

TACIT

Information for librarians & information professionals working in Edinburgh - April 29th, 2009

ELISA Open Forum 2009

Thursday, June 11th, 9.30 – 4.30 (session attendance possible) in the Appleton Tower, Edinburgh University, George Square.

Libraries and learning in the e-environment
Whether you find e-technologies exciting, exasperating, enlightening, entertaining, this is your opportunity to learn more!

Join your colleagues for stimulating sessions led by experienced practitioners. Keynote speakers include Nora Mogey - e-learning Manager, Edinburgh University; Liz McGettigan - Head of Edinburgh City Libraries and Information Services; and Alison Stoddart, Heritage Projects Officer, Edinburgh City Libraries. There will be contributions by Elspeth Scott on the national VLE for schools and Alma Wardrope from Stevenson College on working with students in the e-environment. There will also be perspectives on how different groups access the e-environment. Paul Cannon will talk about the work of SPICe (Scottish Parliament Information Centre) and Michael Marr from Waverley Care will talk about his work on reducing barriers to health information. **Please contact Wendy Ball wendy.ball@edinburgh.gov.uk for more information and a booking form.** We note that spaces are limited, so please book to avoid disappointment.

Have you tried to use Second Life?

Marshall Dozier and Fiona Brown (University of Edinburgh) are conducting a survey to find Library and Information Specialists' views on the effectiveness of Second Life as a facility for professional networking, collaboration and continuing professional development. They'd be very grateful for your input!

The survey is at: <https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/sleahil/>
Marshall was our keynote speaker at the ELISA Open Forum 2008 and you can see some useful information she gave in Appendix C of the Forum Report.
<http://www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/elisa-open-forum-2008-report.pdf> .
The findings of this survey will be presented at the EAHIL Workshop 2009 (<http://www.eahil2009.ie/>).

Trained librarian/ archivist offers time and skills

A graduate from Granada University is looking for voluntary work to gain experience in different library environments. Recently graduated from the Granada University in postgraduate studies in Library and Information Science. Experience as archive assistant in City Archives of Granada and Granada University Archive. Please contact: Macarena Garcia Quijano, macarenagquijano@gmail.com.

!!!Call for Volunteers!!!

Further to the last issue of TACIT, a big thank you to Keith Walker from Napier University and Elaine Forrest from Edinburgh City Libraries Youth services who have volunteered to contribute to the work of the task and finish group looking at the development of **Edinburgh Libraries Passport into schools**. Val Walker



from the Information and Learning Resource Centre for Children & Families, and Veronica Denholm of the National Library are the other members of this group promoting this important development.

Out of all you **bloggers and collectors of information**, I have still found no-one willing to share their information for ELISA. Is there anyone out there willing to give this a try? – so if you have a special interest relevant to library/information work that you follow for work purposes or for interest, please get in touch wendy.ball@edinburgh.gov.uk

Helpers wanted for the ELISA Open Forum. The annual ELISA event is marked by its informal and inclusive tone. Part of this has been achieved in the past by the welcoming people ushering and helping participants. The Open Forum 2009 is taking place on Thursday, June 11th at Appleton Tower, Edinburgh University. If you would like to help at the event with some of the practicalities in between sessions, this would be much appreciated – please contact Wendy with offers of help.



Edinburgh Reading Champion Project success!

The Edinburgh Reading Champion project is one of the three finalists for the **CILIP Libraries Change Lives 2009 Awards**. This innovative Edinburgh-wide initiative encourages reading for pleasure amongst looked after children and young people in residential care in Edinburgh.

The Project encourages staff to help the most vulnerable young people discover the pleasures of reading, contributing to their self esteem, sense of attachment and educational achievement.

It employs a Reading Champion to develop 'bespoke' reader development programmes in partnership with looked after children, carers, library staff and other partners. For more background on the project read TACIT 24 Oct 2007, and contact the Reading Champion Colm Linnane colm.linnane@edinburgh.gov.uk



harley haddow
consulting engineers

RAISING THE PROFILE HARLEY HADDOW – THE ENGINEERING LIBRARIES

Harley Haddow is a consulting engineering company specialising in structural, mechanical and electrical engineering. It was founded in 1950, and has offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Guildford. The main libraries (one structural, one for combined mechanical and electrical services and an archive) are in Edinburgh.

Glasgow has a single combined structural, mechanical and electrical library and Guildford, the newest office, is developing a library of mechanical and electrical services documents. My job covers all three offices, although I am mainly based in Edinburgh. I travel to Glasgow every couple of weeks, and to Guildford three or four times a year.

The archive in Edinburgh includes a collection of old British Standards and also a wide range of heating system catalogues from the 1950s onwards. The catalogues are kept for occasions when the company is refurbishing old buildings and the engineers need to know what they're working with. Individual documents there are not needed very often, but as most companies don't routinely keep details products they've ceased to sell it's often the only source of such information. The old catalogues are one of my favourite things – there's a little slice of social history as well as technological in the way that the systems are advertised and photographed.

The libraries aren't generally open to the public, but we occasionally have visitors in by arrangement. Usually these are postgraduate students who are doing research projects into very specific areas of building engineering where the books aren't routinely available in university libraries.

I'd come into librarianship by a roundabout route, starting out as an electronic engineer, then technical writer and then moving in to engineering librarianship. My previous library job involved almost entirely digital resources, so it was a big change to move into a 'real' library of physical books with catalogues on paper, but also a challenge I was very much looking forward to.

One of the things I was asked to do when I took over was to develop library webpages as part of a company intranet and I was also asked to reduce the size of the physical libraries. I recently completed a set of webpages giving lists of links to several thousand manufacturers' webpages by area with brief descriptions of their contents. Each of these pages took many months to do, but it means the company requires a much smaller collection of paper catalogues. Other library pages I've created cover a variety of other resources: a page of links to the planning departments of local authorities and a page of links to professional associations, for example. I also created a listing of relevant courses, seminars and conferences that are running in Scotland which I update approximately weekly as new notifications come in.

I'm creating an electronic version of the library catalogue. It's a long way from complete, but it does have all newly acquired items in it. It's currently in spreadsheet form, ready to be imported in to whatever library management system we eventually decide to use. I still maintain the paper catalogue as well, and expect to be doing so for many years.

My job also involves doing technical research for staff. This can range from "What are the fire safety requirements for nursing homes?" and "How do we go about designing green roofs?" to "The client sent me this photo of the sort of light fitting he wants, can you find out what it is and where to get it?". I try to keep ahead of this to some degree by doing research into new areas as the company gets contracts, and I've been producing sets of notes for a variety of topics listing the relevant standards, professional organisations and key texts needed to make a start on them.

I use a wide range of digital resources. The company are members of several professional associations, most of which have online libraries of electronic documents that members have access to. We also subscribe to the IHS database which includes standards, building regulations and other professional literature.

The company sets a high value on good information provision as a foundation for the rest of the work. It was recently given a Best of Professions Award by Prospect Magazine and Architecture Scotland and I was pleased to see that the company profile highlighted 'Chartered Engineers and a Chartered Librarian' as key staff.

Nicola Harrison, Librarian - Harley Haddow



Nota Bene

■ **CoFHE Conference 2009:** Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. *Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th June 2009*

■ **"E-libraries & green libraries: exploring accessibility and sustainability"**

■ **Visits open for booking on the ELISA Visits Programme**

■ Visit to the **Official Publications Unit of the National Library of Scotland**, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh on **Thursday 28th May**. Time: 3.00 - 4.00pm. To book a place, contact Fiona Laing: f.laing@nls.uk

■ Visit to the **Edinburgh College of Art Library**, Evolution House, West Port, Edinburgh, on **Tuesday 16 June 2009**. Time: 3.00 - 4.00pm. To book a place, contact Jane Furness: j.furness@eca.ac.uk

■ **Royal College of Physicians present a free public lecture by Sir Iain Chalmers** 6th May at 6.30 pm. Sir Iain helped set up the Cochrane Collaboration, an international organisation promoting research evidence. He is currently editor of the James Lind Library (www.jameslindlibrary.org), a website explaining the evolution of fair tests of treatments in health care. Further Information i.milne@rcpe.ac.uk