



INDEPENDENT LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

30th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Adaptation, Change, Reinvention: Continuity and Change in Independent Libraries

Friday June 7th to Sunday June 9th, 2019 The
Devon and Exeter Institution



Abstracts

Please note that email addresses will be distributed after the conference.

Contributors are given in order of presentation

Anne Howard, Emma Dunn, Simon Cartledge. The Devon and Exeter Institution, Exeter, UK

'Upholding Tradition While Challenging Perception: Our Three-Year Development Project at the Devon and Exeter Institution'

In this talk, the conference's host share the Devon and Exeter's recently completed development project. In just three years the project delivered a new roof, conservation and care of the historic book collection and archive, a range of interpretative materials, and a learning and engagement programme for all ages. The Institution's partnership with the University of Exeter was reinvigorated, and was the catalyst to change its Governance to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Regular conference attendees will remember the project's launch being discussed at the 2015 AGM, hosted at Gladstone's Library.

Robin Wootton

‘Science Moves On: are 18th and 19th century biology books still useful?’

Robin Wootton is a zoologist and an international authority on the mechanics and evolution of insect flight. He taught at the University of Exeter for four decades, and is now an Honorary Fellow in the School of Biosciences. In retirement he is following a long-standing interest in the history of his subject."

Louisa Yates, Director of Collections and Research, Gladstone’s Library, Hawarden, Wales, UK

‘Digital Gladstone’

Gladstone’s Library is in its second year of a three-year digitisation project. The aim is to digitise 15,000 of William Ewart Gladstone’s letters, and almost 6,000 of his books. This talk considers the impact of digital projects, and the promising digital future that beckons for all independent libraries. As Gladstone’s has found, the more that goes online, the more people come to visit the originals....

Carl Hutton, Chief Executive, The Leeds Library, Leeds, UK

‘A Year of Celebrations at The Leeds Library’

The Leeds Library recently turned 250, and the oldest membership subscription library in the country celebrated with a year-long programme of exhibitions, displays, talks, performances and writing throughout the year. We opened-up our collections so that Members and non-members alike could come into contact with our treasure trove of literary gems and develop an understanding and appreciation as to how the Library is not just a part of the history of Leeds but also has a role to play in its future. We worked with a number of arts, heritage and cultural organisations on different aspects of the programme along with writers, poets and performers. Our aim was to enable access to the Library, its collections and to reveal its unique spirit like never before. Particular highlights were our first ever academic Conference, a Celebration Dinner, a special Exhibition, an anniversary book and a rich and varied events programme.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Naomi Korn, Naomi Korn Associates

ILA members may well have experienced Naomi’s talks before: they are known for their practicality, intelligence and humanity. Naomi is one of the independent sector’s biggest supporters and champions: she runs workshops, talks and lectures up and down the country, helping all of us get to grips with what many of us find an intimidating part of the job – rights management. If you’ve not heard Naomi speak before, grab this chance!

We are delighted to welcome Naomi Korn to the ILA conference. Naomi is the founder and Managing Director of Naomi Korn Associates, a talented and internationally-experienced team who deliver consultancy, training and rights clearance services. They support all types of organisations and projects. Naomi is one of the UK’s leading experts in copyright, data protection and GDPR, as well as rights and licensing. Naomi trained as an Archaeologist and was an Assistant Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology and Copyright Assistant at the Israel Museum 1995-2000. Naomi founded the business in 2003, after having overseen copyright at the Tate from 2000 – 2003. She is the former Chair, Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance (LACA) from 2013 – 2017. During this period, she led the reform of the UK’s copyright laws on behalf of the cultural heritage sector, resulting in new UK exceptions to copyright in 2014. She has also regularly represented the interests of the sector to UK Government Ministers and she regularly sits on Government advisory groups. From 2002 – 2007, Naomi was the Secretary of the Museums Copyright Group and also a founding member of the Museums IP Network. From 2015-17, Naomi was a Trustee of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professional (CILIP), the second largest professional organisation for librarians in the world. Naomi is a visiting lecturer at City University, University College London and Kingston University. In November 2017, Naomi was appointed a [CREATe Industry Fellow](#) and in 2018 Naomi joined the National Lottery Heritage Fund

(formerly the HLF) Advisors Network as a sectorial specialist on rights management supporting the National Lottery Heritage Fund and its funded projects.

Lisa Di Tommaso, Librarian, Morrab Library, Penzance, UK

‘How the Morrab Library is Facing New Challenges’

The theme of this year’s conference reflects the Morrab Library’s current position in a nutshell. The Library is unique in Cornwall for its beautiful Victorian building and remarkable historic and modern collections of books, archives and photographs. Having just celebrated its 200th anniversary, it is needing to face its future and embrace change and innovation in order to survive and remain relevant for another 200 years. The Library currently faces various challenges, including sustainability, digitising its catalogues and collections, engaging new audiences, finding new funding streams, and modernising its processes. This however needs to be balanced against the necessity to retain the essence of the library which makes it so unique and treasured by its members, readers and visitors. I will talk about these challenges and how the Morrab Library is facing its future through new initiatives and ways of thinking, improved governance, partnerships and technological solutions.

Ann Barwood (Exeter Cathedral Library)

‘Recent Changes in Building and Culture at Exeter Cathedral Library’

Abstract TBC

Jim Lowden, Mechanics Institutes Australia

‘Uniquity’

Every library or its place has something unique. It may be an item in the collection or it may have connection with a person, place or thing. The aim of this Paper is to tease out the elements of making your space—library and/or museum—the place for people to visit and hopefully join and/or support. Let’s start with a brainstorm: What are your collection strengths?; Have you documented the history of your Institute and building? Who are the notable people connected to your Institute or area?; What notable events are connected to your area; and What industries and landmarks are connected to your area? List them down, assess your collection for support material, or start a wants or gaps list. Then commence the marketing exercise of promoting them all by way of exhibition, printed or online material, lecture or recital with good advance notice and don’t forget to involve youth. You may even wish to solicit support material in the set parameters of your uniqueness.

PERFORMANCE: *The Hidden* – a performance by Visible Fictions

Someone has gone missing but have they left clues behind? Hidden in books, written on index cards, scribbled on the back of an old photograph; there is a mystery waiting to be solved. Played out in an atmospheric library setting, your task is to piece the story together using all the clues you can find, but don’t get caught, you never know who’s watching! Work as a team to rewrite the history books, just be careful which path you chose to go down . . .

The Hidden is a dramatic interactive experience for small groups of teenagers and adults. The participants will work as a team to make sense of clues and come up with their own theory to solve the mystery.

We are Visible Fictions and we love telling stories. For 25 years we have been creating innovative and dynamic theatrical productions for young people of all ages and adults. We take these stories all over the world. Our aim is to get people thinking, talking, sharing and creating. We do this by mixing things up and turning stories on their head, as a result no two Visible Fictions shows are alike but all guarantee an equally memorable and powerful experience. We believe that the arts are a powerful educator, offering fresh and dynamic ways to learn, solve problems and form opinions. Because of this belief, as well as our touring productions, we work in schools, institutions, communities and workplaces to build bespoke projects

that surprise and excite.

BINDING WORKSHOP:

Rebecca Newman, Newman Book Binding and Restoration

With over 20 years' experience, Rebecca Newman is a skilled craftsman, working with a wide range of materials. She is trusted by Universities, The Met Office, Museums and Churches with their historic documents, manuscripts, photo albums, collections and first additions. Rebecca has her own bindery based in rural East Devon and has worked on documents from the Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries. She started her business after working for several years in the industry employed by Cardiff University Bindery and Cardiff Central Library Bindery. Prior to this she studied "Bookbinding, Restoration and Conservation" at Brunel Arts and Technology College, Bristol and "Bookbinding and Conservation" at the Further Education College, Guildford. These are recognised courses essential to gaining the knowledge necessary to deal with rare and valuable books. She was also one of the early volunteer team members of a conservation project set up in Montefiascone, Italy. This was organised by the conservator Cheryl Porter to help preserve the late medieval library at the Seminario Barbarigo, Montefiascone, Italy. The library contained the collection of Cardinal Barbarigo and is important to the town as it contained a number of books printed by the seminary press. Over the past fifteen years Rebecca has enjoyed being able to help families with photograph albums, collectors with first editions, couples with wedding books as well as businesses such as the Met. Office and various museums and churches.

Darren Bevin, Librarian, Chawton House, Hampshire, UK

'Reading with Austen: a New Virtual Library Website'

In October 2018, a freely available website was launched showcasing the library that existed at Godmersham Park in Kent, the estate of Jane Austen's brother Edward. Jane Austen visited Godmersham Park on six occasions over a fifteen-year period, from 1798 to 1813. She stayed there for a total of roughly ten months and naturally the library was one she knew and which she consulted. Many of these books are now housed at Chawton House, along with a handwritten 1818 Godmersham Park library catalogue that not only lists the books held at Godmersham Park but also their exact location within three large bookcases thus allowing the possibility to accurately recreate a virtual library. The project was initiated by Professor Peter Sabor at McGill University, Canada, and with colleagues there created the virtual library. The spines of books can be clicked on to generate further information including images for all items that have been located. This is an ongoing project; books containing the bookplate of Edward are being discovered all the time and images added to the virtual library. The website also contains considerable information about the project and the original library. At Chawton House, the project to capture key images from relevant books was instigated. This was a major undertaking and relied heavily on volunteer support. This talk will give an overview of the project with emphasis on work carried out at Chawton House.

Matthew Haley, Director and Auctioneer, Bonhams, UK

'Changing Fortunes: how rare book auctions have adapted to the times'

Over three centuries, book auctions in the UK have gone from humble local marketplaces to often glamorous events for the international elite. As with any market, there have been peaks, troughs, and occasionally bubbles. In the twentieth century, the balance slowly shifted from traders to private collectors, with higher prices achieved but also increases in fees to promote the auctions and make them more user-friendly. Technological advances have allowed collectors to monitor and participate in auctions on other continents, with widespread effects on the market: arbitrage – buying in one location and selling in a more suitable context – has become almost entirely unprofitable; the values of relatively 'common' rare books have stagnated or even decreased; while the rarest items have shot up exponentially. Shifting book values are also a bellwether. Authors fall in and out of fashion, and as society's minorities fight for equality, buyers of rare books pay increasing attention to marginalized authors and subjects. Even the changing landscape of politics has its impact on the book market. Most recently, the auctioneer faces an existential crisis, as more and more book auctions take place online only. Is the gavel-wielding master of ceremonies on borrowed time?