

GLAM Committee Meeting, University of East Anglia, 23 March 2012

Attending:

David Sutton, Reading University (Chair)
Judy Burg, University of Hull (Secretary),
Rose Lock, University of Sussex (for Fiona Courage)
Susan Thomas, Bodleian Library
James Travers, TNA
John Wells, University of Cambridge
Zoe Wilcox, British Library (GLAM Cataloguing Working Party and Web Officer)

1. Apologies

Fran Baker, JRUL
Fiona Courage, University of Sussex (Treasurer)
Chris Sheppard, University of Leeds, Brotherton Library
Rachel Foss, British Library

2. Minutes of previous meeting (4th March 2011)

Agreed

3. Membership

Membership statistics – 118 (last year, 111) members, of which 76 (76) are from HEIs, 18 (17) from national archives or museums and 2 (2) from local authorities.

There is still scope to extend membership, particularly amongst other LA archives with literary material.

Actions:

- JB to review list of current members and to put out call for new members via nra listserv

4. Cataloguing Working Party

Work is nearly completed and the results will be presented at the full GLAM meeting (ie 23 March). The CWP are awaiting copyright permissions – eg relating to the Getty Art & Architecture thesaurus, which has been extensively quoted. Once these are forthcoming, the document will put up on website in draft form (without circulating to committee first) ICA gave permission to quote – ISAD(G) – and would like a copy of the report when published, partly in order to promote it more widely.

5. Website

Zoe Wilcox has been getting enquiries directed to the GLAM website that should have gone to member institutions (possibly as a result of prioritised Google searching.). Enquiries have been forwarded – and they have now reduced in frequency.

GLAM members are again encouraged to post on the website, so that content is regularly changing. The most recent meeting minutes will be added to the appropriate section of the website, once minutes are confirmed.

6. Treasurer's report

Nothing to report. GLAM has funds of £1100.

The original prompt for raising money was to establish a float – to enable (for example) payment for speakers who were not GLAM members. There is no particular need or urgency to spend the money soon. It will be held in reserve for when it might be needed. There also remain other potential sources of funding in the future.

7. Second conference of the UK Literary Heritage Group (UKLHG) at the British Library, 30th April. "Manuscripts Still Matter"

The conference will focus on will consider the situation for archival institutions, archive creators, and a broad range of users given the changing financial and political climate since 2006 and to move beyond the pessimistic 'Larkinesque' view. There will be presentations or discussions on issues such as acceptance in lieu, funding opportunities, using literary manuscripts in higher education. There will also be a series of short presentations reflecting the breadth of archive collecting across the UK, including: The National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, Seven Stories, Royal Society of Literature at Cambridge. London Metropolitan Archives, University of Reading.

There is more information on the GLAM website and the British Library website.

The intended audience is not just archivists, but also archival users, scholars, biographers, writers in residence, members of the Society of Authors, Government ministers and advisors.

8. Glam representation on other groups

There was a discussion and review relating to the official or unofficial representation of GLAM and its objectives, on other archive and related groups.

- UKLHG: David Sutton officially represents GLAM on the UKLHG
- ARA Data Standards Group: Susan Thomas, committee member, other GLAM members are also members of DSG
- International Council on Archives section on literary archives: David Sutton reports to and from GLAM. ICA uses GLAM as a model for co-operation.
- Society of American Archivists and GLAM-NA: David Sutton undertakes liaison with GLAM-NA and also SAA (eg joint presentation at SAA conference in August 2011 in Chicago, further presentation at SAA with GLAM-NA planned for later this year)

Actions:

- JB to put out a call to GLAM members for information on membership on committees, steering groups or working groups for other relevant organisations, where they could report to and from GLAM

9. Location and themes of future meetings

Several offers for venues for future meetings:

- Autumn 2012: London, Senate House, with thanks to Wim van Mierlo. Date tbc
Theme: Digital archives and e-mails, including case studies (possibly Wendy Cope at the British Library and Carcanet press at JRUL)

- Spring 2013 - tbc

- Autumn 2013,

Offer from Chawton House Library (Centre for the Study of Early English Women's Writing, 1600-1830, in Jane Austen's former home - her brother's house), near Alton in Hampshire, with thanks from Jacqui Grainger

- 2014

We have an offer from Nia Mai Daniel from the National Library of Wales to host a meeting in 2014, to coincide with an exhibition on Dylan Thomas (100 years since his birth).

Possible future theme

- How literary manuscripts are (and can be) used.
- use of archives in education
- orphan works, discussions in light of the Hargreaves report (<http://www.ipso.gov.uk/ipreview>), any proposals around any legal reform and also European Union guidance
- working within FOI – principles of access – also relating to ICA statement (see below)

10. AOB

Issue raised by John Wells relating to an archive at risk (within a complex situation outside the UK).

GLAM has little weight in matters such as this. However, the ICA has more weight (being a section of UNESCO) and is currently drafting a policy statement on Principles for Access to Archives. This will relate to standards of access and openness and norms of good cultural behaviour. The statement should be approved at the ICA meeting later this year.

TNA guidelines on donation, taxation, conditional exemption and level of public access which is acceptable to qualify for conditional exemption, may also be provide relevant statements on good practice.

11. Next committee meeting

Senate House September – date tbc.