Bulletin No 226 July, 2017

## Share the Vision Bulletin

Welcome to the re-launched Share the Vision Bulletin. We felt it fitting to recommence the regular briefings from Share the Vision with a tribute to our great friend and former Bulletin editor, David Owen. David’s contribution to Share the Vision was without question a cornerstone of the work the organisation achieved. He was Director of Share the Vision from 1998 to 2006 but continued to edit our fortnightly Bulletins until his death earlier this year with a unique style of his own. His vast experience both in public libraries and more recently working with Share the Vision was invaluable to us and we will miss his wit and clear explanations of complex subjects.

David’s loss affects us all and our thoughts are particularly with his wife Janice and their respective families. In re-starting the Bulletins we hope to pay tribute to his work without trying to recreate it. We will aim to provide the same breadth of coverage as David, but our new team, Christine Ronaldson, John Vincent and David Fay will work together to add their own individual elements with support from SCL and RNIB. The Bulletins have always proved popular and rely on the knowledge of their compilers, if you have items you wish to share with us, then please do send these to myself, my email contact is at the end of this Bulletin.

**Mark Freeman**, Chair, Share The Vision

### News:

* **DCMS name change:** The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is changing its name to reflect the growing importance of digital and technology in its activities. The Department for Media, Culture and Sport will now be known as the department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport, but retaining the same DCMS acronym. For more information about the change please read here [new name for DCMS](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/change-of-name-for-dcms)
* **Public Library Skills Strategy launched:** This Strategy to guide and support the learning and development needs of the public library workforce in England, was launched at the CILIP conference on July 5. Details here: [Public Library Skills Strategy](https://www.cilip.org.uk/public-library-skills-strategy-2017-2020)

**Libraries:**

* **Engaging Libraries** is looking for public libraries across the UK and Ireland that wish to pilot creative and imaginative public engagement projects on health and wellbeing. Offers £5,000 - £15,000 to deliver a public engagement project on a health and wellbeing theme, with an opportunity for up to £25,000 for more ambitious projects. Full details including how to apply can be found here: [Engaging Libraries](https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/project/engaging-libraries/)
* **Community Development:** Wakefield libraries recently created a team to engage with local communities plus stakeholders and to promote the library service externally. It focused on 3 main areas; Promoting Reading, Developing Skills and generating an audience. Further details can be found here: [community development](https://blog.oup.com/2017/07/library-outreach-wakefield-libraries/)
* **Libraries Taskforce:** Kathy Settle, Chief executive of the Libraries Taskforce, recently suggested that effective partnership working could be a useful source of income for libraries. Examples include co-locations with Job Centres and private businesses such as gyms. More detail can be found here: [partnership working](http://www.ukauthority.com/UKA-Local-Digital/entry/7276/libraries-to-cash-in-on-whitehall-hot-desking)
* **What my library means to me:** Guardian article about the value of libraries to a wide range of people including those with sight-loss and dementia. A useful piece for advocacy, demonstrating the huge potential of libraries to a wide range of people. More information [**here**](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/11/a-place-of-refuge-and-reinvention-what-my-local-library-means-to-me)
* **Government austerity measures:** Athreat by Lord Gary Porter, Chair of the Local Government Association, that there could be no libraries or streetlights left in Britain by 2020 if austerity doesn't stop. Full details here: [LGA response to funding cuts](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-austerity-library-closures-no-streetlights-britain-by-2020-stop-tory-local-government-chief-local-a7824321.html?amp)
* **Child literacy in Bradford:** New initiative to support child literacy for families from some of the most deprived housing estates in Bradford. The library service, which could have once supported this initiative, is currently being outsourced to volunteers and hit-and-miss opening hours mean their impact is greatly reduced. [Child literacy project](http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/features/child-literacy-imagine-project-young-families-books-not-afford-poor-read-learn-dolly-parton-a7826986.html)
* **CILIP Ethics Review:** CILIP is undertaking a major review of professional ethics and, in particular, of the Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Practice for Library and Information Professionals it produced in 2004. In the years since they were published there have been great changes in the profession driven by technological development, changes in information governance and regulation, the growing importance of data and its management, new professional roles and responsibilities, and changing user expectations. For much of the period the financial crisis has also meant limited funding for many services and big changes in governance and service delivery. Therefore it is time to look again at the ethics of our profession.

This survey, which is one part of the review process, looks at the place of ethics in the working life of individuals today. It explores the issues that information professionals face and whether ethics has a place in helping to address them. It also looks at the Ethical Principles (set out in the survey) and their relevance for today’s practitioner.

We want to make this survey as widely available as possible in all parts of the information professions and would appreciate your help in promoting it. Could you please share the link with your networks and encourage people to respond.  The link is at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KN2MVVH>

It will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.  The closing date is 18 August 2017.

More information about the CILIP Ethics Review is at [www.cilip.org.uk/ethicsreview](http://www.cilip.org.uk/ethicsreview)

Any queries can be addressed to: ethics@cilip.org.uk

**Sight and vision issues**

* **Exploring how local libraries use low vision technology:** a United States based study on the potential of the public library network for those with sight-loss: [low vision technology and libraries](http://www.visionaware.org/info/everyday-living/essential-skills/reading-writing-and-vision-loss/audio-players-and-talking-books/reading-for-all/12345)
* **Children in Focus Campaign: third year annual review (2017)**

“SeeAbility, a UK charity supporting people with sight loss and multiple disabilities, launched its Children in Focus Campaign in October 2013 with the aim of transforming eye care and vision for children with learning disabilities, and to ensure specialist sight tests are standard practice in special schools in England.” [p3]

The report shows that, after three years, the following issues have become clear:

* There is a high level of sight problems
* Few children are accessing their right to a community eye test
* Serious sight problems have been newly identified: “13% - nearly 100 pupils – we have seen over the course of the service had a vision problem that was previously unknown to school or parents.” [p4]

 The report can be found here: [Children in Focus Campaign](https://www.seeability.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=139906e3-7413-42b1-8ad9-f7b639057d9c)

SeeAbility has information about eye care and vision on its website including easy read factsheets about sight tests, different eye conditions, and treatments, videos, and details of optometrists who can support people with learning disabilities to have an eye test and access good eye care. See: [Looking after your eyes](http://www.seeability.org/looking-after-your-eyes).” [p6]

 (Source: RNIB *Insight Online*, Jul 2017)

## Reading App for readers with a vision or print impairment: Assistive technology specialists, Dolphin Computer Access, are launching a free accessible reading app for blind, low vision and dyslexic readers across the globe. The EasyReader app for iPhone and iPad users is immediately available to download from the iTunes app store and empowers millions of blind, partially sighted and dyslexic readers to browse and read accessible talking books and newspapers. Details can be found here: [Reading App](http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/06/prweb14405612.htm)

* **Calibre Reading App**: For some time now, Calibre (**a national charity providing a subscription-free service of unabridged audio books for adults and children with sight problems, dyslexia or other disabilities, who cannot read print)** has been working to develop a download app designed specifically for visually impaired people.

The new app CAL Download will transform access to books for the blind, partially-sighted and those with reading difficulties.

Making access to audio books available as a download service, via an encrypted, copyright-compliant app, with spoken audio prompts puts control firmly in the hands of the user, providing them with instant access, control and valued independence over selecting audiobooks that they have not previously had. The app, which will be usable on a range of Apple and Android smart phones and tablets, doesn’t require any sight (because of the use of intuitive application-specific gesturing). It has also been designed to support those with macular degeneration (with limited and decreasing levels of sight), and other conditions where people have limited sight providing the largest possible visual clues depending on the size of the device in use.

Calibre’s download service will complement the existing postal services available on USB memory sticks or CDs. In due course, existing Calibre members will be able to use this service free of charge in addition or as a replacement for its postal services. New users will be able to join Calibre for existing £35 joining fee and receive lifetime membership of our library with any mix of media, including use of our download app to access Calibre books.

The download service and the associated apps has been tested by a panel of users during all stages of development. It has included volunteers with varying degrees of sight loss, including members who have no sight at all. The test team has also included people with different degrees of experience in using mobile devices.

The next stage in the app launch is to test pilot the app with a larger group of Calibre members before progressing to a full release. To register your interest in joining the test pilots or to access the app at final launch stage, please contact Calibre’s Membership Services team by telephone or at membershipservices@calibre.org.uk indicating at which point you would like to be involved.

**Share The Vision is a partnership of UK libraries and library organisations that work together to improve the accessibility of library services for blind and other print disabled people.**

**More information is available from the Chair, Mark Freeman,****mark.freeman@stockton.gov.uk****or 01642 526481.**

**Contributions for the Bulletin can be sent to Mark at the email address above.**