

TACIT



Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh – Wed 13th July 2011

News

The CIIG group organized a trip to Historic Scotland's library at Longmore House on 9th June. The library has a wide range of publications covering the historic built environment in Scotland and includes an archive of older books as well as contemporary ones. The group were particularly interested in the section on traditional building techniques and restoration, which is extensive and detailed.

HS also has a small collection of relevant CD Roms, DVDs, and videos, and has access to various specialist and general online databases and resources. Although primarily a workplace library, members of the public and researchers are welcome to visit the Library for reference purposes, by prior appointment.

*Nicola Harrison
Harley Haddow Engineers*

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland run a series of lunchtime lectures on Mondays afternoon at 1pm. Details of the programme can be found at

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/lunchtime-lectures.html>

They're keen to have external people giving these lectures too. Potential contributors can email to

philip.graham@rcahms.gov.uk with suggestions.

The RCAHMS Search Room is open to the public from Tuesday to Friday from 9:30am to 5pm and is free of charge.

See: <http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/visit-our-search-room.html>

A proposed new ELISA homepage design can be seen at

http://www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info/?page_id=1007

Main new features to note:

1. A shorter introduction to what ELISA is, with links to more detailed information elsewhere on the site.
2. An extract from the current issue of TACIT, which will be updated monthly, as an alternative to posting it in the ELISA blog.
3. New header graphic design (below) using the colours from the Libraries Passport.

Comments please to alison.stoddart@edinburgh.gov.uk

Edinburgh Napier University Information Services are offering the following barcode scanners (PS/2 Connectors) for free to anyone who wants them. (Recipient to pick up)

Welch Allyn Scanteam 3400 CCD x3

Gryphon Datalogic D100 Black x2

Gryphon Datalogic D100 White x2

Gryphon Datalogic DLC7070-M1 x1

contact Walter Dunlop w.dunlop@napier.ac.uk

Forthcoming Events

Storytelling Scotland

Sat 16th July

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

Storytelling at the Palace

Sat 16th July

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

Workshop: Read all about it!

Tue 19th July 18:00

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

Electric Tales: Comedy and Storytelling

Sat 23rd July

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

Workshop: 'Discovering family history'

Wed 27th July 18:00

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

Reading: Scottish PEN

28th July 18:00

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

Blackwell's Book Quiz

Mon 1st August

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

Workshop: Getting started at NLS

Thur 4th August 14:00

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

Edinburgh Library and Information Services Agency
linking Edinburgh libraries



linking edinburgh libraries

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

edinburgh libraries & information services agency
www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info

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TACIT - Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh

Small Press & Zine Fair

Sun 7th August

<http://www.cityoflitterature.com/whats-on-results.aspx?sec=5&pid=23&item=2734>

Things that go bump in the night: Using Social Media to attach public stories to museum artefacts

Mon 8th August

http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/assets/files/RCAHMS_lunchtime_lectures_2011.pdf

Cafe Voices

Wed 10th August

<http://www.cityoflitterature.com/whats-on-results.aspx?sec=5&pid=23&item=2758>

Workshop: 'Discovering family history'

Tue 16th August 14:00

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

Workshop: Beyond Google

Wed 17th August 14.00

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

Royal Botanic Gardens Library

On the 8th of June, ten information and library professionals were treated to a tour of the Library at the **Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh**. The tour was given by Jane Hutcheon, Head of Library Services and leader of a small team of four full-time staff (including archivist) and one part-time volunteer.

The library holds the largest collection of botanical and horticultural literature outside south-east England and is Scotland's national reference collection on the subjects containing around 90,000 monographs and 150,000 bound journals. In addition to the items contained in the book stacks (neatly arranged using the Bliss classification system – the RBGE is only 1 of around 6 institutions that uses the system) there are also many colour slides, over 40,000 botanical illustrations and a Special Collections & Archives containing 3000 antiquarian books, material relating to the history of the Garden as well as field notes and diaries concerning plant collecting in India and China in the C19th and C20th.

We were all delighted to be given the opportunity of looking at and holding some of the rarer and more expensive items from the collection: incunabula (a "Herbarius" printed in Latin in 1486 by Johann Veldner), a Renaissance 'herbal' (Leonhart Fuchs' *De historia stirpium commentarii insignes*) published in 1542 [essentially a book containing information on the medicinal properties of plants] and the first volume of the *Highgrove Florilegium* - a remarkable book containing illustrations of plants in the gardens at Highgrove by distinguished botanical artists. The edition, published on behalf of the Princes Trust and wholly financed by the Prince of Wales, is limited to only 175 copies and at £12,000 for 2 volumes it is easy to see why. We were

entertained to hear the story of its acquisition from a generous benefactor - the official reception of the book involved transportation by horse and carriage, journalists, press photographers and Holyrood Palace!

We were also shown the extensive card catalogue, a sight less common in some libraries but a reassuring indicator of the diligence practiced by the library staff in its compilation over the years. This catalogue contains the records for all items pre-1991 while all material acquired subsequently is searchable via one of three OPACs (using the SirceDynix LMS). Although the RBGE library is publicly funded it still depends on external funds to help with projects, sometimes in collaboration with a partner institution - even Kew Gardens or Oxford. © RBGE



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Retroconversion of records and barcoding of stock is apparently not a priority for external grants so if you're keen to utilise your cataloguing skills (on a voluntary basis) for a worthwhile cause...!

We were told that to borrow items users have to fill out a slip in triplicate and leave one copy on the shelf in the exact location from which the book was taken. By the evidence of the number of white slips protruding from the rows of books I could tell by a quick glance that the collection is well-used. This is not surprising given that Jane herself served as President of the European Botanical and Horticultural Group from 2001 until 2007 and has been Head of Library Services at RBGE since 1998. Throughout the tour her knowledge and passionate advocacy made the library all the more vivid and engaging for us. We were also told that the library is frequently used by researchers and doctoral students who come from all over Europe and the world to consult its unique items and, given the dedication and professionalism of its staff, will no doubt continue to do so for some time yet.

Simon Ward
Edinburgh Napier University Library

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).