

BULLETIN

of the

Association of British Theological

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BULLETIN 2013

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***Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and
Philosophical Libraries***

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The front cover shows New College Library's tag cloud.

REPORT OF THE 41ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BETH, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND, 8-12 SEPTEMBER 2012

By Carol Reekie

ABTAPL was delighted to be able to host the 41st General Assembly of BETH which was held at Stranmillis University College, Belfast. It was attended by 25 representatives of the member associations, personal members and guests from more than ten countries. The theme of the Assembly was *Religion in Conflict* and was marked by a series of lectures, presentations, visits and discussions.

The Assembly began with a welcome from Maureen Carswell, who was standing in for our Chair, Alan Linfield. Alan was somewhat busy leading his daughter down the aisle! We were also welcomed by Odile Dupont, the President of BETH. Those ABTAPL members who attended the Belfast Spring Conference in 2008, I am sure will recall the warm welcome that we received at Stranmillis.

Alan was able to join us the following day (with some wedding photos) and welcomed all the delegates before the opening of the first business session. Brenda Bailey-Haimer, the Executive Director of ATLA, gave an interesting presentation on ATLA and its products. She highlighted some of the new journals that are now included on the ATLA Religious Database and reported that ATLAS Serials now consist of 219 journals and that more titles were in preparation. Brenda also outlined a number of future initiatives for 2013 such as an improved infrastructure and providing virtual learning opportunities.

Reports were received from the member organisations and the Assembly was updated on the progress of ensuring that BETH's Wikipedia entry was available in multiple languages. During the business session, the Board elections were held. Both Odile Dupont and Penelope Hall stood down from their respective posts of President and Secretary of BETH. Geert Harmanny (Netherlands) was elected President and Carol Reekie (Great Britain), Secretary. Marek Rostkowski (Italy) was elected Vice-president, whilst Svein-Helge Birkeflet (Norway), Matti Myllykoski (Finland) and Marian Pepavoine (Netherlands) were elected to the Board. Veronique Verspeurt continues to serve her term as Treasurer.

Items for discussion during the business sessions included:

- The new BETH website. Word Press would be used.
- GlobeTheoLib – the Assembly voted to join for three years.
- Relindial – the group exploring interfaith dialogue. The Assembly agreed to consider joining IFLA.
- Exploring creative ways of helping small associations and libraries to attend future BETH Assemblies.
- Trying to achieve greater collaboration with other associations and organisations.
- Open Access – Matti Myllykoski offered to develop links to Open Access journals and books.
- The exchange of Bulletins.
- 42nd Assembly 2013, Paris. It will also be the French Association's (ABCF) 50th anniversary. The theme would be historic libraries.
- 43rd Assembly, Poland 2014. Open Access is the proposed theme.

The delegates also attended a number of presentations.

The Politics of Peacemaking: a personal perspective by Christopher Maccabe. Christopher gave a fascinating talk on the recent political history of Northern Ireland. Being heavily involved in Irish politics for over thirty years, Christopher was able to provide many insights into its history and the difficult task of providing healing and reconciliation.

Religion and the Roots of Division in Ireland by Scott Spurlock. This lecture outlined Ireland's turbulent religious history from its medieval origins to the late 17th century. He explained the historical causes of the religious conflict, the planting of loyal English and Scottish subjects and how all the different factions had contributed to the turmoil.

Sage, the major sponsor, gave a timely presentation on Open Access journals. Caroline Porter explained the recent developments at Sage and that their platform allowed links to a number of free resources. Their recent report – *Moving towards an Open Access future: the role of the academic library* can be found at:

<http://www.uk.sagepub.com/repository/biarries/pdf/Library-oAReport.pdf>

Nancy Arnison, the new Theological Book Network director, updated us on the good work that the organisation is undertaking. Whilst they continue to provide books to theological colleges and centres, they are keen to foster leadership development in the developing world by providing access to resources.

Other presentations included Marek Rostkowski on the development of the Catholic Missionary Bibliography and another by Odile Dupont on Relindial.

The delegates were also treated to a number of visits that included the 18th century Linen Hall Library. Some of you may recall our visit in 2008 to see the special collections, artefacts and memorabilia that the library holds. We also saw the Mary Peters exhibition that was still on show – some of you may remember that Mary Peters was GB's only athletics gold medal winner in the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

A visit to the McClay Library, Queens University, Belfast was also organised. Karen Latimer, the Medical Librarian and a former architect gave a fascinating presentation, *Library Design in Challenging Times: a national and international perspective*. Karen gave an illustrated talk on the changes that had taken place in library design and the challenges that libraries now face as users needs and the use of library space are changing. This was followed by a tour of the library and the C.S.Lewis Room. A replica of the wardrobe door used in the film, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, provides the entrance to the room.

After a view of a modern library, we visited the more traditional library of the Union Theological College. We were warmly welcomed by David Kerry and given a tour of their beautiful library. Photos of the Union College ABTAPL visit from 2008 are still available on the ABTAPL website.

The final evening was spent at Malone House in Barnet Demesne, Belfast. A beautiful house set in wonderful grounds. Here we were delightfully entertained by Richard Allen on the Irish Harp and a small group of Irish dancers from the Rooney Maher Dance Academy. During the evening both Odile and Penelope were presented with tokens of our esteem and thanked for all their work on behalf of BETH.

On behalf of ABTAPL I would like to say a huge thank you to Penelope Hall and our Irish colleagues, particularly Dorothy Anderson for organising and hosting such a successful conference. We now look forward to the next Assembly which will be held in Paris, September 2013.

Carol Reekie

Federation Librarian

Hon. ABTAPL Secretary and delegate to BETH

TWITTER : JOIN THE CONVERSATION

By Alison Cullingford

Everybody's heard of Twitter: it's omnipresent in the media, usually in a negative way. Don't let that put you off! It is an incredibly useful tool for librarians to keep in touch with their professional colleagues quickly and cheaply. (It's also an incredibly useful tool for libraries to deliver services and market themselves, but that is another story.) So how does Twitter work?



Alison Cullingford @speccollbrad 31 mins
Looking fwd to #manuscriptzoo today - a cool manuscript animal every hour from the fantastic @erik_kwakkel
Expand

Alison Cullingford @speccollbrad 19 hrs
@melindahauton Oh I didn't send you my LGBT month blog. Sorry! It's not very deep, just some interesting images. Will link in yr comments
View conversation

Alison Cullingford @speccollbrad 19 hrs
#archives RT @blefury: Using personal digital archives to assist people w Alzheimer's, cognitive impairment #pda2013 #PersonalCrosswords
Expand

Alison Cullingford @speccollbrad 20 hrs
It certainly is! MT @gem_heritage @britishlibrary found public appetite for interacting with maps "insatiable"@MandHAdvisor...
Expand

Alison Cullingford @speccollbrad 20 hrs
Amazing footage from @YorkshireFilm of @officialbantams #bcafc 1911 FA Cup triumph! bit.ly/VvraNV Cup was made in #bradford!
Expand

Alison Cullingford @speccollbrad Feb 20
Fascinating how US & UK #speccolls compare - blog by @minniwed on RLUK/OCLC survey hangingtogether.org/?p=2559
Expand

Alison Cullingford @speccollbrad Feb 19
@copac Used "realia" in past, but think for most audiences "objects" or "3D objects" makes more sense. Interested in yr findings!
Expand

Once you've set up an account on Twitter.com, you tweet by typing the message you want to share in the box. Twitter gives you 140 characters. What you do with them is up to you! You don't have to talk about your breakfast or the tiny details of your everyday life – unless you want to. You can tell people about something that is happening, link to interesting things you have seen on the web (look for "Tweet" buttons), or ask questions, or share a photograph. The clever bit is that you "follow" other users whose tweets you want to see in your timeline when you log on. Maybe they will follow you back. Then you can start to interact and talk to each other.

How Twitter can help with professional development

It curates the web. Librarians and others bring together interesting things from across the web in one place. I find it invaluable for finding out about news, new publications, conferences and events. Also, because tweeters link to reflective blog posts or ponder current issues in their tweets, your timeline puts you in touch with conversations about the profession, higher education, the public sector, technological advances and more.

You can attend conferences and training events virtually, if delegates are live tweeting. Two or three people summarising the speakers and questions can give you a good idea of what is being covered – and of course you can join in or follow up later. The event will have a "hashtag" (something like #rbscg13 which is the CILIP Rare Books Group Conference 2013), a kind of link, which those tweeting will include in their tweets to enable others to follow the event.

Twitter is itself becoming a forum for professional development events, such as #uklibchat¹, a discussion group on library issues which takes place on Twitter. It lends itself well to moderated but informal chats and discussion of books or particular ideas. Of course, there is no substitute for meeting people in real life, but Twitter is a great way to connect if that isn't possible. And when you do meet, having the Twitter connection helps to break the ice. They are not strangers!

¹ <http://uklibchat.wordpress.com>

Twitter is a great way to get known in the profession, which can be particularly difficult for graduate trainees, solo librarians, first professionals and others who aren't able to attend many external events. This of course helps when applying for jobs, seeking funding, getting chartered, getting published, looking for partners, and leads to all sorts of other opportunities.

It makes it easy to keep in touch with communities outside your immediate professional circle. For example, I need to know about archives, museums, libraries and other heritage sector developments worldwide. It is also really useful to reach people active in the arts, media and creative industries, and academics, especially those in digital humanities. I have a sense of what interests and concerns them, which in turn helps me whether seeking partnerships or just understanding potential users or contacts. It might be possible to find out about these things and meet these people via other routes, but not all together, quickly, in one place, every day.

I think Twitter may be particularly useful for professional development for ABTAPLers. Like many special collections people, they're often under-resourced solo workers with a lot of passion for and knowledge about their job. These qualities shine through on Twitter! And it doesn't matter if you are solo or small: if you have interesting things to say or share you will find like-minded connections.

Curating Twitter

You can curate your Twitter stream to make it work for you. Here are some features I like and use regularly. You can ...

- "Favourite" tweets, which pulls them out of the stream so you can return to them. I often do this for links to reports which I don't have time to read there and then, or things I want to follow up or write about later.
- Put the people you follow into lists, so you can focus only on their tweets, useful when you follow hundreds of people. You can also follow lists created by other people.
- Set up searches so you can keep track of discussions of whatever topic interests you. This will lead to new people and connections.

Useful features

Twitter is quick, instant, and mobile. It doesn't take long to tweet and you can do it anywhere – Twitter and smartphones are perfect partners.

You have control: you can stop following people if you don't like their tweets and block spammers from following you. You can make your whole account private if you like, so people can only follow you if you allow them.

No pressure! If you don't have time to look, it doesn't matter. Unlike email, where mails pile up quickly, the stream goes on without you. Just dip a toe in when you have time.

There is a multitude of other tools to make more of Twitter, such as Hootsuite and Tweetdeck which help keep track of multiple accounts and schedule tweets to be sent later.

Twitter isn't hierarchical or organised. Your job title or status is not important. It matters more that you say or do interesting things. If you want to do something (like set up a discussion group), you can just do it.

A note of caution

It's easy to be lulled by the chattiness of Twitter into forgetting that it is a PUBLIC SPACE. Unless you make your account private, anyone can see your tweets in searches and also outside Twitter e.g. when searching Google. So it's important to remain aware of professional and organisational reputation. However, that caution doesn't mean you have to be formal or tweet in corporate language. It's an informal medium: humour and personality are welcome.

What to do next

If you would like to try Twitter, here's a couple of articles containing good advice and further thoughts.

- Using Twitter for Current Awareness, from 23 Things for Professional Development².
- 10 things to do BEFORE you start tweeting, sound advice from Ned Potter³

Happy tweeting!

Alison Cullingford

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I'm @speccollbrad on Twitter. The Collections tweet as @100objectsbrad and I also sometimes look after the @ciliprarebooks account.

A version of this article was originally published in the *Cambridge University Libraries Information Bulletin*, issue 71, Michaelmas 2012.

² <http://cpd23.blogspot.co.uk/2012/05/thing-4-current-awareness-twitter-rss.html>

³ <http://thewikiman.org/blog/?p=979>

A LIBRARIAN'S ADVENTURES IN BLOGLAND

By Christine Love-Rodgers

The world is full of blogs and social media. Research by OCLC in 2012 found that 50% of UK academic librarians read blogs to stay informed (and 33% used Twitter⁴). So many people are out there doing social media, and so many are doing it better than I am. But we all have to start somewhere, and this is how I started using a blog as a way to tell New College Library's unique story - and what happened next.

Why blog?

Where did it all start?

I started my blog <http://newcollegelibrarian.wordpress.com/> in April 2012. I had previously written a Library newsletter that was e-mailed to the School of Divinity and put on the website, but wasn't convinced that this was widely read. After having been on a social media course, a blog seemed like a more dynamic, flexible way of communicating.

The primary readership I wanted was the Divinity staff and students and alumni of the University of Edinburgh – but I was also keen to expose New College Library to a wider audience. New College Library has a significant number of retrospective Special Collections cataloguing projects in progress, funded by a donation from a Divinity alumnus, and I wanted to use the blog to make links between the School and New College Library's collections, old and new, to demonstrate the value of the investment being made by the School of Divinity in our cataloguing projects.

Creating a digital identity

I chose Wordpress.com as a blogging platform because I had had it recommended to me on a course, I knew that other staff in the School of Divinity were using it and I knew there were Wordpress blogs in similar

⁴ **OCLC, 2012.** *A SNAPSHOT OF PRIORITIES & PERSPECTIVES : UK Academic Libraries [online]. Available at:* <<http://www.oclc.org/reports/uk-libraries/214758ukb-A-Member-Communication-Survey-Report-UK-academic.pdf>> [Accessed 25 February 2013].

libraries to mine (e.g. Glasgow & St Andrews Universities). I wanted to set up a digital identity for myself focused on New College Library, and so chose an image from one of the Library's stained glass windows as an identity picture.





The screenshot shows a WordPress blog post on the 'newcollelibrarian' site. The post title is 'Treasures of New College Library: The Dumfries Presbytery Library', dated June 18, 2012, by user 'newcollelibrarian'. The post features a photograph of several old, worn books with leather covers. The text describes the history of the Dumfries Presbytery Library, which was first documented in 1710 and transferred to New College Library in 1958. It mentions that in 1884, a fire damaged the roof of the presbytery house, leading to the collection being moved to Edinburgh. The post also notes that in 1962, the collection came under the governance of Edinburgh University Library, and in 1965, it was taken over by New College Librarian. A project to catalogue the collection is mentioned as ongoing in the summer of 2012. The post includes social media links for RSS, Twitter, and Facebook, and a 'Follow' button for email notifications.

Looking back, I think it's worth taking a bit of time with this stage, as from my page statistics I've found that my 'About' page is one of the most viewed pages. One of the features I liked about Wordpress was the ability to link up with other forms of social media to automatically broadcast your blog posts, and I linked my blog to my Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.

What to blog?

Once I was all set up, I blogged the information that I was also sending out by e-mail to the School of Divinity - the 'need to know' news about library closures, important deadlines and online resources trials. But I also blogged about 'would like you to know' information that I would not have directly e-mailed staff and students about, such as bulletins on new books and articles on Special Collections items and collections. I aimed to write short (100-200 word) texts with an accompanying picture, as I felt that the pictures were a key part of the content. I was able to use these short posts to keep the blog updated regularly, enabling me to use the blog to add value to my activities and fit blogging into a busy schedule.

Top Posts & Pages

-  Top ten tips for finding theses
-  Picturing heaven : online image resources for religious art #ILW2013
-  Here comes the rain again ...
-  The Rescue that never was - remembering Holocaust Memorial Day #HMD2013

New College Librarian

archives Bible Biblical Studies
books China Christianity Christmas
church history Church of England
Church of Scotland Divinity
donations Dumfries Presbytery Library
Edinburgh eighteenth-century Funk
Hebrew images Jewish Judaism Latin
library catalogue medieval missions
New College Edinburgh new
college library
newspapers nineteenth-century
online Pamphlets rare
books religion Religious Studies
research saints science
Scotland seventeenth-century
Special Collections
students Theology & Ethics
twentieth-century
University of
Edinburgh World
Christianity Z Collection

Tag cloud

I hesitated at first about whether to blog about e-resources and e-resource trials when these resources would not be accessible to blog readers outside the University of Edinburgh. However a colleague reminded me of the professional importance of sharing information about what we are trialling with other librarians, so I went ahead, but taking care to flag up that the links were for University of Edinburgh users only.

Time spent

How much time has writing my blog actually taken? The actual writing time depended on the material chosen – many blog entries were amplifications of material I was already sending out by e-mail, or drew on material I had written for reports or project plans. More time consuming were the blog entries written on Special Collections items which, even if I restricted my research to the use of the DNB, still required time spent retrieving, examining and photographing the item itself. I found I could manage my writing time more effectively if I composed some blog posts during quieter periods and scheduled them to be published in a later and busier part of the university year.

I did spend time on publicising my blog, through e-mails to the School of Divinity, in induction sessions and through mentions in University newsletters and magazines. I also spent time building my social media profile, through sourcing other relevant blogs and twitter feeds and following them in the hope that they would follow me.

Some time – but not a lot – was required to deal with the comments and queries that came via the blog and via twitter. An effective spam filter dealt with many of them but I did receive some genuine enquiries.

Who read my blog?

Usage started small and steadily increased, to 100+ followers and 4500+ hits in 10 months after it began. Wordpress's statistics functions allowed me to see who was reading my blog in some detail. Jumps in usage followed publication of blog posts, but also peaked at unexpected times such as weekends. By far and away the most popular blog post was *New JSTOR collections benefit e-journals for Divinity* – which was little more than a list of e-journals available via a new JSTOR package.

newcollelibrarian
News and views from New College Library, Edinburgh

Home About

Search Results
Keyword: 'jstor'

New JSTOR collections benefit e-journals for Divinity
August 23, 2012 newcollelibrarian [Leave a comment](#) [Edit](#)


Are you a fan of JSTOR electronic journals? In 2012 the University of Edinburgh purchased the JSTOR Collections V & VIII. This has increased the coverage of backruns of a number of titles relevant to Divinity, such as:

- Canadian Journal of Philosophy 1971-2006
- Contemporary Religions in Japan 1960-1970
- The Catholic Historical Review 1915-2006
- International Journal of the Classical Tradition 1994-2007
- International Journal for Philosophy of Religion 1970-2007
- International Journal of Hindu Studies 1997-2007
- Japanese Journal of Religious Studies 1974-2011
- Jewish History 1986-2007
- The Journal of Ethics 1997-2007
- Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion 1985-2011
- Journal of Religion and Health 1961-2007
- The Journal of Religious Ethics 1973-2005
- The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society 1835-2006
- Nova Religio; The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions 1997-2011
- Prooftexts 1981-2010
- Religion & Literature 1965-2008
- Religious Studies 1965-2011
- Scottish Historical Review 1903-

[Online library resources](#)

[Divinity, e-journals, journals, online, research, students, University of Edinburgh](#)

collelibrarian.wordpress.com...



Other popular blog posts included articles about finding theses, a Special Collections pamphlet from Jacobite Edinburgh and a medieval manuscript on display in the library. I was surprised at how much the usage data pointed to my users searching for information in my blog about e-journals and electronic resources, and now blog much more about online resources than I did at first.

One question that interested me was how much of the UK usage came from my target audience, the University of Edinburgh. Some of my blog posts received 'likes' from users but to date none of these have appeared to come from anyone with a visible connection to the University of Edinburgh. Around half of the hits each day come from Google searches. However the others appear to be generated by users going directly to my blog, supporting the verbal feedback I've had from Divinity that they are reading it. From the beginning the School of Divinity was supportive of the blog, and put a

link to it on the front page of the School website which, as the statistics showed, generated steady traffic. When my site reached 3000 hits, I held a small poll asking for information about the identity of blog readers, and 70% of respondents replied that they were from the University of Edinburgh.

an Follow Like Reblog

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News and views from New College Library, Edinburgh

About

Home > Rare Books at New College Library > Gaelic hymns from the Highlands

Gaelic hymns from the Highlands

October 23, 2012 newcollelibrarian Go to comments Leave a comment Edit



Grant, Peter. Dain spioradail. Elgin : Peter Macdonald, bookseller, 1837. New College Library Gaelic Collections 250.

New College Library's recently catalogued Gaelic Collections contain several editions of "Dain spioradail" by the celebrated hymn writer Peter Grant.

This edition at Gaelic Coll. 250 is the fifth edition, considerably enlarged and improved from earlier editions. It was published in Elgin, in the highlands of Scotland.

The title page information refers to Grant's Gaelic name Pàdraig Grannid nan Oran, which means 'Peter Grant of the songs'. Grant was a Baptist minister, born on 30 January 1783 at Ballintua, Strathspey, Scotland. He was a skilled fiddle player, who was able to set his poems on evangelical themes to well known tunes which were popular into the twentieth century. This work is typical of the works in the Gaelic Collection, which contains many volumes of religious poetry.

With thanks to Patrick Murray, our Gaelic Cataloguer, for supplying details of this item.

Share this: Press This Twitter 1 Facebook

Like this: Live

3 bloggers like this.

Rare Books at New College Library

Gaelic, hymnbooks, hymns, new college library, nineteenth-century, rare books, Scotland, Special Collections

Leave a comment Trackback

Trackbacks (0) Comments (0)

No comments yet.

An interesting example in the life of the blog came from a week of blog posts on our newly catalogued Gaelic Collections in October 2012. Broadcast on Twitter, the statistics information on Wordpress showed that links to the blog articles were also being circulated on Facebook. In November I received a phone call from BBC Radio nan Gaidheal, who had picked up the information on the blog and were asking to broadcast an interview from New College Library about the Gaelic Collections. When the interview went out, Gaelic listeners responded by phoning into the radio station with additional information about the collection's donor, Rev. Roderick Macleod - a lovely example of the wider public interacting with our collections.

Carrying on blogging

I would call my blog a modest success so far, as it has met my aims of being a more dynamic newsletter to the Edinburgh Divinity community. My use of Twitter has been successful in making connections with other librarians and with other staff at the University of Edinburgh but I have to say as yet I've had very little engagement from students on Twitter. It would be interesting to develop more two way social interaction via the different social media, as I can see there's been more telling than talking from me so far. I have also, to date, avoided using Facebook for work purposes, but it may be that Facebook is a more effective way to reach the student community. We'll see ...

One of the things I like about blogging is that my posts have a life far beyond their first appearance – the internet search traffic means that even the very first posts I made are still being picked up and read. For me, this retrospective blog life increases the value of the time spent writing it. I also like the fact that I control the parameters of the blog, such as how much and when I post. I've found that even my small amount of dabbling in Twitter has turned up a few pearls of useful information to be shared on the ebb and flow of the social media tide. My blog also forms a resource bank of information about New College Library that doesn't exist anywhere else. It makes a creative and dynamic space to develop the story of New College Library Edinburgh.

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NewCollegeLibrarian@cloverodgers

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE, JUST KEEP THINKING

By Emma Walsh

When my boys were younger they would often play pirates, which regularly resulted in them digging in the garden, to find treasure, (mum had previously marked the appropriate place with an X). They would then find their imaginary treasure and walk around the backyard celebrating their finds shouting “Arrgghhhh”.

I have at times felt like the pirate, finding hidden treasure in the depths of The Angus. I don't tend to walk around college celebrating my finds with a loud “Aarrghh”, but rather with an astonished “You'll never guess what I have just found!”

It was the excitement of these discoveries that made me wonder what else was hidden in the deepest darkest corners of the library, and to also start thinking about how to help others discover and use what was there.

I firmly believe that every library is unique in some way and it is the librarian's role to discover what it is. For us it is The Angus Library and Archive, but for you it might be a special collection or unique items, your location, your audience, your history, the list is endless. Once you have discovered what makes you unique you then need to find how to make the most of it.

To do this there are a number of steps you can take, this is by no means an exhaustive list, but rather a list of what we have learnt and experienced through our Heritage Lottery Fund project.

Sell yourself and your Library

The first step is to begin to convince others of the uniqueness, we all know librarians are required to wear many hats as part of their role and public relations is definitely one of those hats. We need to sing the praises of our collections both inside and outside our institutions, in order that people know their importance, and begin to see them as an essential asset and not a burden that takes space and resource. This can take time, but the more people you have on your side the better. You need to consider what items

you have that people could benefit from, think about their needs and highlight how the library can help them by making their life easier. You will always have people that will not appreciate the asset you and your library are, don't worry there will always be opponents, focus on the positives.

Define your goal

A couple of years ago I made a trip to my son's Yr 4 class. They were studying India, and I have lots of old books from India, which I offered to show them which teacher was very enthusiastic about. A couple of days later I took a few duplicates copies of items with me to show his class, some they could touch and others which they couldn't. I then watch this room full of boisterous 8year olds become mesmerised by these 200 year old books. Holding them so gently like they were the most fragile and precious items they had ever seen or touch. Then, when I brought out a book that they couldn't touch and explained that even I had to wear White gloves to hold it, there large eyes became the size of saucers. It was while I was watching this that the idea of a school outreach program started to develop.

As you begin to discover what makes you unique, begin to spend time thinking about what you want to achieve. It might be to increase access, or to rejuvenate the appearance, start using social media or develop outreach activities. It is really up to you and what you think is needed. Once you have the direction you think you should go, start talking about it with various people getting feedback and suggestions on how you could refine it and make it fit what you are hoping to achieve. Once you have you goal defined, stick to it, flexibly.

Start small

Now that you know what you want to achieve, find a bit sized chunk to start with. This will help develop your skills and confidence when you trying something larger, it will also help others in the future to trust you when you try a larger project if you can show that you have a track record of success.

Find resources to help achieve your goal

Resources are more than money! They are also people, training, spaces, personal experiences or other people's experiences. It is whatever will help you achieve your goal. The ABTAPL community is a great place to start, as is the internet more generally. If you have the opportunity to join other regional or subject specific networks they are also useful.

If funding is something you want to pursue, then having a clear goal is imperative, and use that as your starting point for who you approach for funding. Funders all have requirements which guide who they will give money to. There has previously been advice that suggests a scatter gun approach is the best. I would not support this advice. Find funders that fit your project really well and then put time and effort into writing a proposal that will make your project stand out from the others. We have had a 100% success rate in our funding applications, but that has been because there have been a number of applications we have started and not completed or submitted because it was clear that it was not a good fit. If you are not convinced that your project matches their funding, it will be obvious in your application, and it will be hard to convince them. Depending on who you are looking at for funding, if it is public money such as Heritage Lottery Fund or the Arts Council, then they are usually more interested in outward focussed projects, such as partnerships or outreach projects.

With all that said the thing we have learnt most when it comes to resources including funding is to be creative. Look at what is on offer around you, think outside the box. If you find something you like, find out how they did it, visit them, and ask questions, **DO RESEARCH**. Use the enquiring minds you have and use for others to help yourself discover more about what you want to achieve and then go for it!

Keep a record your project

Once you have your goal, and you have formulated your plan, work hard at getting it, don't under estimate the time it might take and keep a record of what has happened. It may go without saying but the bigger the project the more you will need to do to deliver.

It is really important at the end of each week, or section of a project, to spend some time thinking through what you have done, looking at what has worked, what hasn't worked and what you do differently. This way when

you take on new projects you don't make the same mistakes. We have done a number of things differently such as how much we communicate we have to others, as a result of what we have learnt from previous projects.

All of this takes time and I realise that many people have limited time and resources around them. But again I would encourage people to think outside the box and find creative ways of helping. If time is your greatest pressure, see if there are student volunteers you can train to do basic tasks such as shelving, or returning books for an hour or two a week, if money is difficult see if you can be creative with your budget.

Communicate

When you are undertaking new projects, particularly with projects that may impact other people, it is always important to communicate what is happening to the wider world. This can be in a variety of ways, either through monthly email updates, blog, twitter feeds or notices on noticeboards.

It is essential that you communicate what is going on and inform people of anything that may impact them ahead of time. Much ill feeling can be avoided if you ensure you communicate what is happening. Some people may not read it, and there is nothing you can do about that. What you can do is ensure you have told everyone. Again this is about raising the profile of the library, keeping it in the fore front of people's minds, and not letting it slip back into something that is unseen and unknown.

Celebrate and communicate success

Once you have succeeded, and you will, celebrate it.

It is important to communicate your success to those inside and outside your institution, not only because it's fun, but because it helps to raise the profile of you and the library. People like good news stories, and they also like to be involved in things that are successful, and making a difference. It doesn't have to be garish, it can simply be an email message to colleagues, a cake in the staff room with a note, "Help celebrate.....", a news item in your institutions newsletters, or on the front page of your institutions website or it can be something bigger. It is always important to celebrate success, and is something we often don't do. If you are uncomfortable with telling people how fantastic you are, just think of it as a PR exercise.

Undertaking new projects can be exciting, scary, and ultimately very rewarding. It takes time and effort and will require creative thinking, but it is essential in any position or work place. For us the project we have undertaken is an outreach project. But it is just one type of project; what you can do is only limited by your imagination. It is for this reason that I haven't focussed on outreach specifically but rather the lessons we have learnt that can be transferred to any projects. I am happy to talk with you further about outreach programs to schools, local communities, or faith groups if you are interested, and can be contacted on emma.walsh@regents.ox.ac.uk.

If your mind is buzzing with possibilities start writing them down and thinking about how they will fit with your library, but above all remember Anything is possible; just keep thinking

*Revd Emma Walsh
College Librarian
Regent's Park College, University of Oxford*

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION

By Kathryn McKee

Librarians have always sought information from other librarians. Simply asking an expert can sometimes be an effective way to obtain the right information in the most timely way. Communities with shared interests have developed, and professional organisations have set up special interest groups to cater for them. A special interest group is an obvious 'go to' place for professional information. For any special interest group, providing the mechanisms by which members can communicate with one another and share their knowledge effectively is a challenge. Traditionally groups have organised meetings, talks, and visits – valuable opportunities for networking as well as learning. Regular newsletters and group websites disseminate the information that is most widely needed by members. CILIP groups have in the past couple of years been able to send a regular monthly e-bulletin to those of their members who have registered to receive news from CILIP via email. Much of the information traffic is one-way, particularly for those who are unable to attend events in person. A group puts a body of information out in the public domain either in print or online and hopes that what is provided is what its members need. However, any group's strength lies in the depth of knowledge and experience of its individual members. How to make that body of information stored in people's heads more readily accessible to other members of the group, who may be scattered, and may not know one another, is altogether trickier.

The Library and Information History Group (a special interest group of CILIP) has sought to tackle this head-on by establishing an online communications hub. In addition to the traditional website providing the information you'd expect to find about the Group's activities, and a blog where news can be shared more quickly than through a newsletter or monthly email, the hub includes discussion forums, where anyone registered on the site may disseminate news, post queries, and initiate discussion on topics of interest. It is a place where those engaged in research (either professionally or pursuing personal interest) can exchange information, benefit from each other's knowledge and experience, and bat ideas to and fro. There has for a long time been a Jiscmail mailing list for library history (LIS-LIBHIST: its archive going back to 1998 can itself be a useful source of information <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=lis-libhist>). However, the tendency with a large mailing

list is that when a query is posted that is quite specific, those who can answer will reply off-list rather than to all. It is courteous not to 'spam' all subscribers with a response that may only be of interest to the original enquirer. Subscribers may receive the questions without even knowing if there has been an answer, let alone what that answer contained. The extent to which dialogue takes place is limited by people's natural reluctance to air their discussion within the context of a list. In a forum, participants can more easily choose whether to read a particular thread or not, so discussion is less inhibited.

The Library and Information History Group is keen to support original research, raise awareness of the subject, and to provide resources for those engaged in research. Providing forums in which those interested in the subject can communicate with one another and build up a community of expertise helps to fulfil these objectives. The hub was deliberately set up so that anyone with an interest can participate. We require registration (that's a basic security measure to protect those using the site from spam and virus attack), but those registering do not have to be members of the Group or members of CILIP. We hope, of course, that interest in our activities will be fostered by participation in the hub and people may be encouraged to join the Group, but there is no obligation to do so. Anyone with an interest in any aspect of library history or information history is welcome to participate in online discussion. This enables those engaged in research outside the professional librarianship community to benefit from the knowledge of the traditional library historians, and vice versa, enriching the subject and encouraging the cross-fertilization of ideas. The discussion may be viewed by all participants, but does not clutter anyone's email inbox (though one can opt to receive email alerts if one is following a specific forum or thread). Those registered on the site can also request email alerts when a new issue of the newsletter becomes available online.

The site is still only a few months old, and the community is small, but growing. As with all these things the more people who become involved, who input events of interest into the calendar, who post news or queries, or respond to pleas for information, the more useful the site will become. We hope that in time it will become the place to go for information on library history and information history: information provided by the collective

knowledge of the group. If you would like to be part of that community, whether it be to learn more about a field of which you know little, or to contribute from your own vast store of knowledge, please do visit www.lihg.org, sign up, and get involved.

Kathryn McKee

Sub-Librarian, St John's College & Chair, Library & Information History Group of CILIP

This article originally appeared in the *Cambridge University Libraries Information Bulletin (CULI)* Issue 71, Michaelmas 2012.
(www.lib.cam.ac.uk/CULIB/)

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

ABTAPL SPRING MEETING & AGM

11-13 April 2013

Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre, Glasgow, Scotland

ATLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

'The Speed of Change'

19-22 June 2013

Charlotte, NC, USA

42ND BETH ASSEMBLY

11-15 September 2013

Paris, France

NEWS AND NOTES

Vatican Library to be digitized

Thanks to a storage donation from EMC, the Vatican has started a 9 year project to digitize the entire Apostolic Library — all 40 million pages of it.

<http://www.theverge.com/2013/3/13/4100508/entire-vatican-library-digitized-2-8-petabytes>

Digital Library Projects

If you're looking for an alternative to Google Books, here are a few international projects aiming provide free online access to major research libraries:

Digital Public Library of America

<http://dp.la/>

The European Library

<http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/>

Europeana

<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>

GlobeTheoLib Newsletter Launched

The first GlobeTheoLib newsletter has been launched, with latest information about the project, at <http://www.globethics.net/web/gtl/newsletter>

Free Copyright Guide

'Copyright for librarians : the essential handbook' may be downloaded for free at <http://www.eifl.net/news/cfl-essential-handbook-launches>. It is available through EIFL (in collaboration with the Berkman Centre for Internet & Society, Harvard) and although it is part of a course, it provides a lot of useful background information and explains, in general, the essentials of copyright law.

Librarian's Christian Fellowship Annual Conference

This will take place on Saturday 20 April 2013 at the Methodist Central Hall, Warwick Lane, Coventry, from 10.30.a.m. Heather Lewis, Librarian, HMP, The Mount, Bovingdon, Hertfordshire, will be speaking on redundancy, unemployment and using library skills outside the traditional library and information sectors and Donald G. Davis, Jr., Emeritus Professor of Library History at the University of Texas at Austin, will be considering the question "Retirement: What Good Is It?"

Baptist Library and Archive Secures Heritage Lottery Funding

Oxford's Regent's Park College has received £488k from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and The Baptist Union Newington Court Fund (BUGB) to provide opportunities for people to learn about the important part Baptists played in the history of the United Kingdom and the world. The grant will allow the Library to safeguard this unique and important part of nation's heritage by cataloguing, conserving and promoting the collection.

Union List of Periodicals

Looking for hard-to-find theological journals? The Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association (ANZTLA) have a Union List at <http://www.anztl.org/AulotsSearch.aspx>. They also produce the Australasian Religion Index (ARI), an author and subject index covering over eighty religious and theological serials published in Australia or New Zealand but access to that is by subscription only.

THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED

Christian Librarian No 60, Spring 2013

(Contents: A shape for the future; Seen in the media; Beyond Librarianship Conference; Lost Christian letters of the First Century; Information needs and information seeking behavior of Namibian pastors)

WEBSITES

ABTAPL

<http://www.abtapl.org.uk/>

ATLA

<http://www.atla.com>

ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials

<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/atla-religion-database-with-atlaserials>

BETH

<http://www.beth.be>

Cambridge University Libraries Information Bulletin

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/CULIB>

EBSCO

<http://www.ebsco.com>

GlobeTheoLib

<http://www.globethics.net/web/gtl>

Librarian's Christian Fellowship

<http://www.librarianscf.org.uk/>

Library and Information History Group

<http://www.lihg.org/>

New College Library

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/new-college-library>

New College Librarian (blog)

<http://newcollegelibrarian.wordpress.com/>

Regents Park College

<http://www.rpc.ox.ac.uk>