

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

AFFILIATED MEMBERS

The Affiliated Members category represents para-professional and support library and information staff. During 1999, the National Committee held a very successful training session at UmbrelLA 5 called Supervision Made Simple, a down-to-earth look at the issues of supervising staff, giving delegates the opportunity for action planning and problem solving.

The Robinson Medal was awarded to Margie Mason, for her *Battling with Books* publication, which takes new library staff through the basics of working in a library, from how to carry and shelve books, to how to deal with difficult customers.

1999 saw the beginning of Affiliated Members' Web pages, along with initial plans for the Book IT project. Based around the central theme of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and culminating on 24 June 2000, Book IT aims to encourage as many people as possible to engage with the play using a variety of library services - by reading the text, listening to an audio tape, watching a video, or via CD-ROMs or Web sites.

BRANCH AND MOBILE LIBRARIES GROUP

1999 was a very active year for the Group, holding three Committee meetings, in addition to the AGM which attracted over 200 Members. The Group publication *Service Point* had three excellent editions and is now attracting an international audience.

The National Mobilemeet was held in Swindon with almost 50 vehicles and over 250 delegates. The Scottish Mobilemeet was held in Dumfries in September and once again was a very successful event. The annual weekend school held at Tillington Hall was fully booked for the fourth year running.

The Groups' Mobile Library Database is being increasingly used by people who are building, designing or just interested in the development of mobile libraries.

During the year the Group reviewed its rules and regulations, and its Committee and Officer structure. The year has been very successful and the Group is financially viable. An excellent handler of the Group's financial affairs, Brian Chapman is now standing down as Treasurer.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT GROUP

1999 was another busy year. A one-day students' conference in London was a new endeavor, attracting over 60 delegates from all different sectors and throughout Britain. The national conference, E-lucidate, was also successful. Five sessions at UmbrelLA 5 focused on the theme of balancing work, leisure and professional development. The Group also teamed up with the Personnel, Training And Education Group to hold sessions on atypical ways of working. Once again, the Group organized a stand at the Library + information Show.

With the current emphasis on lifelong learning, the Group changed the way it manages its services and support networks for students and Chartership candidates, to provide an integrated approach to all aspects of learning and career development.

International affairs continue to play an important role and 1999 saw the launch of a new book project to the Maldives and the continued support of a VSO librarian. The importance the Group places on equal opportunities led to the rewriting of statements on various aspects

of equal opportunities. The publications programme continued, with 10 issues of the journal *Impact* sent to all Members as well as institutions in the UK and overseas.

CATALOGUING AND INDEXING GROUP

In 1999, the Group again participated in wide-ranging and significant national and international work, relating to standards and other developments. A full and successful programme organized for Umbrella 5 provided the opportunity for Michael Heaney to explain the thinking behind the proposed application of logic model analysis to AACR - not for the faint hearted! CIG Scotland continued its successful meetings programme, including a seminar - Get the Picture! - on the current concern of how to catalogue and index images.

The Doctor Cat's Audit Tool proposal (a successful application to the Branch and Group Development Fund) will produce and test an audit tool to allow individuals to assess the current condition of their catalogue(s) and associated processes. It will enable forward planning to enhance the quality of the catalogue for the benefit of the user community.

Despite continuing technical problems for the new Editor, the year saw some improvements to delays in the quarterly schedule of *Catalogue and Index*. CIG continues to maintain its own page on The Library Association Web site. The Alan Jeffreys Award was made to Brian Holt in recognition of his work on UKMARC.

COLLEGES OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION GROUP

In 1999, CoFHE initiated projects to revise the *Guidelines for Learning Resources in Further and Higher Education* and to collect evidence on the variability of college inspections. The Committee responded to The Library Association unification proposals, the *Learning to Succeed* White Paper, and monitored developments within the F&HE sectors. Collaboration with the University, College and Research Group and HEFC Colleges Learning Resources Group continued to flourish.

The annual conference, People Matter, (Birmingham, 29 March - 1 April) attracted 85 delegates. It countered the wealth of IT orientated events and re-emphasised the significance of 'people power' in the information age. The North West Circle's work enabled CoFHE to be represented at Umbrella 5, with CoFHE sessions on broadcast technologies in lifelong learning and a review of Sunderland City of Learning. 16 CoFHE Circles also hosted a variety of events throughout 1999.

The Group continued to promote its activities through three editions of *The CoFHE Bulletin*; development of the CoFHE Web pages; and by taking a display stand at the Library + information Show. Group Membership was 2376, including 95 Affiliated Members.

COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP

Another successful year's activities for the Group, nationally and regionally, included a new Committee, an award and a conference. A successful sponsored magazine - *Community Librarian* -also contributed to healthy finances.

The judging panel for The Library Association Libraries Change Lives Award, chaired by CSG Vice Chair, Philip Wark, spent several busy months selecting the 1999 winner, Sheffield City Council. Many people attended the moving presentation by James Naughtie at the Library + information Show.

In November, the annual Public Libraries and Communities conference, held jointly with the Community Development Foundation, attracted an enthusiastic audience. Here the Group launched an online discussion on *Libraries for All* - the Government's draft guidelines on social inclusion and public libraries.

The London Housebound Group is now affiliated to CSG, participating in regional meetings in London and the South East. Outgoing Committee chair, Howard Matthew, has been elected to Library Association Council reporting in that role at meetings. Nick Coe has joined a Library Association working group looking at the role of volunteers in delivering library services.

EDUCATION LIBRARIANS GROUP

The Education Librarians Group had an exciting year working with colleagues across the education sector, responding to national initiatives and to innovations in teaching and learning. Group events included a one-day seminar on open learning materials held in September, and the AGM at the Open University in May - including a presentation by the Distance Learning team. A highlight of the year was the Group's participation in UmbrelLA 5, with the theme of ICT in education. This comprised four well-attended workshops on the implications of supporting the integration of ICT across the sector, and included a joint session with the School Libraries Group.

Lis-educ, a new e-mail list, with some 160 participants already, hosted valuable discussions with input from all over the world. The quarterly newsletter *ELG News* is also a popular forum for news and views.

While we welcome new Committee Members this year, sadly we say goodbye and send best wishes for the future to Roy Kirk, who has supported ELG for so long.

GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES GROUP

Government Libraries Group continues to play an active part both within The Library Association and the wider library community. A healthy financial situation has been maintained and the Membership has grown slightly to around 1200. The AGM in March was well attended, including an informative and stimulating talk from Chris Holmes of the Cabinet Office.

Continuing the series of successful training events, a well-attended seminar on Managing Intranets in Government was run jointly with the Circle of State Librarians, ending with a lively panel discussion. The Group was well represented and involved in all sessions at UmbrelLA 5. The second annual GLG award was presented at a reception, with a joint award made to Lorna Goodey (Customs & Excise) and Paul Greenwood (Department of Health). Another highlight was a question and answer session involving a panel of senior figures from Government libraries, including representatives from the Home Office and Central Science Laboratory.

The ongoing popular programme of library visits included successful trips to the Home Office and the Royal College of Art. GLG was also represented on the Full Disclosure Implementation Group and this will continue.

HEALTH LIBRARIES GROUP

The year began with a new Committee, Chaired by David Stewart. The Committee met four times, and held an AGM in October. A number of successful study days included knowledge

management and clinical governance topics. The 1999 Bishop and LeFanu Memorial Lecture - *As Above, So Below: A History Of The Body Image In The Indian Book* - was given by Dr Dominik Wujastyk. The Group contributed seven sessions to UmbrelLA 5, with participation from all Sub-Groups.

The joint Cochrane/HLG Prize was awarded to Bernadette Kelly of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The HLG Travelling Scholarship 1999 was awarded to Michael Carmel of South Thames and Jennie Kelson of Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The Group participated in the LINC Health Panel Research Working Party, which awarded a research bursary to a Delphi study in Glasgow.

Dr Judy Palmer took up the editorship of *Health Libraries Review*, which the Group jointly owns with Blackwell's Science. The Group contributed to the planning of the 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, to be held in London in July 2000.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARIES GROUP

The Workplace Libraries '99 focus year had particular significance for ICLG and a full programme of activities supported The Library Association's campaign. Visits included tours of the British Library, City Business Library, and *The Times* Newspaper Library. Meetings were held on subjects such as intranets, continuing professional development, and Chartering in workplace libraries. UmbrelLA 5 presentations included the skills of information professionals in the 21st century, competitor analysis, and supporting the lifelong learner in the workplace.

Activity and interest in the regions continued to be encouraging, with meetings held in Scotland, the South West and the Midlands. The Group is in the process of compiling a national directory of workplace librarians, intended as an invaluable networking tool.

The Group newsletter continues to be a vital tool for communicating with Members. The importance of the Web site continues to grow, with visitors from around the world, and a new URL making it easier to find (www.iclg.org.uk). The Group revised its rules and undertook a strategic review to consider how best to meet Members' needs.

INFORMATION SERVICES GROUP

Highlight of the year was the launch at UmbrelLA 5 of *Guidelines for Reference and Information Services in Public Libraries*. This revision - the first since 1981 - was the culmination of much hard work by a small team of Members on behalf of the whole Group. Diana Dixon co-ordinated a very successful programme of ISG sessions at the conference, covering topics including the digital library and quality in printed information sources.

The Group's two Standing Committees, on Business Information (SCOBI) and on Official Publications (SCOOP) continued to monitor areas of special interest. SCOOP organised a well-attended seminar in November on UK Parliaments and Assemblies. ISG local Sections offered a wide range of meetings and visits, many around the theme of electronic information. Sections also helped to expand the ISG pages on The Library Association Web site.

The Group's journal *Refer* reached its fiftieth issue and twentieth year in the autumn. The Group's Publications Sub-Committee agreed a revitalised programme, with a move to on-demand publishing and a shift towards electronic formats.

INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Stella Keenan became the new *Focus* Editor, producing two excellent issues during 1999. The Group's 1998 conference proceedings appeared as *Disaster and After*, edited by Paul Sturges and Diana Rosenberg, and published by Taylor Graham (ISBN 0 947568 77 8). The Group was involved in the successful initiative to set up a Blue Shield Committee in the UK, chaired by Graham Cornish.

Meetings included a fully booked European Awareness Seminar on copyright, data protection and Internet access. This was held at Loughborough University in April, presented jointly with the University's Department of Information Science, Legal and Policy Research Group.

Visits to the French and German cultural institutes, organized with the London and Home Counties Branch in the autumn, were also a success. Whilst visiting Croatia, the Group's Chair was able to see the new public library in Zadar (which the Group had assisted), reporting that the library was a magnificent example to others in the Mediterranean region. Planning began for an Anthony Thompson Award visit to Britain during 2000.

MULTIMEDIA INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP

LAMIT (Library Association Multimedia Information and Technology Group) - born out of the merged Multimedia and IT Groups - formally came into being on 14 January 1999. One of the first priorities of the new Group was to set up Sub-Groups of the National Committee to take LAMIT's events programme and Web support forward.

The Events Sub-Group put together a full programme for Umbrella 5, including sessions on networking and virtual libraries, plus a lively debate on Internet censorship. The popular visits programme continued, including trips to the Hulton-Getty Picture Library and EMI Archive.

The LAMIT Web Site includes a feedback mechanism, to make the Group more responsive to Members' needs. Lis-lamit, a new discussion list, provides Members with a forum to discuss multimedia issues and request practical help.

To increase coverage, cut production costs and fully utilise multimedia applications, *MmIT: multimedia information* is now available primarily as an electronic journal, free to all Members via the Internet. Also new in 1999, *LAMIT News*, MmIT's sister newsletter with details of Group activities, first hit the doormats in February.

LIBRARY HISTORY GROUP

A full programme was presented at Umbrella 5 - an opportunity to present recent research to colleagues. The Group kept a watching brief on the *A History of Libraries in Britain & Ireland* project - three of its editors are on the Committee. CUP has now issued contracts for vols. 1 and 3, and planning for vol. 2 (c. 1650-1850) is well advanced. Publication is not expected before 2002.

The Group's Vice Chair is leading a project to photograph every library in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. Outcomes will be published in a commemorative booklet and the local Branch's Web site. The journal *Library History* is now produced as a commercial venture, yet remains the official organ of the Group. It is now published more regularly, at two issues per year, has more articles, and is more international in scope.

The electronic discussion list, lis lib-hist, continues to expand and has almost 300 members. The annual library history essay, sponsored by MCB University Press, continues to attract high quality entries. During 1999, the Group organized its contribution to the 150th anniversary of the first Public Libraries Act - an April 2000 conference entitled People's

University to People's Library.

LOCAL STUDIES GROUP

The Local Studies Group regional branches have been particularly active, supporting the National Committee and organizing seminars, visits and day schools - attracting Members and non-Members alike. This included a day school on Marketing Local Studies, run by the newly-formed Midlands and Anglia branch, and visits by North West branch Members to two Liverpool libraries - Liverpool Central and the Athenaeum.

London and Home Counties branch inaugurated an essay writing competition on the Management of Local Studies, and organized a study day on digitisation of collections and the funding of such initiatives. Scotland and the North West ran similar sessions. The Welsh branch, in abeyance for some of the year, reformed with a new active Committee.

The Group is completing the revision of its *Guidelines for Local Studies Libraries*; has written a Local Studies Manifesto; and is furthering its international links. The Dorothy McCulla Award for 1999 was presented to Eileen Hume of Knowsley.

PERSONNEL, TRAINING AND EDUCATION GROUP

In January, new Chair Jan Adams involved the Group's Committee in strategic planning for the next three years, following the Group's Mission Statement and Publicity Strategy agreed in 1998.

Group courses included managing change; personal motivation at work; emotional management at work; and related courses for Supervisor Liaison Officers' network (SLO). The new 'Evening with...' sessions on topical issues and people in the library world, were so successful that these are now being extended to regions outside London. PTEG's contribution to Umbrella 5, grounded in current practice and learning points, was well received by participants.

Current awareness included building links with the newly-formed Information Services National Training Organisation (isNTO) and debates/articles on topics such as recruitment into the profession; libraries and social exclusion; and the value of the FLA qualification. This was also the year when PTEG set up on the Web, via The Library Association site.

The Group journal has a new editor, Anne McIlwaine. The pack for supervisors of Route A candidates has been updated and re-vamped. The mentoring booklet was in production by December 1999. The SLO network continues, as does the North East NVQ support network. The Group has also been promoting and developing a FLA network.

The Committee revitalised the Peter New Award for outstanding work in human resource management in the profession. New publicity material was widely distributed; prize money was raised; and a certificate will be awarded at the next Umbrella conference.

PRISON LIBRARIES GROUP

Highlight of the year was the annual study school in October. The title - Your Time Starts Now - emphasised that, through education and libraries, time inside can be usefully spent and achievements made. Speakers included Barbara Stow, Assistant Prisons Ombudsman, Liz Attenborough, Director of the National Year of Reading, and Jim Pateman who spoke about ICT for Basic Skills. The Group also held two successful sessions at Umbrella 5.

The *Prison Libraries Journal*, published three times a year, links and support isolated Members. Prison Libraries Training Packs were sent to Members and will be regularly updated via the Journal. Anne Blake, librarian at HM Prison Ford, joins the Committee as Publications Secretary.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES GROUP

The Public Libraries Group Committee addressed the problem of establishing links with Members, given that it has no regional structure. A five-year business plan was drawn up, and regional representatives on the Committee (who represent Library Association Branch areas) were encouraged to set up local networks to canvass opinion and to organize regional events.

PLG organized a full programme of papers at UmbrelLA 5. The Public Library Authorities Conference in Torquay was well received by delegates and proved a financial success. Income received enabled the Group to reinstate its European Travel Bursaries, and provide funding for regional activities and seminars.

Public Library Journal, in a new quarterly format, received favourable comments. The co-operation between the Editor and Library Association Enterprises is proving successful and rewarding. The Group set up a Web site, linked to The Library Association, with plans to transfer the public library buildings archive to the Web in the future.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS GROUP

PPRG is a cross-sectoral group with interests of value to staff of all levels of seniority. The highlight for 1999 was The Library Association / Emerald Intelligence+Fulltext Public Relations & Publicity Awards (in association with MCB University Press). The Awards ceremony was the culmination of successful efforts to secure a new partner for these Awards.

UmbrelLA 5 sessions and the PPRG annual conference were successful; both based on suggestions taken from conference questionnaires and the Group's biennial survey of Member's training needs. 1999 saw a new approach to the conference to ensure continuity of the theme and a competitive price. The Group worked closely with a training organization to engage a high calibre speaker for the major part of the programme. Group events are publicised in the Group newsletter, *Public Eye*, on The Library Association Web site, in the *Record* calendar, and via mailshots to training officers.

The Group responds to professional issues, although tight deadlines do not always allow consultation with the Membership.

RARE BOOKS GROUP

In 1999, the Group's efforts concentrated on raising standards of professionalism among Members. Events included the annual conference in Cambridge on Scientific Books, meetings of the joint Rare Books Group/Antiquarian Booksellers Association working party, and a series of workshops in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund to encourage applications for funding.

The *Rare Books Newsletter* was published once in the year, and the Group maintained its Web site (http://venus.las.ox.ac.uk/rbg/Rare_books.htm). The *Directory of Rare Books and Special Collections* continues to sell well. *A Guide to Rare Book Cataloguing* was reprinted and sales are increasing. The Group continues to monitor and promote the interests and concerns of the community of librarians responsible for the custodianship of our printed heritage.

RETIRED MEMBERS GUILD

22 Guild Members visited Prague for a combination of sightseeing and library visits this year. The annual lunch took place on the good ship Hispaniola, with the opportunity of a river trip to Greenwich and back. Local events also attracted good numbers, particularly in London.

The Guild responded to Library Association requests in a number of areas and assisted organizations in search of voluntary assistance where appropriate. To maintain the range of activities, and the attractiveness of *Post Lib*, the annual subscription was increased to £8 - following consultation with the Membership. The sad death of George Harris also meant the loss of his much-appreciated magazine cartoons.

Towards the end of the year, the National Trust finally indicated that they were presently unable to accept the Guild's help in cataloguing the many collections of books in their charge.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES GROUP

SLG continued to work hard to support school and school library service staff. Members contributed to the success of the National Year of Reading and welcomed the additional Government funding for books in schools. They have become more involved in the National Grid for Learning, developing their key role in relation to the use of the Internet in schools.

The Group faced some difficulties this year and it was necessary to cancel the annual conference and curtail some other plans. However, SLG has risen to the challenge. The National Committee has reviewed the Group's aims and objectives and its activities programme. It also maintains its commitment to a twice-yearly journal for the Group's 3000 Members.

SLG has been involved in planning the joint SLG, YLG and School Library Association Under the Covers conference for July 2000. It is pleasing to report on the continued success of the London and Home Counties, Scottish and Welsh groups. The Group also played an active part in international work, and began planning activities for the Glasgow 2002 IFLA conference.

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE AND RESEARCH GROUP

The Group's annual national study conference for 1999 on The Effective Management of Print and Electronic Resources in Support of Learning and Research took place within UmbrelLA 5. Production of the Group journal *Relay* successfully returned to a regular footing, with two themed issues (Hybrid Libraries, and Learning and Teaching) produced in March and November. Further work was undertaken on the design and content of the Group's Web site (www.ucrg.org.uk).

The first Alison Northover Bursary for professional development was awarded to two Members in March for attendance at UmbrelLA 5 and Libraries without Walls 3. Recognising that much UC&R activity takes place at regional level, a £500 contribution boosted each active regional section.

An action plan was developed in July to further the Group's aims and objectives. Work progressed on sharing good practice between UC&R Groups at regional and national level; support for less active regions; production of a publicity leaflet; and collaboration with other Groups - particularly the Colleges of Further and Higher Education Group - at local, regional and national levels.

YOUTH LIBRARIES GROUP

1999 was successful for the Group at both national and branch levels. The National Committee administered a full activities programme, including reorganization of Committee responsibilities; new publications and marketing programmes; and the launch of an electronic version of *Youth Library Review*. Close rapport with the School Libraries Group and School Library Association was manifest in collaboration for the joint conference for 2000, *Under the Covers*.

The annual conference, *Byte into Books: Children's Literature and the New Technologies*, was held at the University of Loughborough in September. Attracting over 200 people, it was deemed hugely successful by the delegates (and the Treasurer). On a regional level, YLG branches were proactive, with an impressive array of one-day courses and conferences held throughout the country.

The other major event in YLG's national calendar, the judging of The Library Association Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals, was also a success. The Awards ceremony at The British Library attracted wide media coverage. The shadowing scheme, extended during the year, also made a critical contribution to national awareness of these Awards.