



Public Libraries Forum

Friends House, London, Thursday 16th May 2024

Abstracts and Bios

Paper 1: 025.431 – a Deep Dive into Dewey Development
Jo Maxwell. Training Manager, Bibliographic Data Services

First published in 1876, the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system has had to adapt and develop over time to keep up with societal and technological advances. Heavily criticised for its reflection of inherent cultural bias and its archaic structure, continual effort is required to develop the schedules, so the scheme is inclusive, responsive, and remains up-to-date. This presentation will show how, as a 21st century web-based tool, the classification scheme is changing and how that development happens.

Jo Maxwell is Training Manager at Bibliographic Data Services Limited, based in Dumfries, Scotland. She joined BDS in October 2006 as a Subject Analysis Cataloguer and now has responsibility for training new Subject Analysts and helping to develop colleagues' classification skills. She is a member of the UK DDC User Forum, current UK Representative and Vice Chair of the Dewey Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) and is BDS' European DDC Users Group (EDUG) representative and current EDUG Secretary.

Paper 2: Language Barrier Breakers: Learning English, Increasing Confidence and Creating Communities in Libraries

Anna Homer, HLA Development Officer (Digital, Information & Stock), Oldham Heritage, Libraries and Arts

[@OldhamLibraries](#)

Oldham Libraries received the 2023 NAG Public Libraries Project of the Year Grant for our Language Barrier Breakers project. This allowed us to expand our English conversation offer to become more social and provide more opportunities for people to improve their English confidence in welcoming environments. Oldham is a diverse borough where ESOL provision is massively oversubscribed; as Libraries of Sanctuary, we are committed to removing barriers to access to resources and activities, including language and economic barriers that can isolate new arrivals and people who are not confident at speaking English.

Since summer 2023 we have been running multiple sessions a week in multiple libraries, with mostly volunteer group leaders. We have also been able to expand to keep running our groups as informal "English cafés" through some school holidays. This presentation will give an overview of the project, what we learned and the resources we produced.

Anna has worked at Oldham Heritage, Libraries and Arts since 2019, first as a library assistant and now as a Development Officer working on the digital, information, business support, stock, volunteers and adult health team. She previously worked as a bookseller and as an archives manager. Anna and her colleague Jackie McKeown (Volunteer Coordinator) have managed the NAG grant project this year, working with colleagues and volunteers across multiple libraries, learning a lot and meeting many interesting and lovely new people!

Paper 3: Cataloguing 2024

Anne Welsh, Beginning Cataloguing @BeginningCat

Cataloguing has always been a fast-paced environment, which can leave people for whom it is just one part of their day wondering what is going on. This session will explain, in easy-to-understand terms, the current state of the field; what it's useful for Acquisitions teams and managers to know; and how to keep up with these changes going forward. If you've ever had to explain a catalogue entry to a member of the public, or wondered yourself what the Jargon Soup of library documentation really tastes like, this session is for you.

Anne Welsh has been a librarian for 30 years, always in cataloguing, usually in special libraries. The author of Practical Cataloguing, her new book Beginning Cataloguing will go to press once there are more concrete examples of Application Profiles (national and institutional decisions on how metadata standards are applied). Anne is Secretary of the RDA Steering Committee (RSC), an editorial consultant to ALA Digital Reference and from June will be Secretary of CILIP's Metadata Group (MDG). She also volunteers on other bibliographic standards committees and is always happy to hear from individuals and organisations looking for training or consultancy in the field. <https://beginningcataloguing.com>

Paper 4: Introduction to Inter Library Loans and considerations for building your own service

Sarah Hornby and Helen Hall, Forum for InterLending

We will give a general introduction to Inter Library Loans and where organisations can look for information to material. We will then look at useful resources and considerations when building your own service and networks with other institutions.

Sarah Hornby took on ILL service at Newcastle University end of 2022 and has worked at Newcastle since 2017. She has been a member of Forum for Interlending Committee since 2023.

Helen Hall has worked at Liverpool since 1989, in Interlibrary Loan for the last 27 years. She has been a member of Forum for Interlending Committee since 2020.

Paper 5: Transformative Technologies: Using technology to support health and wellbeing

John Carter, Senior Development Officer, Somerset Libraries

@SomersetLib

Over the past year we have used innovative new technology to engage/inspire people and support their health and wellbeing, whilst also showcasing the services and resources available within libraries. We have worked in partnership with colleagues in the Somerset Council Public Health Team; local NHS Hospital Knowledge Teams and Somerset Activity Sports Partnership to develop and deliver a range of initiatives, including:-

- an iPad Lending Scheme
- an Activity Tracker Watch Lending Scheme
- low impact activity sessions in libraries
- using Interactive Projectors to support people living with dementia, neurodiversity and SEND

John's previous roles in marketing, communications and project management have complimented his present role in Somerset Libraries where he has worked since 2017. John has a passion for supporting the community, making a difference and using innovation to drive change. His skills regarding bid writing has resulted in various successful funding bids to deliver a range of projects within Somerset Libraries which showcase the huge variety of resources, support and initiatives that challenge some of the 'traditional' attitudes regarding the library offer. Working in partnership with a range of organisations and also breaking through silos within the council has been a keystone of John's modus operandi.

Paper 6: Libraries Unlimited: The Secret Book Quest – how we used LibraryOn funding to go digital
Kate Turner, Head of Service and Customer Experience, Libraries Unlimited

[@LibrariesUnLtd](#)

Libraries Unlimited is the charity that is commissioned to provide a library service across Devon and Torbay. Our charitable objects include “a particular focus on children and young people”.

Find out how 2 years ago, we launched our year round reading adventure for 5-12 year olds to encourage reading and increase participation and engagement. Initially designed as an exciting reading adventure in a physical booklet, discover how in 2023-24, we used LibraryOn funding to take the characters from the page to the screen and build an online platform to encourage more children to develop and grow their love of reading.

Kate is a Chartered librarian with more than 25 years experience of working in public libraries in Somerset, Dorset, Cheshire and London in a wide variety of roles. Before joining Libraries Unlimited as Head of Service and Customer Experience in December 2023, she led the LibrariesWest consortium team at Somerset Council providing ICT, bibliographic, delivery and distribution services to 7 local authorities. In 2023 she worked as Library Strategy Manager at Dorset Council. Kate is passionate about public libraries and their power to enrich lives and build communities.