by Cleo Jones (Manager of Information and Learning) to speak about the ways in which I use self-evaluation both as a tool to help me on the route to Chartership but also in my day to day post as Learning Resource Centre Co-ordinator at Balerno High School. Cleo herself was speaking about how self-evaluation is used by all School Librarians in Edinburgh and how as a manager she uses it to provide Head Teachers with evidence of how well their school library is doing in today's context of learning outcomes and experiences; it is no longer enough to list the good work taking place in the library if you do not have the evidence that it supports learners' needs.

For me this was my first experience of speaking to a large group of people but the audience was supportive and it was an experience which benefitted me greatly.

After lunch I was able to attend some of the afternoon sessions where I listened to 3 more presentations from school librarians. The first was from Anne Louise Anglim of West Dunbartonshire libraries. She spoke about their role in the new Curriculum for Excellence. Anne Louise describes the school library as the 'glue which holds the curriculum together', adapting to different departments around the school and working together for the benefit of all pupils. At a time when many teaching professionals remain both suspicious and highly critical of the new curriculum, Anne Louise explained how school librarians around the



country are enthused by it and see it as a way to initiate greater dialogue between teaching professionals, librarians and Quality Improvement Officers. She showed us two of her recent projects, "Crackin Crits" and "Boxfactor", where authors were invited into schools to work with younger pupils and teenagers.

Next up was Sue Cromar who gave an overview of how librarians and teaching staff in Aberdeenshire are working



together to embed information and critical literacy experiences throughout the curriculum. She demonstrated their cross-curricular programme 'RISK' for S1 pupils where, over a series of 12 lessons, pupils learn how to research, interpret and present information from a variety of sources. It is difficult to believe that these essential 21st century skills are still often only delivered as one-off events in the first few weeks of S1 with no

follow up and bearing little relation to the rest of the curriculum. This programme was put together by a sub-group of their Curriculum for Excellence committee and is free for any school to use on the understanding that Meldrum Academy is acknowledged. It looks as if this will be a fantastic resource for all school librarians and will hopefully eliminate the need for us re-inventing the wheel every time we teach information literacy.

The final speaker of the session was Alison Nolan, a school librarian from Woodfarm High

School in East Renfrewshire. She spoke about her Library-tube project which she has used to engage 14-16 year olds by involving them in library focussed activities. The teenagers have had the opportunity to star in their own video which younger pupils can then use to improve their library skills. Alison sees the key to developing a stronger library presence in schools is by raising awareness of what can be done to support teachers. She sees the new Curriculum for Excellence as the perfect marketing tool for librarians and by developing innovative and creative library based projects, the opportunities for learning through technology are endless. All this was just a taster of what was on offer over the 3 days of the conference but I found it very informative and interesting. It's great to see the fabulous things our colleagues are getting up to around the country and I returned home to Edinburgh with a wealth of information and ideas.

*Elaine Timoney
Balerno Community High School*

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