

GLAM General Meeting, British Library, 3rd October 2011, 2.30-3.30

Jamie Andrews, British Library
Fran Baker, John Rylands University Library Manchester
Judy Burg, University of Hull (Secretary),
Nia Mai Daniel, NLW
Rachel Foss, British Library,
Anne George, Project Archivists, University of Birmingham
Jacqui Grainger, Chawton House Library,
Katrina Legg, Richard Burton Archives,
Alysoun Sanders, Macmillan Publishers Ltd,
David Sutton, University of Reading (Chair)
Dr Wim Van Mierlo, Institute of English Studies, University of London,
John Wells, University of Cambridge,
Frances White, Kingston University
Zoe Wilcox, British Library,

introductions

1. Apologies

Fiona Courage, University of Sussex; Alison Cullingford, University of Bradford; Sally Harrower, National Library of Scotland; Sarah Hepworth, University of Glasgow; Julie Johnstone, Scottish Poetry Library; Martin Killeen, University of Birmingham; Patricia McGuire, Kings College, Cambridge; Chris Sheppard, University of Leeds; James Travers, TNA; Janet Wilkinson, JRULM

2. Minutes of meeting held on 4th March at Hull History Centre and matters arising
Agreed as accurate
Update about Society's finances, with additional donation from the Elliots (see below)

3. Treasurer's report (Judy Burg on behalf of Fiona Courage)

A bank account has been opened at the Co-operative Bank with Judy Burg, David Sutton & Fiona Courage as signatories. It has an opening balance of £1100 comprising £100 from the Kipling Society and £1000 from Mr & Mrs Elliot, donated through Chris Sheppard. Many thanks to Chris Sheppard for steering this donation towards GLAM and for making the arrangements.

There are no outgoings so far.

4. GLAM membership (Judy Burg)

Membership stands at 111 – and is increasing at a steady trickle. Of these 76 members are based in Higher Education, 17 in national institutions – so these two make up the vast majority of the membership. Three publishers are represented, albeit two by their archivists (Faber & Faber and MacMillan) the third being Adam Matthew.

5. Cataloguing working party (Zoe Wilcox on behalf of Christine Faunch)

The WP is progressing well with guidelines – Christine is doing a final edit on guidelines and terms. This should be ready to circulate to the GLAM committee in first instance in November, then to the wider membership and also to be posted on the website.

Suggestion that the Guidelines be 'launched' with an introductory session at the GLAM meeting in the spring. Following that, there is a demand for a one-day conference/training day on cataloguing literary papers.

6. GLAM website and web officer (Zoe Wilcox)

It would be great to have additional contributions from a wide range of GLAM members. Contributions can either be sent to Zoe, or she can set up additional user identities for other members to add to the blog. Contributions could include information about new acquisitions, events, exhibitions, etc, etc. Or they could be blog posts – about work in progress, thoughts about events relevant to literary archives, etc.

It would also be good to add more links to the GLAM website from other websites.

Anyone wishing to have a link from GLAM website to their website, contact Zoe. There is an issue about keeping these up to date – this would need to be the responsibility of the 'destination' organisation.

The old GLAM site (at JRULM) is in the process of being taken down – at the moment it seems to be the first result for a Google search, so many people are still visiting it.

7. Update on international developments - (David Sutton)

- Society of American Archivists

David Sutton and Judy Burg attended the Society of American Archivists conference in August 2011. David was one of the speakers in a GLAM-NA-led session on international collaboration in literary archives - and talked about GLAM in the UK & NI. Colleagues in GLAM NA talked about their activities.

GLAM NA have nearly as many members as we have – but their membership is largely confined to the north east – Yale and New England. Any help and encouragement from GLAM still needed and appreciated. GLAM-NA does include Canadian archives – there are several active members from Canada.

UK literary archives also featured in the AIMS session – about born-digital archives. One of the depositors whom University of Hull have been working with and have received born-digital archives from is Stephen Gallagher, novelist & screenwriter.

- International Council on Archives.

David Sutton is chair of the Section on Literary Archives and looks likely to continue in this role for the next 4 years there are currently no other candidates.

He is putting the example of GLAM before whole world – inviting colleagues in ICA to learn from the cooperative work that GLAM has been doing – also volunteering information about their literary holdings.

The Section is in the process of compiling a list of repositories across the whole world which hold literary mss –the list can be seen on the ICA website. The project has found problems – for example, many websites don't translate into English. This is the first output of literary mss section of the ICA. They are also doing work on copyright and other IPR issues.

The Section is also using GLAM-NA to do on behalf of ICA – a project about how people use literary archives. GLAM-NA has done some quite in depth research on users – what they are doing why, how – what types of records in literary archives are most useful to them. From this work, GLAM-NA are considering the idea of session on how to use literary archives. Their project is getting to the stage where it is shareable – do we want to do a partner project here?

If your organisation is a member of ICA you can join the Section for Literary Archives by getting in touch with David Sutton. Membership of ICA is 30 euros

- The Leverhulme International Network on Diasporic Literary Archives

This project featured on the GLAM website as an information item a couple of months ago.

The University of Reading is establishing contributing to an international network on literary archives including users as well as archivists – within six institutions, based in UK (Reading, France, Italy, the USA, Trinidad and Namibia).

They are comparing best practice, different national models and ways of dealing with literary mss.

They are tackling some of international issues -the flow of literary archives from one country to another. For example, there is a discussion about Trinidadian archives in the USA and elsewhere – and other examples of mss that have migrated or become diasporic.

The network will run a website – with information on literary mss, their travel and migration. It will also be running 5 workshops (in Reading, Pavia, Trinidad, Caen and Yale) – opening on 1 Jan 2012.

The Yale workshop will be on born-digital archives and digital preservation.

The first of the workshops, in Reading, will be 7-8 June 2012

These are exciting international initiatives - linking together, borrowing from each other and working together. There will be a role for GLAM and GLAM members in the Leverhulme network as well as in the work of the ICA. David will keep members and the GLAM blog informed, over the next 3 years.

It is worth noting that these initiatives represent GLAM UK taking international lead. David's chairmanship of ICA SLA is partly because of his chairmanship of GLAM – GLAM is seen as an international leader.

One further project that the Leverhulme network has potentially set itself is an international location register for literary mss – David not sure to what extent this will be achieved – it is a grand ambition. Leverhulme funding is just over £120,000 – from a specific funding stream for international networks.

8. Date and location of next meeting – theme and contributions

The Spring meeting (including GLAM AGM) will be at UEA.

Content will include discussions on creative writing and the use of archives in the study of creative writing. Contributions welcome.

The Cataloguing Working Party will also lead an introductory session on their new guidelines.

The day will have a late-ish start to allow for travel – about 11am.

The Autumn meeting – we have an offer to hold the meeting at Senate House, University of London. (Many thanks to Dr Wim Van Mierlo)

We also have an offer from Chawton House Library to host a meeting in 2014. (Many thanks to Jacqui Grainger)

9. A.O.B.

The special GLAM issue of ARC is to be an annual issue – for 2012 it will be the April issue. Contributions welcome. Process and other details tbc.

Palgrave Macmillan is issuing a facsimile of the Golden Treasury of Poetry to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its first publication. This is a news item on the GLAM website.

GLAM members are entitled to a promotional discount.

Mss proof of the book is in the British library and other papers relating to publication are in the Burgin library.

