

**Meeting of the Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts
Friday 4th March 2011
Hull History Centre**

Minutes

Present:

Jamie Andrews (British Library), Fran Baker (JRUL,); Judy Burg (Hull History Centre, Secretary); Fiona Courage (Sussex University Library, Treasurer); Rachel Foss (British Library); Richard Higgins (Durham University Library), Martin Killeen (Birmingham University Library) Rose Lock (Sussex University Library), Chris Sheppard (Brotherton Library University); David Sutton (Reading University Library, Chair) Grace Timmins (Lincoln City Council) James Travers (TNA); John Wells (Cambridge University Library), Zoe Wilcox (British Library, Web Officer)

1. Apologies for absence

Alison Cullingford, Andrew Carlin, Ifor ap Dafydd, Nia Mai Daniel, Chris Fletcher , Christine Faunch, Jacqui Grainger, Sally Harrower, Dorothy Johnston, Julie Johnstone, Patricia McGuire, Catherine Parker, Mike Webb

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2010 at Leicester University Library

The minutes were approved. No matters arising not covered by the main agenda.

3. Report from the GLAM Committee meeting (David Sutton)

Confirmation of the membership of the committee: Stella Halkyard has decided to step down as committee member as well as Chair. Zoe Wilcox is co-opted as web officer. James Travers is an advisor to the committee, rather than a member of it.

A bank account has been opened for GLAM with a small donation from the Kipling Society. GLAM is seeking other donations, to cover website costs and also as seed funding for conferences and other events. Ideas for sources of small funding contributions from members gratefully received

4 HLF Consultation (David Sutton)

GLAM is to make a submission to contribute to the consultation exercise by HLF on its future strategic direction.

Chris Sheppard will be drafting the main submission. A key comment will be that it is more difficult now than it used to be to raise funds from HLF for the purchase of literary archives – and that need for speedy purchase is a particular issue for literary papers. Case studies are sought relating to use by GLAM members of HLF funds, particularly for purchases of archives. (Send information and comments to Judy Burg.)

5. GLAM Cataloguing Working Party (Fran Baker, on behalf of Christine Fauch)

The CWP has met twice since the last GLAM meeting.

Good progress has been made with term list – the aim is for this to go live on the website this summer or possibly earlier. The intention is that this will be a living document – people can submit additions or amendments to it and it would be updated periodically.

Progress is also being made on draft guidelines for cataloguing literary papers – based on ISAD (G) members of the CWP are working on separate ISAD (G) elements. This is intended to be a more permanent document and more formal – perhaps reviewed every few years.

The work of GLAM CWP was reported to the Data Standards group of ARA (via a colleague of FB's) and it might be worth consulting the group more formally at later date.

There are currently five active members of the group. Chris Fauch will stand down after next meeting – so the group might then have a rotating chair.

The CWP might also consider arranging a study day – about queries, issues and best practice – for para professionals, curators volunteers etc. Any comments welcome from GLAM members.

6. GLAM website (Zoe Wilcox)

Zoe Wilcox has volunteered to be Web Officer for GLAM and has set up an independently hosted website at glam-archives.org.uk. It should be more easily findable via google and independent of the JRUL Manchester server.

The site is built on wordpress which is blogging software. This imposes some constraints – but not too many. Most of content has been transferred.

Members of GLAM are requested to check links to their webpages, as some urls no longer exist. Please also update any links to the GLAM site from members' sites.

Zoe will have a GLAM e-mail address as web officer, linked to the website.

The committee recorded a vote of thanks for Zoe for all the work over the past few weeks and also to Jan Whalen at JRUL for her work in looking after the GLAM website for several years.

7 A.O.B.

The May edition of ARC will, again be devoted to literary archives, with thanks to all who contributed.

The project to revise and update the Location Register of Modern Literary Manuscripts is now active with a project research officer appointed. GLAM members may be contacted with enquiries relating to recent acquisitions in particular. The project is using the GLAM survey as a starting point, so any new information post-dating this survey would also be gratefully received.

7. Date and location of next meeting

The next meeting will be a joint British Library / GLAM meeting, to be held at the BL on 3rd October. Its theme will be translation, translators' papers and literary papers in languages other than English.

Offers are sought from GLAM members for venues for the meeting in Spring 2012 and also suggestions for themes or content.

Notes from presentations:

Rachel Foss (British Library): Collaborative collecting policies

New initiatives at the BL - review of collecting policies and methodologies.

Concept of advanced curation – including

- Digital photography of the writer's workspace (standard)
- Recorded interview with writer (standard)
- Filming of immediate locality, if it inspired or relates to writing

In this way, the acquisition itself becomes part of the documentary record.

Review of acquisition policy and priorities, looking at different genres, emerging writers, and gaps in the national collection.

Exploring ideas of collaborative collecting - in connection with other record offices and other organizations, such as the Society of Authors.

Rachel would be interested to receive comments or suggestions from other GLAM members. If there is general interest, the area could be taken up by a small informal working group.

John Wells (Cambridge University Library) and Jamie Andrews (British Library) First World War Centenaries – possibilities, challenges, prospects

Challenges posed in creating exhibitions of literary papers – often scattered.

But – opportunity presented by WW1 centenary for planning a co-operative, branded linked series of exhibitions and events – around WW1 literature.
Likely to be more general centenary themes, events and branding - but could have a specifically literary branded theme.

Questions and challenges –

- How do you make it last 4 years
- What would be the desired outcomes
- What are the main obstacles and how do we overcome them
- Would this attract senior management support from within organizations
- What would be the possible funding streams

British Library are part of a consortia bidding for European funding for large-scale digitization of WW1 collections and a similar project is being led by Oxford.
The BL is planning an exhibition of writing about WW1 as part of its 2014 exhibition programme and is involved in collaborative PhDs.

Possible partners:

- Archives Awareness
- British Legion
- Imperial War Museum

Any GLAM members interested in taking these ideas further – please contact Jamie and/or John