

## **LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

### **Affiliated Members**

The highlight of the year was the BookIT project. This was a campaign to celebrate the new Millennium as well as 10 years of the Affiliates. It was based around the central theme of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and took place on Saturday 24 June 2000. The project aimed to encourage as many people as possible to engage with the play in a variety of ways – by reading the text, listening to an audio tape, watching a video or via CD-ROM or Web sites. The British Film Institute sponsored the production of a poster for the project and arranged a special screening of the 1935 film version on Midsummer Day itself. Jim Jackson who developed and organized the project, was awarded the Tom Farries Award for Personal PR achievement in November.

The AGM was held at the British Library where Angela Frampton spoke on the still to be announced ILS standards and Bob McKee spoke on the changing role of the Affiliate.

### **Branch and Mobile Libraries Group (B&MLG)**

The National Mobilemeet in Leicestershire in May 2000 attracted over 350 delegates. The record attendance, excellent organisation and stimulating programme made it a highly successful celebration. International delegates came from Scandinavia and the USA. The annual Weekend School in November was also high in quality and in satisfaction ratings given by delegates, although numbers were slightly down on previous years, due no doubt to the emphasis of training budgets on ICT.

The committee completed the Group's Business Plan, which will be turned into a three-year Action Plan during 2001. Discussions with the Public Libraries Group on the desirability and potential for merging into a new Group within The Library Association proceeded during the year.

The Group's high quality journal *Service Point* was published in March, August and December. The Mobile Library Database now holds details of over 500 vehicles, and answers regular enquiries about mobile design.

### **Career Development Group (CDG)**

The major achievement of the Career Development Group in 2000 was the launch of its own Web site ([www.careerdevelopmentgroup.org.uk](http://www.careerdevelopmentgroup.org.uk)). The site allows the Group to disseminate information both internally and to others who are interested in its work.

The Group's regional divisions ran a variety of local courses, and continue to provide a key role in supporting the Chartership process through the Registration Liaison Officer network. The Group's National Conference: 'Flexible futures: new and changing ways of working' was held in Bristol in May and focused on the skills needed by information professionals in changing work environments.

The Group has also been busy in other areas: it ran a study tour to Lithuania, held a student conference in London and published the *Chartership Reader*.

### **Cataloguing and Indexing Group (CIG)**

In 2000, the Group participated in wide-ranging and significant national and international work, relating to standards and other developments. In a period of high profile initiatives, including Full Disclosure retrospective conversion for the National Bibliography, the Group again expressed concern at the skills shortage. The Group is taking this up with Library Schools and will urge the support of The Library Association on this issue.

The Group arranged various meetings and courses during the year including: a full and successful residential conference in Hereford; A one-day seminar 'Get the picture' on cataloguing images and a meeting on the BL MARC Harmonisation consultation. CIG Scotland continued its successful programme of five annual meetings.

The Group's journal *Catalogue and Index* returned to its quarterly schedule and the Group also maintained its own pages on The Library Association's Web site.

The Alan Jeffreys Award was made to Stuart James in recognition of his services to Cataloguing and Indexing.

### **Colleges of Further and Higher Education (CoFHE)**

Numerous events were hosted across the home countries by CoFHE's strong network of local Circles. The revival of Circles in North Wales and London & South East was especially noteworthy. CoFHE's 3-day residential conference, Cardiff 2000 was a high-profile event, attracting 137 delegates, with presentations by Alan Howarth MP (Minister for Arts), Kate Anderson (Further Education Funding Council), and Jeff Greenidge (Ufi Wales).

The sixth edition of *Guidelines for learning resource services in further and higher education: performance and resourcing* was published. This title continues to be widely utilised for benchmarking acceptable provision, and demonstrates CoFHE's standing within the sector. The Group also continued to assist The Library Association respond to national consultation documents (e.g. DfEE *Learning to succeed* and a FENTO paper on compulsory teaching qualifications for teachers in Further Education).

CoFHE's Web pages were re-designed and re-launched to form an increasingly important promotion and information dissemination tool. Similarly, three stimulating editions of *The CoFHE Bulletin* were published in 2000.

## **Community Services Group (CSG)**

In June, The Group successfully exhibited at the Library + information Show, held at the NEC in Birmingham. The colourful stand with excellent displays, got CSG noticed, as did the enthusiasm of the team of people staffing it. The highlight of the Show was the presentation of The Library Association Libraries Change Lives Award (sponsored by the Library + information Show), which the Group jointly organizes. Journalist Polly Toynbee presented the Award to the winners Kensal Library, from the Royal London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The Group's next project is a summary publication of research, policy and professional publications about social inclusion. With partnership funding from the Community Development Foundation, The Library Association and the Society of Chief Librarians, this will be available and updated on the Group's Web site.

Discussions were held about the future of CSG in the light of changing national and regional structures, with the continued aim of finding the best way to serve their client groups and to disseminate good practice. The Group is keen to be part of shaping the future.

Ulverscroft and Magna Ltd continued to sponsor the production of the Group's magazine, *Community Librarian*.

## **Education Librarians Group (ELG)**

The year 2000 began with a review of Group aims and objectives and the restatement of the Group's remit as: 'representing Members of the Library and Information profession involved in supporting education and lifelong learning'. Saying a reluctant goodbye to Roy Kirk, in early 2000, the Group welcomed two new committee Members and also took the opportunity to introduce a *Committee Induction Pack* intended to support Members in their committee roles.

Group objectives in relation to supporting professional development, ensuring communication, responding to relevant national initiatives and encouraging cross-sectoral collaboration were successfully met.

The programme of events, reflecting the Group's diverse Membership, covered: Toy Libraries, Preparing Open Learning Materials, the Post-16 Agenda (prompted by a response to The Library and Information Commission's report *Empowering the Learning Community*) and the AGM at the Tate Modern. In addition, the Group initiated two rewarding work-shadowing opportunities amongst ELG Members.

Communication with Members has been sustained through the production of three issues of *ELG News*, the development of the ELG Web site and use of the discussion list lis-educ.

## **Government Libraries Group (GLG)**

The GLG continues to play an active part both within The Library Association and the wider library community. The third annual GLG Award was presented at a Summer Social in August with a joint Award being made to Maewyn Cumming (now Office of the E Envoy), Lucy Cuthbertson and Steven Latham (both FCO) and was in recognition of their work on a survey into the use and management of Intranets within Government Departments and agencies.

Attendance at the AGM in March was slightly disappointing, however all present enjoyed an address from Bob McKee who through his enthusiasm reminded them of the real benefits the profession can bring to society as a whole.

The programme of visits to other libraries continued with an oversubscribed visit to the refurbished Somerset House and visits to out of London locations continued with a popular visit to the Office of National Statistics in Cardiff.

### **Health Libraries Group (HLG)**

One of the highlights of the year was the eighth International Congress on Medical Librarianship, held in London in July. This enormously successful congress attracted over 1400 delegates from around the world, and HLG contributed five sessions to the programme.

The annual Bishop and LeFanu Memorial lecture on the NHS Regional Librarians Group and the University Medical School Librarians Group was delivered by Michael Carmel and Peter Morgan.

The Group awarded a number of prizes this year. The HLG/Cochrane Prize went to Lin Perry, of Kingston University and the Postgraduate Medical Centre Library, Mayday University Hospital. The Good Guide Award went to the library service at the Royal Salford Hospitals NHS Trust. The Barnard Memorial Prize, given every 3 years for outstanding services to medical librarianship, went to Judy Palmer, Keeper of Scientific Books at the Radcliffe Science Library, Oxford.

The Committee commissioned the production of a Policy and Procedures Manual, which brought together all the Group's policies going back to 1946; it is hoped that it will become a central means of ensuring continuity of governance.

### **Industrial and Commercial Libraries Group (ICLG)**

ICLG continues to thrive. During the past year the Group organized a varied events programme. Highlights included: visits to the Office for National Statistics and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; meetings on electronic copyright, data protection and competitor intelligence and a 'Meet the Library Association Chief Executive session'.

Activity in the regions continued to be encouraging and the new ICLG Regional Officer worked towards setting up a network of regional liaison officers and fostering links with other groups at a regional level. ICLG Scotland held a number of events during the year and the Aerospace and Defence Librarians Sub Group (ADLG) continued to be active in their field with a good programme of events.

The Group newsletter *ICLG News*, is a vital tool for communicating with Members and is now available in PDF format on the Group's Web site. The site is regularly visited with around 400 hits a month and the content continues to expand. Group Membership is over the 2000 mark of which 99 are overseas Members.

### **Information Services Group (ISG)**

The Information Services Group was due to celebrate its golden jubilee in November 2000. However, because of disruption to the railways and floods the Group had to postpone the celebrations until later in 2001.

A wide range of one-day meetings, training workshops and visits throughout the country were organized. As usual topics were very varied, including 'Information 2000: use your e-sources intelligently'; 'European Union - a web map'; and the 'Past is IT' a joint session with the Local Studies Group Wales. Several sections organized highly successful visits and notable among these were a visit to Leeds Patents Unit and to SPICE in Scotland.

A number of sections held successful training workshops. SCOOP ran two successful seminars on archiving the Web and the 2001 census and SCOB I has been actively planning a *Guide to business libraries*, which will be published in 2001.

### **International Group (IGLA)**

The Group's financial position, which had been very vulnerable in 1998 and 1999, was placed on a better basis in 2000. This was mainly achieved through a successful programme of meetings. Loughborough University's Legal and Policy Research Group presented an overwhelmingly popular European Awareness Seminar at Library Association Headquarters, on 6 September 2000. An attractive series of informal meetings began in March. Topics discussed included, Cuba, the Teheran book fair, Japan, China and Palestine.

*Focus*, the Group's journal, continued to improve under the editorship of Stella Keenan. The Group successfully organized an Anthony Thompson Award visit to Britain from Maira Tungatarova of the National Youth Library in Khazakstan. Although the cost of the Award far exceeded the income from the endowment, the generosity of other Groups and Branches, which entered into partnership with the Group, enabled the visit to be run at no detriment to Group funds.

## **Multimedia Information & Technology Group (LAMIT)**

2000 saw LAMIT build on the firm foundations laid for the new Group in 1999. A new flyer was launched in the summer to promote the Group and the LAMIT Web site (providing up-to-date news of all the Group's activities) continued to be developed, with a major revision underway and a re-launch planned for early 2001.

The Group's events programme remained ever popular, with visits to the Royal College of Surgeons, BFI and BUFVC. During the year the National Committee pursued a policy of strengthening links and increasing support for its Branches. SLAMIT, the Group's Scottish branch, continued to offer a healthy programme of events, all of which were promoted in the pages of SLAMIT Update.

Despite problems of falling subscriptions and difficulties in attracting advertising revenue, the Group has continued to produce high quality journals. Online readership of *MmIT* rose and *LAMIT News* moved to a more popular A4, colour format. Tony Thompson, Chair and Editor, was invited to join the panel of The Library Association Reference Awards (sponsored by Whitaker) to judge the Award's new category for electronic reference works.

## **Library History Group (LHG)**

Three meetings were organized during the year at historic libraries and places of interest, to which Members of the Group were invited. The Group's contribution to the 150th anniversary of the Public Libraries Act was 'From People's University to People's Library' a successful international conference held at the Braithwaite Hall in Croydon 3-4 April 2000.

The Group's collection of archives was sorted, catalogued and listed by the Archives Administration Students at the Department of Information and Library Studies, University of Wales Aberystwyth. The Group is keen to preserve the history of the profession, and the Library Association, in the form of the conservation of archive material belonging other Branches and Special Interest Groups. To this end, the Group is lobbying The Library Association for guidance and action.

The Group is funding a short-term project concerned with the problems of researching historic library buildings. This will be based on recently collected data, under the supervision of the Group Chair.

*Library History* increased its number of publications from two to three issues per year and the Group launched a new-look Web site, restructured and redesigned during 2000, for maximum user-friendliness.

## **Local Studies Group (LSG)**

2000 was a busy year for the national committee and the regional branches who continued to organize seminars, visits and day schools. Midlands and Anglia, which now has a Membership of three hundred or so, held a successful day school at

Hinckley library on the subject of IT and Local Studies and a similar one called 'The past is IT' dealing with new technology in local and family history at Llandrindodd Wells.

Other major events saw Scotland (LOCSCOT) promoting a local history week on Events of the twentieth century; London and Home Counties delving into life-long learning; the North West reflecting on past progress in the field of local studies and looking forward to future developments in 'Looking forward to looking back' and the Northern Ireland LISC Local History panel continuing with Local History 2000 – a project including talks, reminiscence sessions and storytimes.

On the national scene *Guidelines for Local Studies Libraries* were revised and will be submitted to The Library Association for approval. The Group also completed a Manifesto for local studies. The Dorothy McCulla Award for 2000 was presented to Alice Lock of Tameside at the Group's Annual General Meeting held at Crewe in November.

### **Personnel Training & Education Group (PTEG)**

The Group continued to host its highly successful "An evening with..." series, an informal forum to focus on current issues of interest. Speakers included John Pluse and Sheila Corral, from ISNTO, Clare Nankivell and Sue Tuffin launching PTEG's mentoring guidelines and John Vincent and John Pateman on social exclusion. Bob McKee also hosted PTEG's first regional "An evening with..." in Edinburgh which was extremely well-attended. The year concluded with a festive evening hosted by the DCMS.

The Group's Editor, Anne McIlwaine, introduced a number of new features to the journal *Personnel, Training & Education* including two regular columns: one from Keith Trickey on the self-starter's guide to personal development and one from John Vincent on training to tackle social exclusion. The August issue was a themed NVQs issue, which provoked much discussion and has prompted the Editor to start a letters page for 2001.

The Peter New Award was a great success prompting a high number of entries and the winner Georgina Porter (CALIM) and runner-up Rosemary Bruce (Northamptonshire County Council) were presented with their prizes by the DCMS in December.

### **Prison Libraries Group (PrLG)**

The Group organized a number of events during the year including 'Carry on Reading – reader development in prison libraries' at Library Association Headquarters on 25 May 2000 and the Annual Study School 'Locked up – but not forgotten' in Oldham 3-4 October 2000.

The Group worked on a new edition of Directory of Prison Librarians, which will be issued early in 2001. The Web site was updated (<http://www.la-hq.org.uk/groups/prislg/prislg.html>) and *Prison Libraries Journal* was published 3

times during the year, providing examples of good practice and advice for professional librarians in prison establishments as well as updates to the Group Training Pack.

Committee Members were part of the consultative team, which produced the Home Office document: Prison Service Order 6710, which concerns Guidelines for Prison Libraries.

### **Public Libraries Group (PLG)**

The Public Libraries Group actively pursued the aims laid out in its Business Plan during 2000. Local networks were established in many Branch areas, to gain grassroot support for the Group.

The Weekend School was held at Chester College during April, and proved to be a success in terms of content (devised by Pat Beech) and the number of delegates who attended. The Public Library Authorities Conference, held in York during October provided a stimulating programme, under the direction of Martin Molloy, but attracted a smaller number of delegates than in previous years. This may well have been because it clashed with the Museums Association Conference.

The Group held talks with other Library Association Groups concerned with public services, as an exploration into a possible merger of groups to form a unified voice for public libraries.

PLG was also successful in obtaining a DCMS/Wolfson grant, in collaboration with Opening the Book. The money will fund a project called 'Mind's Eye', which aims to promote non-fiction to library users, in the same way that 'Branching Out' did for fiction. Booklists have been drawn up, with supporting promotional material. The project was launched at the PLA Conference in October.

### **Publicity & Public Relations Group (PPRG)**

2000 was a successful year for PPRG. The Group continued to base a programme of events on suggestions drawn from a biennial survey of Members and questionnaires circulated at events. Wherever possible, commissioned speakers were professionals within their field and not necessarily from the library and information world.

In June, the Group organized their first 'hands-on' Web design course using state of the art equipment at Blackpool & Flyde College. They are now in the process of publishing a book based on the course. It is designed to help librarians gain an understanding of this increasingly important area of communication.

The annual conference, which examined the theme of signing and guiding, was fully subscribed. Despite the problems of transport and floods, all but five delegates attended the event.

The Group continued to play an active role in the planning, organization and judging of The Library Association & Emerald Intelligence+Fulltext Public Relations & Publicity Awards. PPRG is delighted that Emerald Intelligence+Fulltext is committed to the partnership for a third year.

### **Rare Books Group (RBG)**

During 2000, the Group's efforts were concentrated on raising standards of professionalism, with a programme of conferences and publications aimed at establishing good practice. Links were maintained with other national and professional bodies with overlapping concerns.

Training continues to be the most important aspect of the Group's activities. The latest of its successful annual study conferences on the theme of Manuscripts was held at Hertford College, Oxford, in September. Despite the fuel crisis, the event was well attended, and attracted a broad range of both participants and speakers.

Security of libraries and their contents is a concern that the Group shares with the book trade. Co-operation with the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft contributed to the appearance of similar Guidelines for the Prevention of Theft for Dealers and Auctioneers.

Members of the Group were able to enter the London Book Fair without charge on presentation of the *Rare Books Newsletter*. The Group's publications continued to sell well and the Web site gave news of group activities and personnel, as well as providing listings for the Rare Book world at large.

### **Retired Members Guild (RMG)**

Some twenty Members visited Edinburgh for a five day visit to see some of the many bibliographical treasures and fine buildings of the capital city. Scottish colleagues made this a memorable and very enjoyable occasion. Many other visits and events also took place in other parts of the UK, with waiting lists for some of the more popular venues in London.

The annual lunch was held in the Civil Service Club with Library Association President, Graham Cornish being the guest of honour. Also present were visitors from the USA and Australia, arousing interest for a possible visit to both these continents.

Thought has also been given to the proposed merger with the IIS and although the position of the Guild is likely to remain largely unchanged, it should afford them the opportunity to welcome retired members from the Institute to their ranks.

### **School Libraries Group (SLG)**

The most high profile activity of the year was undoubtedly the 'Under the Covers' joint SLG, School Library Association, Youth Libraries Group conference, which

brought over 700 people together at Imperial College to celebrate the primacy of books and reading in young lives. Throughout the rest of the year, the School Libraries Group continued to provide a professional focus for those working in the school library field.

The London and Home Counties, Scottish and Welsh Steering Committee offered a range of training activities, newsletters and professional support for local members. The National Committee worked in liaison with The Library Association and other organizations through the School Libraries Forum to interpret and respond to government policy. In January Richard Burden MP spoke to the committee about the meaning of social inclusion and its implications for school libraries. A meeting with the Education Libraries Group explored areas of common concern.

The Group continued to publish its valued *School Libraries in View* journal. The Web site was revised and the Group's business plan was published on the site. The Group was also pleased to once again play an active part in the work of IFLA.

### **University College and Research Group (UC&R)**

The action planning approach, enabling the Group to further its aims and objectives by working towards a small number of realistic targets each year, was pursued in 2000. A well-attended and enjoyable annual national study conference was held at The Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh, from 30 March to 1 April on the theme "Designing the learning landscape: academic librarians in the context of educational change".

A toolkit for running successful events was launched at a one day seminar on the relationship between UC&R at national and regional levels at the University of Nottingham in June. £500 contributions were again made to the funds of active regional sections, and support provided for the regeneration of inactive sections in the West Midlands, North West and Beds/Bucks/Oxon.

The editorial team for the Group's journal *Relay* continued developmental work and two themed issues, on research and networks for learning were produced. The second Alison Northover Bursary for professional development was awarded to Hazel Rothera (Oxford Brookes University) for attendance at the Group's conference and to Lis Parcell (University of Wales Swansea) for a study visit to German university libraries. Links with CoFHE were strengthened, with planning for joint conferences in 2001 and 2002.

### **Youth Libraries Group (YLG)**

2000 presented a range of opportunities and challenges for YLG and its Members. Working towards the annual business plan, the national committee delivered a range of activities, ensuring an impressive array of achievements. The committee continued to look at ways of improving the effective management of YLG's business. This included: developing a more structured business planning approach for the national

and branch committees, a review of committee roles and responsibilities, the establishment of an e-mail list to enhance committee communications and implementation of the newly established archives policy. In addition, an exciting publications programme saw the launch of the new practical guide series and booklists featuring the best of the 1999 Carnegie & Kate Greenaway titles.

As ever, the hard work and commitment of YLG regional committees, ensured the delivery of an impressive range of one-day course and conferences throughout the country. At National Committee level, the YLG handbook that offers practical information, help and support for YLG Branch committees was revised. The year also saw the beginning of a process of reviewing and strengthening the role of Branch representatives.

One of the most significant professional events of the year was 'Under the Covers' the annual conference, developed jointly in partnership with the School Libraries Group and the School Library Association. Over 700 people came together with 100 speakers to celebrate books and libraries for children and young people in what turned out to be a memorable and inspirational experience. The conference also gave the Group the opportunity to honour the memory of Keith Barker, through the presentation of the 'Keith Barker Millennium Children's Book Awards'

YLG continued to seek ways to encourage and promote Membership. 2000 saw the revision of the promotional leaflet 'What's YLG', a re-design of the Web site to improve it's effectiveness and the development of a new Personal Affiliate Membership category. The Group continued to work in partnership with LaunchPad and ASCEL to support and promote children's literature and libraries and to work closely with the major children's publishers. In addition, they contributed to The Library Association's responses on national issues such as the Public Library draft standards.