

# TACIT



Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh – Wed 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## News

The merger between Edinburgh College of Art and the University of Edinburgh is now finalized and will take place on 1st August 2011. From that point ECA Library will become a site library of Edinburgh University Library. Further details can be found at:  
<http://www.eca.ac.uk/index.php?id=1647>

**The Edinburgh International Science Festival (9<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April) has teamed up with the Scottish Storytelling Centre** to bring a wide range of stories to the Science Festival audience and showcase some outstanding children's science authors. Events include science storytelling sessions with an early morning session for kids over 3 (10.30am) and a lunchtime session for children over 7 (12pm). Dr Simon Gage, Director of the Edinburgh International Science Festival, said "We are delighted to be working with the Scottish Storytelling Centre. This new partnership enables us to explore the importance of telling the stories of science, and introducing children to some of the fantastic science authors and storytellers in a series of interactive, entertaining events." see <http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk> and [http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/events/main\\_event\\_display.asp?id=199](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/events/main_event_display.asp?id=199)

## Forthcoming Events

Royal Observatory Library Crawford Collection tour  
*Thurs 7th April*  
[karen.moran@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:karen.moran@stfc.ac.uk)

Writing research proposals - Workshop 1  
*Tues 12th April*  
<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EvntShow.cfm?uEventID=2600>

Workshop: Business information at NLS  
*Wed 13th April 14:00*  
<http://www.nls.uk/events>

Café Voices  
*Wed 13th April 19:00 - 21:00*  
<http://www.spl.org.uk/events/index.html#events>

Genomics Poetry Competition: reading party  
*Wed 13th April 19.00-20.30*  
<http://www.spl.org.uk/events/index.html#events>

Nothing But the... Science Fiction Poetry  
*Thurs 14th April 19.30*  
<http://www.spl.org.uk/events/index.html#events>

Ballads and Story Poems Training Event  
*Sat 16th April 10.00 - 13.00*  
<http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk>

CILIP Multimedia Information and Technology Group (Scotland) AGM & post-AGM seminar  
*19th April*  
<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EvntShow.cfm?uEventID=2650>

Inspirations at NLS: Michael Palin  
*Wed 27th April 18:00*  
<http://www.nls.uk/events>

Writing research proposals - Workshop 2  
*4th May*  
<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EvntShow.cfm?uEventID=2652>



## The View from the West

So what does a (term time) school librarian do during the month of April? Go on holiday, of course, if you've any sense!

March has come and gone...frantic supported study periods, printing off portfolios, the highs and lows of UCAS conditional and unconditional offers – and rejections. NQTs (Newly qualified teachers) getting more and more desperate as they apply for a dwindling number of permanent posts. Rumours are rife through the school concerning which members of staff are putting in for early retirement (I think a lot of them are started by pupils hoping to get rid of their least favoured Maths teachers).

The two big events in my library this month were our murder mystery competition – having a body outline on the floor really generates interest! - And an author visit from Royal Mail award winner Barry Hutchison. If anyone ever gets the chance to see him live, grasp it – truly inspirational and very very funny. Just don't mention squirrels to him, though – he has a pathological fear of them (a bit like me and a certain S4 English class).



*Literally yours  
Lomax Allwood*



linking edinburgh libraries

Love Scottish Libraries Campaign  
<http://www.lovescottishlibraries.org/>

edinburgh libraries & information services agency  
[www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info](http://www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info)

## TACIT - Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh



The EDGE Conference was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March at the Caledonian Hilton Hotel in Edinburgh.

The theme for the first session was **2020 Spaces : Building the Future.**

The session was opened

by Councillor Jenny Dawe, Leader of Edinburgh City Council, and Mark Turley, the Council's Director of Services for Communities. They stated that Edinburgh Council did not intend to make any cuts to school or public libraries and that they were committed to the development of new library facilities as well as to evening and weekend opening for libraries.

The first speaker, Brian Gambles from Birmingham City Council, described the development of the new Birmingham central library, which will be an important part of the city's regeneration. A digital presence for the library is being developed at the same time as the physical building so as to provide a wide range of new services to a diverse population.

Dave Anderson, Edinburgh's Director of City Development, described Edinburgh as an ideopolis, a city with an economy based on knowledge services and with a reputation for providing good education and lifelong learning opportunities. The council recognises that library provision is fundamental to the city's economic growth strategy. It is hoped that the creation of community hubs combined with libraries will improve access to learning in deprived areas of the city.

Edinburgh also benefits economically from information tourists who come to the city to find out about family or cultural history and make use of its libraries and archive services.

Kevin Winkler from New York was the next speaker. He described efforts to extend library opening hours and facilities in spite of cuts in funding. One initiative that was tried was that branch managers were allowed more authority to select resources that were relevant to their communities. He also talked about the use of digitisation as a way of improving access to information.

Nicky Parker, Manchester Council's Head of Transformation, described the redevelopment of the city's historic Central Library by expanding into a neighboring building as well as by opening up its underground archive and storage areas. Manchester has also expanded the function of local libraries to include community information and local government services.

The second session, chaired by Linda Constable from the Libraries Change Lives judging panel, had a theme of **2020 Communities : Making an Impact.**

She said that there is a public affection for libraries, and that the service generally has a good reputation that can be built upon to help them remain as key parts of communities.

Cath Anley from Kent talked about running a library service in a rural area with a dispersed population. They

use libraries to provide a physical base for volunteer services and community events.

Allan Barr of The Big Partnership described strategies for making use of social media to engage with library users. He said that people trust personal recommendations much more than advertisements and that engaging with library users and allowing them to share opinions is a good way of creating independent advocates for libraries and their services.

Lauren Currie of service design company SNOOK described how to make improvements by first understanding how people use services and what they experience, rather than on the basis of predetermined targets.

Nicola Horsey from Hampshire Council then described the changes in library culture as a result of the use of RFID systems in libraries. They found that while it did save space in libraries it didn't involve a huge reduction in staff time required. The council also does active marketing of library services, including targeted mailings for specific groups of users.

The final session **2020 Technology : Only Connect** was introduced by Councillor Deirdre Brock who emphasised Edinburgh Council's commitment to building new libraries and focusing on improving outcomes for communities and individuals across the city.

Jim Thompson from Edinburgh City's Information and Digital Services described the development of the YourLibrary site <http://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk/> and other digital services which are used to complement the council's physical libraries. There is a potential for phone apps to be used to add more services and features in future.

Dave Coplin from Microsoft UK discussed the use of technologies to change the ways in which people work, as well as problems with security issues, threats to privacy and the sensible management of these risks.

Lester Madden of Augmented Planet demonstrated the uses of augmented reality, such as overlaying maps on to real world views, or pulling up information on local sites and stories based on a user's GPS location.

Finally Liz McGettigan of Edinburgh Library and Information Services summed up how much potential there was for using new technologies in new ways to improve library services.

More information can be found at

<http://edge2011.wordpress.com/programme-2/>

*Nicola Harrison  
Harley Haddow*

Are you a Chartership candidate or considering working towards a professional qualification in librarianship? ELISA and CILIPS East Branch are looking at ways of supporting Chartership candidates in the Edinburgh area to network and gain experience of wider professional issues. Contact Val Walker [valerie.walker@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:valerie.walker@ea.edin.sch.uk) from the ELISA Staff Development and Training group if you are interested in joining a network, and let us know if you can help with organising an event.

### 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).