

# **NAG Public Library Forum 2022**

## **Abstracts and Bios**

### **Paper 1**

#### **Everything to Everybody Partnership**

##### **Tom Epps**

Tom Epps is the Cultural Partnerships Manager at the Library of Birmingham. He works with a broad range of partners from individual artists and local heritage groups to major universities and national organisations. Current projects include From City of Empire to City of Diversity which uses Birmingham's extensive photography collections to explore the city's evolving relationship to Commonwealth countries and communities. Everything to Everybody, with the University of Birmingham and National Lottery Heritage Fund, is a four year project which seeks to modernise and revitalise Birmingham's historic Shakespeare Memorial Library.

### **Lightning Talk 1**

#### **Play Talk Read and the Sandy Bear Challenge**

Sandwell Libraries and Archives have recently developed two new schemes incorporating our use of library book stock with activities for families within children under the age of 5. Both schemes aim to support early language development whilst reducing social isolation following the Covid pandemic. The sessions have been developed in partnership with Sandwell Council's Quality Early Years team and are being run in conjunction with our Children's Centres. The two projects are Play Talk Read and the Sandy Bear Challenge.

##### **Sarah Walker**

Sarah Walker is Library Manager for Sandwell Libraries and Archives, strategic lead for Reader Development (including stock), Children's work and BookTrust. She has worked for Sandwell Libraries and Archives since 2004 and have worked in a variety of roles including frontline and management. She has overseen the provision of stock and reader development activities within the library service for the last three years and is a passionate reader.

### **Lightning Talk 2**

#### **Winners of the NAG Public Libraries Project of the Year Grant 2022**

Buckinghamshire Library Memory Bags" has won the NAG Public Library Project Grant for 2022. Their project to reach out and connect with people living with dementia and other conditions will receive £5000 to enable them to create 45 bespoke bags covering a range of topics to loan out across Buckinghamshire.

##### **Mark Bateman**

Mark Bateman is the Reading Services Officer for Buckinghamshire Libraries, responsible for the purchasing and distribution of library stock across Buckinghamshire. He has been with the library service for 14 years

## Paper 2

### Libraries of Sanctuary

This paper will look at 'new arrivals' to the UK, including the impact of some of the current political and environmental changes in the world that may have been 'drivers' in their coming here. It will include a brief glimpse of the UK response – including by libraries – since the 1940s, and particularly the two major library initiatives, "Welcome To Your Library" in 2003-2007, and "Libraries of Sanctuary" from 2017 onwards. The paper is intended to be practical, including information on some of the barriers to new arrivals (e.g. the hostile environment) and what libraries can do to remove these and broaden and deepen their welcome.

#### John Vincent

John Vincent has worked in the public sector since the 1960s, primarily for Hertfordshire, Lambeth and Enfield public library services. In 1997, he was invited to become part of the team that produced the UK's first review of public libraries and social exclusion (from which The Network, which he now coordinates, originated). He runs courses and lectures, writes, produces regular newsletters and ebulletins, and lobbies for greater awareness of the role that libraries, archives, museums, and the cultural & heritage sector play in contributing to social justice. John is particularly interested in supporting the work that libraries do with young people in care, with LGBTQ+ people, and with people seeking sanctuary and other 'new arrivals' to the UK.

In September 2010, the book he co-wrote with John Pateman, Public libraries and social justice, was published by Ashgate (now Routledge); and, in January 2014, he published LGBT people and the UK cultural sector ... (also by Ashgate, now Routledge). In 2018, John's report to Arts Council England was published, Libraries welcome everyone: six stories of diversity and inclusion from libraries in England. In Oct 2021, City of Sanctuary published a revised version of his guide, Libraries of Sanctuary resource pack; and he is currently writing a new book for Facet Publishing, Libraries and sanctuary: supporting refugees and other new arrivals.

## Paper 3

### Academic Librarian to Public Librarian – what can we learn from other sectors about Collection Management?

What do the 17th edition of a Business and Finance textbook and the latest James Patterson novel have in common? Who really selects and creates the collection in a modern library? Are all library data returns designed to leave you scratching your head in frustration, and what can we do to overcome their problematic nature?

This session will pose these questions and more in an effort to capture some of the observations and reflections that have come about from the speaker's recent move between library sectors. The session will focus on collection development and will aim to highlight different approaches and ways in which new concepts or best practice could be shared.

#### Katie Ponting

Katie Ponting spent 12 years working in FE and HE libraries, most recently working as Subscriptions and Access Manager at the University of Huddersfield, but in 2021 she took the leap to return to the Public Libraries sector joining Halton Libraries in Cheshire. She will soon be taking up the post of Strategic Development Manager for Barnsley Libraries and can be found on Twitter @Lib\_Katie.

## Paper 4

### **The Roehampton Kaleidoscope**

One of the NAG Grant winners for 2021, this paper will report back on the project at Roehampton Library around which focused on Urdu speaking women in the locality of the library providing tuition via workshops firstly around English conversation but then moving on to mental well-being, digital literacy and job skills with a community celebration event to finish.

#### **Janice Fernandez**

Dr Fernandes recently moved from her role at Roehampton into the academic sector as an academic support librarian at the University of West London. Janice has had a fulfilling experience of over 30 years as a Librarian working with students and the public in a customer-focused environment. She has 5 degrees in Library Science through years of research and innovative ideas. She has mentored a number of Doctorate and Masters degree students. She is pro-active, focussed, motivated and always willing to learn. She firmly believes that knowledge shared is knowledge gained.