

London Archives Partnership

Network Meeting

Tuesday April 19th 2016

London Metropolitan Archives

10:00am – 12:30pm

NOTES AND ACTIONS

Attendees:

TNA, City of London, Hackney , Hillingdon, Waltham Forest, , Bromley, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Croydon, Southwark, Brent, Haringey, Tower Hamlets, Ealing

Apologies:

Kingston, Bexley, Harrow, Wandsworth

1. Welcome and Project updates

Geoff Pick

Welcome from Geoff Pick to the London Archives Partnership Network Meeting

Photo Portal

GP on behalf of Simon McKeon

Boroughs including Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Barnet, Wandsworth, Greenwich, Lewisham, Barking & Dagenham Waltham Forest and Hackney have photographs up on the Borough Photos website(s). Sales have been generated locally through articles in local free magazines with Wandsworth having particular success. The group will work with Max Communications on some further publicity ideas.

London Screen Archives

GP on behalf of Simon McKeon

London: the Bigger Picture project continues to be delivered across the outer London Boroughs who are partners in the project. Kino van is parked in the LMA carpark. Use of the van has been very successful, attracting lots of people at events across the boroughs and allowing a wide variety of films to be shown. Possible relaxing of borough use in the future. **ACTION: invite LSA to speak at future network meeting & reconnect**

Additional update on British Library sound archive project: Save our Sounds

Project is at development stage despite publicity around the project. LMA will be the London regional partner and will facilitate input from across the sector. Work to be done to scope exactly what will be included:

Questions around inclusion of material already digitised or is it formats at risk? Will oral history be included?

Charlotte Scott will lead on this at LMA.

Aim25/LAP Catalogue project

Geoff Pick

Recap was given on [AIM25](#) for those not familiar - Catalogue portal with over 150 members. Project being scoped to enable enhanced digital access to borough catalogues in partnership with AIM25. This is through a HLF bid building on pilots using the open source AToM software in Croydon and potentially in Southwark and Hackney. Sub group working on Project Enquiry Form centring on benefits, outcomes, stories and access.

Benchmarking

Tahlia Coombes

See item: 3

Disaster Planning – no further update but is being investigated

2. Archive Sector Development & TNA perspective

Isobel Hunter, Head Archive Sector

Development, The National Archives

Local authorities remain important to TNA. Lots of challenges, services may be smaller in London but amazing collections.

TNA's support across the regions has focused on networks: pulling in regional partners, organisations and decision makers e.g. London Councils (50th Anniversary work was a good outcome of this collaboration)

Bigger network attracts key partners and stakeholders.

Common themes across the county include:

Digital especially preservation e.g. East of England project to compare and contrast different software solutions

Online catalogues & flying cataloguer model e.g. Greater Manchester Partnership £70k HLF project to catalogue business records across Manchester highlighting local stories, collaboration and value for money

Work Force Development e.g. joint training offer in the South West across archives, museums and heritage organisations [London event with Museum Development Team a step in this direction]

Volunteering e.g. West Midlands project to change the way volunteers are used from traditional model to more dynamic recruitment and deployment across the region which also taps into universities as useful hosts for student placements.

Joint funding bids e.g. initial plans to develop a development trust evolved to embed fundraising within all strands of work. Shows that complex vehicles are not always needed.

London was one of the first networks which TNA interested in, now there are 7 across the county. All start with a broad strategic plan but they have different things at their heart e.g. Yorkshire was initially around the single issue of ancestral tourism but have moved on to a broader programme.

This approach was initially experimental for TNA but now, 3 years on, has a core budget and can be a platform for bigger changes e.g. West Midlands group have decided to form themselves into a charity in order to become a more effective fundraising body.

3. Distance User Survey results/Participation in Autumn Visitor Survey Tahlia Coombs/Geoff Pick

Distance User Survey run by Archives and Records Association (ARA) through CIPFA

See: <http://www.archives.org.uk/about/sections-interest-groups/volunteering-security-and-access-and-surveys-group.html>

For published distance and visitor surveys see: <http://www.archives.org.uk/ara-in-action/publications/journal-of-the-ara-sp-1111397493.html>

Most recent Distance Learning survey: in London 6 boroughs + LMA took part. If taken together the results become statistically viable. Very useful data for individual service advocacy and planning and for benchmarking. Outside of LMA highest returns from Hackney & Tower Hamlets with around 50 each. Other services had 20-30 returns.

We would like to propose a London wide approach to data collection and benchmarking.

The next ARA survey to run is the visitor survey. It runs in the Autumn but registration is open from June. Those who have participated in the past should get an email and it will be on the Jiscmail email list but Tina M will also circulate.

It now runs over a longer (2 month) period to allow for variations in collecting and opening.

The data is really useful for forward planning and as core data. Shows engagement, and evidences the value of services. Can be used for advocacy, accreditation and bids e.g. to HLF. Can be the basis for regional improvement and evidencing risk to engagement work.

IF SERVICES ARE NO LONGER TAKING PART DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS BUT WOULD LIKE TO, PLEASE LET TINA AND/OR GEOFF KNOW AS TNA MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME MONEY FOR PARTICIPATION AND LONDON WIDE ANALYSIS.

ACTION: BOARD to take forward TNA proposal

The sub-group are also working on a survey to capture stats around group visits and will be piloted soon. Please email Tahlia for more details. tahlia.coombs@hackney.gov.uk

4. Review of the Partnership 3 years in; revisiting the future of London's archive services

London Councils hosts our webpage including the original report, vision, Terms of reference etc. for people to download at any time.

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/culture-sport-and-tourism/arts-and-culture/networks/london-archives-partnership>

One of the first exercises we undertook as part of the consultation for the report was around a scenario where all funding had been cut and the practical steps we needed to take in light of such a nuclear event. This led to the initial network around collaboration, networking and our evolving project.

What else do we want to do?

Challenges: defending our services

Support each other, share arguments

Bigger picture: where we are, where we are going, where we want to be.

Action plan for next 2-3 years – should include disaster planning; bigger picture in terms of governance (trusts, outsourced etc.)

Strategic needs:	
	Users in London Collective statistics Creative use Community use
Models of delivery	
	Range of solutions Thinking through options Looking at the future Leverage/advocacy Range of collaborative options
Evidence Accreditation/working towards Business cases e.g. IT arguments; challenges, spin outs ACTION: Board to discuss event where we bring practitioners together with Senior Managers Q&A LMA strategic overview: working on 20 year plan for when lease expires in 2035. Planning for future look of services, physical location, digital transformation, partnerships etc. Options and opportunities need to be embedded in City strategic thinking. Possible topics for future meetings: offsite storage. Economies of scale from storage and document delivery. Policies: can we have a bank of policies to use as templates or a set of joint policies? Southwark happy to share policies. Mentors: people 18 months more senior to act as mentors? Future: born digital material and digital preservation	

5. Actions and Next steps (including ideas for future meetings)

<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: 18th July 2016 Venue: Hackney Archives 18th November 2016 Venue: LMA</p> <p>Ideas for future meetings: Volunteer digitisation projects London CIPFA results Reuse of Public Sector Information Goddard enquiry: transparency of government</p> <p>Any additional ideas please send through to Tina Morton tina.morton@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk</p>
