

May 2007

Editorial



Welcome to the arclib bulletin 2007.

There hasn't been one for a while, as many of you will already know, but we hope that it will become re-established fairly quickly.

Certainly it didn't disappear for want of events and news to report, and this issue contains reports on two previous conferences, news about the 2007 conference, news on useful tools, and, importantly, an appeal for contributions: letters, reviews, reports, news items, requests and more will all be gratefully received.

Philip Pearson
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News

The Arclib 2007 conference is to be held in London, and plans are now well in hand. We imagine that this will be a popular one, so read the details on page 5 and get ready to book your place early!

View from the Chair



Dear ARCLIB members
Welcome to the latest issue of the Bulletin. Phil Pearson, our noble editor, asked me to write a message from the Chair and a brief biography of myself. Firstly I would like to say a very big thank you to Kathleen Godfrey, who until December 2005 was the Chair. For 12 years Kathleen was the Librarian at the Kent Institute of Art and Design, now part of the University College for the Creative Arts before becoming the College Registrar. She says this is helping to fund her pension but she still misses architecture.

(continued p. 2)

The future format of Arclib conferences: it has been suggested that in future Arclib share conferences with ARLIS. What do you think? Debate on this issue will take place at the Arclib 2007 conference in London.

Arclib committee



Right to left:

Jane Oldfield (Chair)
Hannah South
(Conference 2006)

Philip Pearson
Alice Fulcher
(Conference 2007)

Sue Palmer
Hinda Sklar (secretary)
Norman Ashfield
(treasurer)
Joan Shaw
(membership/web)

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Points of interest:

- Dublin Conference 2005
- Bath Conference 2006
- London Conference 2007

Thanks to Norman Ashfield and Alice Fulcher for supplying photos. Originators (and hence copyright owners!) are indicated by their initials, unless they are mine!

All photos this page: PJP

Chester 2004



Kathleen was responsible for a very successful conference at Canterbury. In 2002 she stepped into the breach when Joan Drage, the former ARCLIB Chair, had to relinquish the position because her university cut its architecture courses. Kathleen was a very supportive and dedicated committee member with a great sense of humour – we miss you!

Several other long serving members of ARCLIB have retired recently and I would like to thank Sylvia Harris (formerly of the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University) and Pam Masters (Edinburgh School of Art) for their contribution over the years to ARCLIB's success and wish them every happiness in their retirement.

I would like to thank Hannah South, at Bath University, for organising last year's conference despite being new to ARCLIB member and never having been to one of our conferences. The venue, speakers and visits were excellent and Hannah put a great deal of hard work into making it successful. The annual conference is a key part in the ARCLIB calendar and the opportunity for everyone to get together and share knowledge and add to your own personal CPD. In recent years the number of delegates has been declining and the future of the conference is generating some difficult discussions within the committee. We welcome any feedback from members on this issue as to why you come or why you can't come - is it the cost? Location? Or that architecture is only one of your areas of responsibility? The conference this year is at University of Greenwich, London. There will be the opportunity to attend as a day delegate if you are unable to attend the whole thing.

Finally I would like to thank those who have contributed to this issue of the Bulletin.

Jane Oldfield

Biography

I am Deputy Director of the RIBA British Architectural Library. I never intended to be a librarian. I wanted to be a vet's assistant but my maths teacher told my parents there were no career prospects unless I married the vet. After a year out (we didn't have 'a gap year' in the late 70s) working in the library of a food research association I went to Loughborough University to study librarianship with a subsidiary subject in human sciences. Initially I wanted to be a medical librarian but there were no jobs, so I ended up working for a building trade association, which proved surprisingly interesting.

Serendipity played a part in my career. Working for the architect's division of the Department of Education, an architectural student on his Part 1 year out placement there suggested I improve my knowledge and growing interest in architecture by studying architectural history at evening classes. Years later I worked up to an MA in Architectural History from the Courtauld Institute (London University), part funded by a brief spell as a weekend library assistant at Oxford Brookes University and working part-time in a large architectural practice. I have spent almost all my working career in architecture or construction and have now been at the RIBA for 11 years. Initially I ran the Information Services section of the Library, most of my work being with members and students. Just over 2 years ago I was promoted to Deputy Director and now also manage the cataloguing and indexing teams – known to most of you as the producers of the RIBA online catalogue and the Architectural Publications Index (API).

For those of you who wonder how I ended up as Chair of ARLIB when I don't work in a school of architecture I should elucidate. The RIBA runs a programme known as the Examination in Architecture for Office Based Candidates, now franchised to Oxford Brookes. This has to be validated regularly under the same criteria as any school of architecture. The RIBA Li-

brary is the 'university' library for these students and therefore the Visiting Board also looks at the stock and services we provide as part of the re-validation process. Some years ago ARCLIB took the decision that the RIBA Library could therefore be a full member and I later joined the Committee. At the Kathleen's last committee meeting as Chair in December 2005 I briefly left the room and returned to find my colleagues had nominated me to try to follow in her footsteps.

Apart from architecture (I am married to an architect) my other non-architectural interests are horse riding, gardening and rambling with my dog and, when they can be persuaded, my 2 kids.

Dublin International Conference 2005



The theme of the conference was 'Articulating Architecture', organized by Julia Barrett at University College Dublin. There were three main sessions: Research and Learning; Digitising and Imaging Paths to Information. The conference was opened with a talk from Shane O'Toole, who entertained the audience with an informative presentation contextualizing Irish architecture.



For myself, always being easily distracted by whiz-bang technology, Donal Lennon's introduction to 3-D laser scanners and their applications was a particular highlight (and I was wondering if by swapping the input with the output if we could have a hologram of St. Paul's Cathedral in the bathroom?).

Of the social functions, if I can mention only one then it must be the reception held at the Irish Architectural Archive. A truly marvellous restoration, an interesting exhibition and, to complete the setting, the sun shone and the wine flowed.

Philip Pearson

Bath Conference 2006



The theme of the Bath conference, ably organized by Hannah South (Engineering and Design Faculty Librarian), was 'Conserving, Restoring and Recording our Architectural Heritage'. Dr. Michael Forsyth's talk on his 2003 book *Bath: Pevsner Architectural Guides*, opened the proceedings, and it was highly illuminating to hear about the processes involved in taking Pevsner's original entry for Bath and expanding it into the current comprehensive work.

Again, space prohibits a long discussion of the excellent presentations that took place, but I would like to mention a few in passing: two illuminating sessions on Bath itself, the first from Ann Hopkins-Clarke about the history of the Assembly rooms that were opened in 1771, and the restoration of the Landscape Garden of Prior Park, and the second from Peter Carey about the revival of the spas of Bath. It is a tribute to the presenters' art how placing the historic and developmental aspects of these subjects into context can make them come alive.



A pragmatic, and extremely useful, guide to RIBA validation processes was provided by Dr. Chris Ellis, Head of Validation Services at the RIBA. Once again, seeing the process from a different viewpoint produced a clearer perception of why and what is necessary in a good validation exercise. Sylvia Harris described her own experiences of undertaking such a validation, and her updated checklist is included in this Bulletin.

Unfortunately, an appointment back in London prevented my taking part in any of the excursions, and I am particularly peeved to have missed the Roman Baths tunnel tour, a picture of which taken by Norman Ashfield of the Committee, I include here.

Philip Pearson

For more pictures from Bath, see page 7.

The one on the right is of the tunnel tour.



All photos this page: NA

London Conference 2007

London and Regeneration
University of Greenwich,
Maritime Greenwich Campus

Wednesday-Friday 11-13 July 2007 **Welcome by Baroness Tessa Blackstone,**
Vice-Chancellor, University of Greenwich

We are sure no-one will want to miss this spectacular conference. It isn't often we get the opportunity to host such an event in London, and it has taken the combined efforts of a number of institutions to bring it all together, but in the end it is the superlative efforts of Alice Fulcher from the University of Greenwich which are fundamental. An outline of the programme can be seen on the right, and the full programme and registration details will have been mailed to Arlib members, and are available from the Arclib website: www.staff.ljmu.ac.uk/leajshaw/ARCconfgreenwich.htm



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Talks:

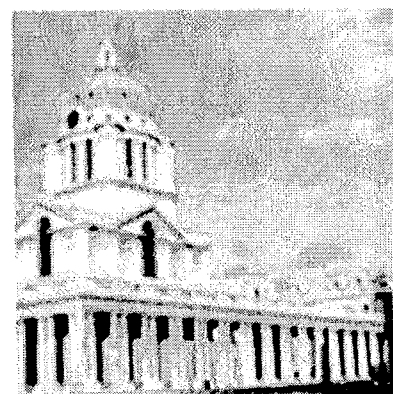
- A New look at old Greenwich
- An Introduction to the Urban Renaissance Unit
- Affordable housing resulting from London regeneration
- London riverside regeneration
- Information skills at Sheffield
- Intute services for Architecture librarians

Walks:

- Riverboat to Waterloo Millennium Pier
- Tour around London's Southbank buildings
- Guided tour of the Laban Centre
- Old Royal Naval College: Painted Hall and Chapel
- National Maritime Museum
- Dreadnought Library
- RIBA Collections and the V&A Architecture Gallery



PJP



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RIBA Validation Visits

Sylvia Harris

INTRODUCTION

This Checklist is intended as a guide for RIBA Visiting Boards. It sets out a standard set of questions, suggesting possible areas of enquiry for panels and provides a framework for a consistent approach to assessment of library provision. The checklist was jointly produced by the RIBA's Professional Literature Committee and ARCLIB in 1996 and has been updated this year (2006) by ARCLIB.

1. GENERAL

Is there a separate architecture library or are the architecture collections located within a more general library?

If there is a separate library, is the collection listed within the University library catalogue?

2. BOOKS

Is there adequate representation of architecture - related subjects?

Are multiple copies of recommended texts available?

Are loan periods flexible and appropriate?

Are reading lists available via the library or university catalogue?

Is there support for e-books?

Is there access to current trade literature?

What is the policy on acquisitions and the discarding of books?

3. JOURNALS

What journals are subscribed to regularly?

How are journals listed and accessed?

How are journals displayed, used, bound and stored?

What is the extent of the library's e-journal collection and how relevant is this to the teaching of architecture?

4. INFORMATION LITERACY TRAINING

Does the Library provide information literacy training?

To what levels is information literacy offered?

Is information literacy training integrated into student project work?

5. AUDIO VISUAL MATERIAL

Are there audio and video materials related to architecture? If so, are these up to date and easily accessible?

Does the library have a slide collection?

Is the library active in creating a digital image collection and/or does it subscribe to commercial image libraries?

Are there adequate playing and viewing facilities?

What are the arrangements for borrowing?

6. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

What databases are available relevant to architecture?

How are electronic resources organised and accessed? How easy is it to identify material on architecture?

Do search results in databases link to available resources?

Are there links between e-learning materials (if any) and library resources?

Are there arrangements for remote access?

7. RESEARCH FACILITIES

Do researchers have access to suitable collections locally?

Is there adequate access to national collections via inter-library loan systems?

What arrangements exist for easy access to RIBA Library facilities?

8. FUNDING

What is the current total budget for architecture materials and how is this apportioned between books, journals, etc.?

Is it possible to identify the proportionate funding devoted to electronic resources?

How does the current budget allocation compare with previous years?

Is there a contingency amount in the library fund, which would allow immediate purchase of special items - e.g. second hand books, exhibition catalogues, etc. as they become available?

9. STAFF

Is there a subject librarian?

What other staffing is available to support architecture students?

Does the subject librarian attend relevant school meetings?

Is the subject librarian informed about developments in the school's teaching and research programmes?

10. LIBRARY FACILITIES

What are the opening hours, and what level of staffing is provided for these periods?

What is the space availability for library users?

Are there spaces for quiet study and group work areas?

Is there provision for:-

black and white photocopying?

colour photocopying?

large scale copying?

scanning?

other reprographic facilities?

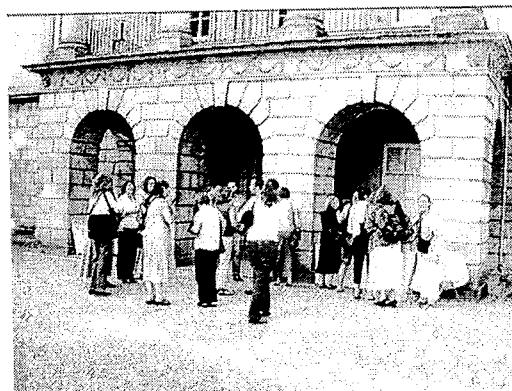
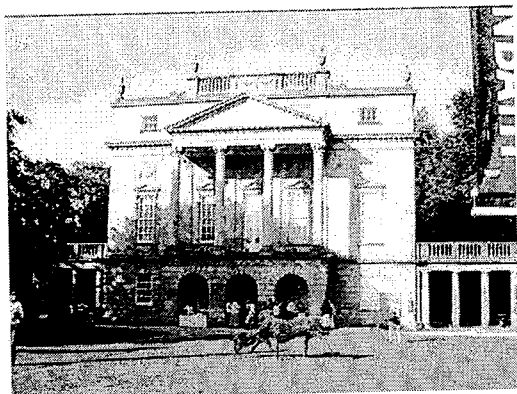
11. USER FEEDBACK

How is feedback obtained?

What is the evidence of use and user satisfaction from staff, students, and researchers?

What is the evidence of use and user satisfaction from practitioners and others outside the architecture department?

Bath Conference 2006



Above: reception at Holburne Museum of Art

Right: Conference dinner, Octagon, Bath Assembly Rooms



Right: Q&A panel
(l to r): Sylvia Harris,
Jane Oldfield, Ian May-
field.



Below left: presentation
to Hanna South
Below right: to Dr. Mi-
chael Forsyth



All photos this page: PJP

