

Meeting of the GLAM Committee
Wednesday 1 April 2009, University of Sussex Special Collections

Minutes

Present: Jess Gardner (JG, chair), Jamie Andrews (JA), Fran Baker (FB), Fiona Courage (FC), Stella Halkyard (SH), David Sutton (DS), James Travers (JT), John Wells (JW).

1. Apologies: Chris Sheppard, Chris Fletcher.

2. Minutes of the committee meeting held on 2 December 2008 at the British Library, and matters arising

The minutes were approved, and FB reported that the survey report is now online for consultation. JG suggested circulating this information via the Archives-NRA listserve.

3. Location Register (DS)

DS reported that he has been successful in obtaining further funding for the Location Register, and a five-year plan is now in place. 2009-2010 will be spent raising further funds and working with GLAM to expand the survey of new acquisitions; if sufficient funding is secured, 2011-2013 will be spent producing a full Location Register Supplement. DS has already had a meeting with FB and SKH at Manchester and work is being done to prepare the data for the GLAM website.

The committee pledged its formal support for the project.

4. GLAM Cataloguing Working Party (FB)

In the interests of time, this item was deferred until the general meeting, where Christine Fauch (who chaired the first meeting of the working party) was to report back on progress.

5. Fund-raising appeal for major literary archive purchase by Cambridge University Library (JW)

JW reported that CUL has been offered the opportunity of acquiring (by private treaty sale) the family archive of Siegfried Sassoon, from the estate of his son George. The sum involved is £1.25m and once the paperwork is signed a major fundraising programme will be launched. The committee pledged its formal support for this acquisition.

6. Focus of next general meeting (FB for CS)

CS had suggested the possibility of a meeting focusing on the renewed Location Register activity. It was suggested this might be twinned with a related topic, and it was decided that the meeting should also focus on the work of the NRA, its Literary Digest (which may fill important gaps in the GLAM survey in relation to literary papers acquired by local authority archives), and identifying literary material in collections which aren't

obviously 'literary' (one of JT's responsibilities at TNA). JT offered to host the meeting at TNA.

7. Location of meetings (FB for CS)

CS had suggested that GLAM should consider being less peripatetic in its approach to meeting venues, and that if meetings were held in a smaller number of more central locations attendance may be higher and attention would be focused more on business and less on environment.

This was discussed and various points were made – including the value of visiting other institutions to share experiences and best practice, and the travel difficulties facing some members even when meetings are held in 'central' locations.

Ultimately it was decided that one of the two meetings each year should be held somewhere central, e.g. London, Manchester, Leeds.

It was pointed out that Leicester University has been offered as a venue, which might be taken up after the next meeting at TNA.

8. A.O.B.

JA reported back on the activities of the UKLH Group. Recent developments are not directly relevant to GLAM; the group has largely been focusing on the Wedgewood Archive and the campaign against its sale and potential dispersal to locations outside the UK.

JT pointed out that the current issue of *ARC*, focusing on education and learning, provides some good examples of local authority work in the area of access and audience development.

9. Date of next committee and general meetings

A committee meeting may be arranged to discuss feedback on the survey report after the consultation period ends on 25 May (details tbc).

The next general meeting will be held at TNA in September (date tbc).