Welcome to the Spring edition of Archives Sector Update.

The first year of our 'Opening Up Archives' programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund has been one of excitement, learning and challenges. We have really enjoyed getting to know our trainees and seeing the wide variety of work they have been able to accomplish over the course of the year. This edition will give you a flavour of what they have been up to and I hope you enjoy reading about their work. We look forward to welcoming our second group of trainees in April and seeing how their traineeships progress.

We are also excited to announce that we have now launched a new section to our website. Here you can find information you need to make your service the best it can be: nationalarchives.gov.uk/archivessector

Finally, this newsletter is for you. We are always interested in feedback to ensure it remains relevant. If you have ideas for future issues or any stories you’d like to be celebrated please let us know at asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Many thanks are due to all those who have contributed to this edition, in particular Leah Chapman, who has coordinated all the articles, and to the trainees who have contributed.

Jess Carlson
Interim Programme Manager, Opening Up Archives
The National Archives

In this issue:
- Children's Lives at Birmingham Archives and Heritage
- Co-creation and Accreditation - a new way of working
- Why digital preservation?

And also:
- Opening Up Archives – one year on
- Hidden lives in Gloucestershire Archives
Exploring Partnership in Greater Manchester

Kevin Mulley
Research and Strategy Manager, The National Archives

One of the key recommendations of ‘Archives for the 21st Century’, the government’s policy on archives, is that archives should work in partnership to develop bigger, better and more sustainable services.

Archive services provided by the ten metropolitan authorities in Greater Manchester already have a strong tradition of collaborative work stretching back more than 25 years. At a time of constraint on council budgets, they have decided to look at how they might build on this tradition to enable them to develop improved local services, which can meet the challenges and exploit the new opportunities for archives outlined in the policy.

Consultants Tom Forrest and Paul Brough, with funding from the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA), the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP) and The National Archives, are studying the options. Looking further ahead, the study will also explore the scope for closer work with the many other non-local authority archives in the sub-region.

The options will be presented to the AGMA authorities and other stakeholders by April 2012 for a decision on how they might be taken forward.

Co-creation and Accreditation - a new way of working

Melinda Haunton
Programme Manager (Accreditation), The National Archives

We are now well into the swing of co-creating the new archives accreditation standard. Participants from across the archives sector have been involved in workshops, webinars, twitter chat and above all the online platform www.dialogue-app.com/archivesaccreditation where co-creation takes place. The platform is the space where all interested parties can debate the key issues, with discussions continuing into early May. We have also picked out a few hot topics for online debates so that they can receive focused attention.

This is a new way of working for us all. It is a significant departure from the familiar process of issuing a consultation document and receiving formal responses. The process asks archives sector stakeholders to try new things, perhaps outside your comfort zone, but the intention is for it to offer you more, in terms of ownership of the standard and an outcome that really works for you. We are evaluating the process as we go. Feedback suggests participants really appreciate this opportunity to get involved at an early stage and to shape expectations for the future of archives.

2012-13 will see the pilot phase of the programme, when we put the draft standard through its paces. There's still time to contribute to co-creation and new discussions open every week, so if you haven't registered yet, please do consider getting involved.
ARA Archive Volunteering Award for 2012

Do you want peer recognition for excellence? Do you need evidence to show your effective engagement with volunteers? If so, why not nominate your archive service for the Archives and Records Association (ARA) Archive Volunteering Award?

Winners will have a national platform to celebrate their volunteers’ contribution to the service and gain publicity for their archive’s role in supporting individuals and community through volunteering programmes.

You can find out more on the ARA website: archives.org.uk/campaigns/volunteering-awards.html

Or if you have any queries about the award please contact Sally Bevan, Volunteering Awards Administrator, on 020 7332 3820 or via volunteeringaward@archives.org.uk

Opening Up Archives, one year on

Jess Carlson
Interim Programme Manager, Opening Up Archives, The National Archives

As the end of the first year of Opening Up Archives looms into view, it’s an excellent opportunity to look back over the year and see what has been achieved in that time. This first year has, undoubtedly, been a success. We have worked with 13 trainees, in ten host organisations across the country and seen all manner of work come out of the project. From 3D modelling bringing archival documents to life, to Bengali History Month to the transcription of medieval documents, so much innovation has been undertaken by the trainees who have worked incredibly hard throughout the last year. We’ve seen digitised collections of photographs on Flickr in Manchester, diary entries from the eighteenth century on Twitter in Nottingham and children curating exhibitions in Birmingham. It’s been inspiring to see the work being done as a result of these traineeships, and work undertaken by our trainees has informed other projects in archives.

The purpose of Opening Up Archives was to provide an alternative route of entry in archives and heritage professions for people with non-traditional archival backgrounds, and we are pleased to have been able to work with such a diverse group this year. This goal actively influenced our recruitment process for both the first and second years of the traineeships and we have certainly seen a wide range of people applying for the programme. Feedback from the host organisations and the trainees has been resoundingly positive. Our final cohort day with the first group of trainees is rapidly approaching and I am looking forward to meeting with them all again and learning about their final projects as their hard work over the last year comes to fruition. The second cohort is another opportunity to welcome new people from a variety of backgrounds into the profession, and witness new work unfold.

With one year almost complete, and the recruitment for the second year almost complete, these are exciting times to be involved with Opening Up Archives. I am looking forward to what the second year may bring us.

› Alison Kennedy, Opening Up Archives trainee.
What's Opening Up Archives?

Jess Carlson
Interim Programme Manager, Opening Up Archives,
The National Archives

What are the aims of the scheme?

There are two key aims of the scheme: first, to diversify routes of entry into the archives profession, and second, to build skills in four areas of professional work. These are community engagement, collections development, digital preservation and traditional interpretation skills such as palaeography and Latin. We've actively sought to recruit people from a wide range of backgrounds, and have a diverse range of trainees already on the scheme.

How is it funded?

The scheme is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under its Skills for the Future Programme: hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Skillsforthefuture.aspx

This sounds interesting! How do I get involved?

The interviews for the second round of traineeships are already taking place, so the process is almost complete for the second year. Watch the website nationalarchives.gov.uk for further updates on the progress of the project. There are other Heritage Lottery Funded projects being run in archives across the UK, and in other heritage organisations too.

What does a traineeship actually entail?

Each traineeship has a major specialism, and some have an additional specialism as a minor but these vary across the ten organisations we are working with. Each traineeship lasts a year and is salaried. The trainees are all undertaking a QCF Level 3 diploma in Libraries, Archives and Information Studies, which is supported by the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Programme Manager, and this will continue in the second year. As well as this training, there are other opportunities across the year to undertake training relevant to the traineeships, such as oral history skills. The trainees meet four times across their year in post and spend a week at The National Archives.

How long has the project been running?

Opening Up Archives recruited the first round of trainees in March 2011, and they are due to complete their traineeships in the next six weeks. There are 13 traineeships in each round, based in ten host organisations across England. We are in the middle of recruiting for the second round at the moment, and the project is currently set to wind up in the summer of 2013.
Why Digital Preservation?

Here Nick Hodder, the Opening Up Archives trainee at Nottinghamshire talks to Leah Chapman the editor of Archives Sector Update about the programme:

What did you already know about Digital Preservation when you started the programme?

My knowledge of the subject was limited to being aware of the need to preserve our digital heritage and some of the basic overarching challenges which this creates, such as ensuring future software compatibility and durable, reliable hardware. I was not familiar with the specific techniques and practices involved with digital preservation, such as fixity issues and the various types of metadata needed to successfully preserve a digital object. It has been an interesting year, during which I have learnt many new terminologies, techniques and concepts, which I hope to use in my future career.

What’s the most surprising thing you’ve come across in your year?

The sheer complexity of digital preservation. Rather than seeing digital preservation as an individual skill, I have come to realise that it is actually a whole set of different skills which need to be put together in order to create a successful digital repository. It is a challenging, but also an emerging and exciting sector to be involved with.

If you had to identify three key lessons you have learned, what would they be?

1. The use, importance, and variety of standards in the digital preservation realm.
2. The differences between digital preservation and digitisation.
3. The importance of issues surrounding digital rights management and intellectual property.

What advice would you give someone just starting out on learning about digital preservation?

Read all the advice that you can get your hands on. There are many great resources which can be tapped into from the UK and abroad. Talk to experts. Opinions regarding different aspects of digital preservation can vary, so discuss existing projects with colleagues at other institutions to share ideas, the use of standards, tools, and general ways of working.
My traineeship at Birmingham Archives and Heritage is focused on interpretation skills, community engagement and collections development, with core skills of online interpretation, digitisation and digital preservation. My work revolves around an exhibition of archival material, along with fine art and three-dimensional objects, which tells the history of childhood from the eighteenth century to the present day: Children’s Lives. The exhibition opens at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery on 24 March. I have been involved in digitising much of the online content for the project, including books, manuscripts, posters, letters, and a large number of photographs (the Archive holds approximately two million photographs). I have also been trained to upload images using a content management system.

The website, which will appear on the archives’ resource site at www.connectinghistories.org.uk, will outlive the actual physical exhibition and will provide an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the history of childhood. In addition to digitising material for the Children’s Lives website, I also set up a blog, www.birminghamchildrenslives.wordpress.com, and a Twitter account www.twitter.com/Childrens_Lives, which has allowed me to attract interest in the project and share our research with a wider audience.

A large part of my traineeship has been community engagement and has involved working with Year 8 pupils from two local schools to create their own archive: the archival material that we already hold often tells a negative story of childhood, and usually from an adult point of view, but this part of the project has allowed the children to tell their own story. The material that has been created, including photographs, art work and video interviews, will be displayed in the final section of the exhibition and will be deposited in the archives afterwards. The pupils have been arranged into sub-groups: archivists, recorders, curators and communicators, allowing us to encourage skills development.

My role within this has been to work with the curators, along with a team of external exhibition designers, to organise the display of material. Witnessing the children’s growing confidence and feeling that I have helped them to achieve something important has been the most rewarding part of my traineeship.
The Opening Up Archives traineeship gave me a way into the heritage sector without having any previous experience - a rare opportunity and one I didn’t want to miss.

The main project I’ve been working on is the ‘Treasures of the Archives’ promotional campaign, designed to raise local awareness of the archives and the different records held. The staff had nominated their top collections, and we asked the public to vote for their favourite. I was lucky enough to sit down and go through some of the collections, seeing firsthand the diversity of the records. Among the records, I found a personal favourite in the Burton Group collection. I never knew there was such a rich history to the high street store, a shop I’ve walked past many times, and this summed up what the project was about for me. I was also made responsible for creating a website for the campaign. I really enjoyed the opportunity to develop a platform to provide information and a place to engage with the audience, as well as the creativity involved with the design aspect.

I have also been regularly working in the conservation department, where no two days are the same. I’ve been helping out with everything from packaging by making custom folders to working to retrieve wet and mouldy documents from an external site. Recently, my main task has been preparing mouldy and damaged land tax documents for digitisation. This has involved handling the fragile documents, cleaning them and supporting them where necessary. It’s amazing how something can seem beyond repair, but with some patience the document is able to be used and as long as the information can be put into context the value of it has been saved, and to know that you have done that is a great feeling.

Overall the traineeship has been a great programme, in just one year I have gained so much practical experience, and the flexibility of the traineeship has allowed me to develop a diverse range of skills whilst working with some fascinating material.
Finding Archives: reviewing our online resources

Sam Velumyl
Information Systems and Resource Discovery Manager,
The National Archives

In April 2011 The National Archives' Finding Archives project began to review our information resources which describe records held by other archives. A year on we have gathered extensive feedback about how the resources in scope might be enhanced in the future.

More than 200 people took our online survey last year and this, as well as in-depth face-to-face research, has provided us with a much greater understanding of the challenges that users and contributors face when using these resources. This information will help shape how we might develop them in the future. We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to take part in this work.

These datasets collectively represent the holdings of more than 3,000 archives and collecting institutions and provide hundreds of thousands of collection and item level descriptions. For each of these resources we have gathered feedback on their usability, including contributing and updating information, searching and browsing.

The resources in scope for this research were:

- National Register of Archives
- Access to Archives
- ARCHON Directory
- Manorial Documents Register
- Accessions to Repositories
- Hospital Records Database

These resources receive millions of visits every year and provide a map of UK collecting activity.

The National Register of Archives is based on over 130 years of information gathering and through Accessions to Repositories, details of the most recent acquisitions of around 250 collecting institutions are made available each year.

DJS Research Ltd, an impartial research company, led the external research with support from Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan, an archives consultant. This research was both qualitative and quantitative and based on consultation with users, contributors to these resources and other interested parties.

More information about the project, including a summary report of the findings, is available on The National Archives' website: nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/projects-and-work/finding-archives.htm

Continued on next page
Here is some of the feedback:

**Easier contribution systems**

'Make them easier to contribute to and update.'

'I can't imagine working without any of these resources.'

**More intuitive, more logical**

'A better search facility so that you don’t get everything for a John and everything for a Smith when looking for John Smith, and a more intelligent searching index.'

'If I am searching for records relating to butchers, do not want lots of entries on people whose surnames is Butcher, and similarly if I am researching a family named Banks, I do not want lots of entries relating to financial institutions.'

**Consolidation of all resources into a single system**

'They are all very good, but one central resource would be better - the common problem in the archival world of too many separate overlapping responses to one problem.'

'Do we need so many? Can any be combined?'

'Greater integration would be helpful, so there was just one place to go where you could search across all of these databases.'

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**Accessions to Repositories 2011**

Rosie Loguidice and Elisabeth Novitski
Collections Knowledge Officers, The National Archives

Since the launch of the 2011 Accessions to Repositories survey in December we have received over 180 returns. These have already revealed some really exciting discoveries!

From Southampton University, the papers of the British poet Frank Templeton Prince include correspondence with W H Auden, T S Eliot and Stephen Spender. Still on a literary theme, in the collections of the Somerset Heritage Centre can be found the papers of the children’s author Margaret Joyce Baker, famed for stories such as *Hannibal and the Bears* and *Castaway Christmas*.

For a sweet interlude of a musical variety, the Cadbury Research Library at the University of Birmingham includes an accession from the British Institute of Organ Studies comprising the personal records of organ builders and organists.

Now, cast your mind back to 1981: you might be thinking of a Royal Wedding or an iron lady who was 'not for turning' but you are probably not thinking about the ground breaking records of the 1981 Women’s Investment Club that can now be accessed at Glasgow Women’s Library. Accessions to Repositories is a way to publicise interesting collections in your archives and make them known to your users and potential users.

If you want to take part then it’s not too late. We will be accepting returns until 5 April 2012 - simply email them to asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

For further details on Accessions to Repositories see the website at nationalarchives.gov.uk/accessions
Exploring my home region

Paula Nunn
Opening Up Archives trainee at Woodhorn, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums

My role on the 'Opening Up Archives' programme divided my time between Northumberland Archives (based at Woodhorn Mining Museum) and Tyne and Wear Archives (based at the Discovery Museum). I've lived in many places around the North East so having the opportunity to explore my home region in archival collections was wonderful.

At Northumberland this was most apparent in the 'Treasure from the Archives' website I created. This website included treasures selected by my colleagues spanning a time-line from 1156 to 1966. Amongst them are several regional characters I'd never encountered before and interesting subjects. For my contribution I selected George Reavell OBE, a local architect responsible for the restoration of many of Northumberland's historic buildings. Reavell’s original surveys and architectural plans are held at Northumberland Archives and they include many of the castles that fired up my imagination when younger.

At Tyne and Wear Archives my favourite project was digitising the Swan Hunters glass plate negatives. This maritime collection has over 500 glass plates and covers ship launches, interiors, engineering parts and trials from the 1880's to 1920's. The plates offer an amazing amount of detail for the period as their size (close to A3) gives the opportunity to zoom into facial expressions and background information. The images of RMS Mauretania excited me the most and I became completely engrossed in her history, her craftsmen and the narrative elements that surrounded her. Built on Tyneside in 1906 for Cunard, RMS Mauretania was the largest and fastest ocean liner of her time and held the transatlantic crossing record for 22 years.

To continue the celebration of this fine ship I utilised my skills as a digital artist and a 3D modeller to re-create Mauretania’s interiors. Through an accompanying website I demonstrated the modelling process and how I’d utilised Tyne and Wears’ records to rebuild the ship. Archive institutions have been used by model makers for years but the next generation of digital 3D modellers seldom call on their records. I hope my work with RMS Mauretania and Tyne and Wear Archives will help address that and bring this collection to the attention of new audiences.

You can find out more about the work I did and see images on: woodhornexhibitions.com www.flickr.com/photos/twm_news/sets

Mauretania Smoking Room, Tyne and Wear project.
During my time at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) I have been involved in a diverse range of tasks and projects, one of which was helping to put together a small exhibition called 'Mapping the London Blitz'. This exhibition uses London County Council bomb damage maps, personal diaries of Londoners and several other resources to describe and illustrate what life was like during the Blitz. My task was to focus on incidents in the areas of Oxford Street and the East End.

As part of my research, I read some of the personal war diaries that are kept here at the archives, both originals and published copies. I also used LMA's catalogue to search the collections for other sources that would fit into the exhibition. One of the challenges was to find more than one item relating to the same incident. For example: we had an original diary entry describing the bombing of Oxford Street but it was surprisingly difficult to find other sources on the same subject. However, through each member of the team focusing on a different area of London we managed to find other incidents for which there were two or more related items such as photographs and newspaper articles. This also gave the display a good diverse range of exhibits.

Through assisting with this project I gained the ability to search and locate specific items within LMA's vast collection. I also gained experience in the decisions behind putting together an exhibition and ensuring that the material on display is both relevant and interesting for the public to look at and read. It was a rewarding experience to have been involved in the exhibition from the very beginning right the way through to when it was installed and opened to the public.
I studied science at university but I have always been fascinated by exploring the past so I jumped at the chance to pursue a non-traditional route into the archival sector.

My traineeship has an emphasis on teaching the interpretative skills necessary for deciphering the format and handwriting of old records. Through structured training in palaeography and Latin, I have become familiar with a wide variety of hands ranging from 19th century scribbles in medical case books to heavily abbreviated 13th century charters. The acquisition of these practical interpretative skills has been invaluable, allowing me to begin interacting with original documents right from the start of the traineeship.

This intensive ‘hands on’ training also enabled us to get involved with a wide range of archival tasks throughout the year, including cataloguing the personal papers of the Tuke family of York, conducting research into records ranging from parish registers to old scientific instrument catalogues, as well as assisting readers in the public search rooms.
I came to the programme after having studied History at university, and more recently working as a teacher of English as a foreign language.

Alongside developing the interpretation skills that Amy has written about, our major project during the traineeship has concerned outreach and online engagement: creating an introduction to doing archives-based research in the form of an E-Learning course called ‘Documents are Different’. Being able to produce transcripts and translations meant we weren’t restricted when it came to choosing interesting material – the preparation for one section saw us tracing (surprisingly overlooked before now) connections between inter-war chocolate advertisements and 16th century sorcerers in the space of an afternoon’s work.

In the last few weeks, we’ve adapted the online material into three face-to-face sessions aimed at the wider community. The response has been really enthusiastic: they were booked out within an hour of being made available and quickly ran up a waiting list of over sixty people, prompting us to offer a second run. Encouragingly, none of those who signed-up had been to The Borthwick before, which we saw as a real achievement for the project.
This year I have been based at Gloucestershire Archives and worked on the community engagement and audience development for an oral history project called 'Hidden Lives'. 'Hidden Lives' is focused on two underprivileged, multicultural areas of Gloucester City called Barton and Tredworth. During the year I've conducted and coordinated the collection of oral reminiscence from people who have memories of either living or working in the area and developed the website through which they are accessible: [www.bartonandtredworth.org.uk](http://www.bartonandtredworth.org.uk).

The sense of pride in the area and its heritage comes across in many of the recordings. A former employee of Barton's Alfred Street shirt factory, for example, remembers making garments for royalty and the James Bond films. A Barton Street hairdresser remembers her husband winning the World Hairdressing Championships in 1990, and a former shop owner remembers being made Mayor of Barton. The website is full of such achievements and personal histories. The history of the area ‘is the thing that leads us to be proud and to value our achievements’, explains one current shop owner.

I've also worked with students from the University of Gloucester to produce digital stories from the heritage material collected and with young actors from Gloucester Theatre Company to produce a piece of reminiscence theatre whose script is based on the oral history interviews. Supporting another Heritage Lottery Funded initiative, the Black South West Network’s ‘Back to the Future’ project, has allowed me to foster collaboration between the two projects and led to some amazing opportunities for the young people and outputs for our organisations. Through this partnership, the actors have been able to work with a professional film crew to film excerpts of the show.

An example of their work can be seen on Youtube here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzyyFEKORRE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzyyFEKORRE)

The project has just launched a new youtube channel:

[www.youtube.com/user/bartonandtredworth/feed](http://www.youtube.com/user/bartonandtredworth/feed)
The ‘Hidden Lives’ project has really succeeded in engaging with local people in Barton and Tredworth, and helping them to tell the story of their own heritage; it is wonderful to see this work reaching such an exciting conclusion, and making links with another of our successful projects.

— Richard Bellamy, acting Head of South West, Heritage Lottery Fund, commenting on the project’s success
My work with the Gypsy community

Jen Coates
Opening Up Archives trainee, Surrey History Centre

My traineeship has been a one-year placement in community outreach. Working within the Learning, Museums and Partnerships team, I have spent the year helping with various different projects from celebrating Gypsy Life to dressing up in knickerbockers for historic re-enactments as part of Surrey’s Sporting Life project. Due to the nature of Surrey Heritage, which comprises Surrey County Archaeological Unit, Surrey Museums, Conservation and Archives I have been able to work with different teams to gain an insight into the workings of a multi-sectoral heritage organisation.

Surrey Heritage has been working with the Gypsy community for a number of years to engage through heritage. This type of work gives members of the Gypsy community the opportunity to communicate with knowledge and confidence through a range of cultural media including songs, dance, artefacts, family history, food and customs.

To support this work Surrey Heritage together with partners from Bourne Hall Museum, Rhythmix and members from the local community ran two events.

The first was Derby Day at the Epsom Derby. Surrey Heritage had a fantastic spot on the Epsom Downs to celebrate Gypsy culture. The day comprised traditional Gypsy vardos (wagons), music and the extremely popular southeast regionals of Travellers Got Talent. I supported the event by helping to run the Surrey Heritage stand, which had a display on tracing Gypsy family ancestry.

The second event was in the grounds of Bourne Hall Museum, a ‘Celebration of Gypsy Life’. This involved live music, beautiful Gypsy vardos, a photographic exhibition, traditional cooking over a campfire, craft activities for children and a chance for members from Gypsy and non-Roma backgrounds to mix.

By supporting Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month Surrey Heritage provides a way to help the community keep its traditions alive and offers a social function of engagement.
Reaching out to the Bengali community

Shahera Begum
Opening Up Archives trainee, Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

My main role at Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives is engaging with the Bengali community. In just one year, I have been responsible for Bengali collection development, all aspects of acquisition, cataloguing, providing access to the collections and building links with the Bengali community.

I never really understood what community engagement work entailed until I started working with the Bengali community. I always knew that it involved interaction but now I realise that it is actually more than that, it is more about building lasting relationships. At times, my community engagement was challenging, especially when I was trying to acquire materials as part of my Bengali collection development work. Often materials such as photographs were high in value and precious to people. Things like that you really cannot obtain through a phone call and I found that meeting people was a better way to get them involved. It’s only after meeting someone and especially on more than one occasion that you start building up a relationship based on trust. Even people that regularly use libraries may not understand what an archive is, so for some members of the Bengali community, not traditionally aware of the concept of archives, it was often puzzling as to why I wanted these materials from them. Again, this involved lengthy discussions on the value of preserving materials and helping people to understand why it was important.

One thing I have realised is that once you have built that trust and relationship, you can always call on the same people to help you with further projects. For instance, all the members of the community that I have met during the start of my traineeship were the same people that directed me to other contacts and helped me with various other projects. The same people are also contributing to the Bengali Heritage Month, March 2012, and the Bengali Heritage Booklet and Events Brochure.

My experience on the Opening Up Archives programme changed my perception of what working in an archive means and I have learnt that there is so much more to working in this sector than just cataloguing. My experiences have given me more options to explore in considering which path to take in the future.

Demonstration by the Bangladeshi Community against racial discrimination, Whitechapel, 1976.
A year that changed my life

Alison Kennedy
Open Up Archives trainee, Greater Manchester County Record Office (with Manchester Archives)

The Open Up Archives traineeship has finally helped me decide what I want to do in life, and find something I am truly passionate about. I have learnt so much in just a year, having gained many diverse experiences and met so many fantastic people. I have grown hugely in confidence and developed a wide set of skills that will be invaluable in helping me develop my career in the heritage sector. This past year I have been the envy of my friends as I love my job and can’t wait to go into work to delve into the archives to discover hidden gems and share them with the public.

I have particularly enjoyed developing Manchester Archives’ Flickr collection by researching, scanning and uploading archive images to share online. Another of my favourite things to do is when I have been given a problem or a mystery to solve using archives. I put my detective hat on and end up discovering so many unexpected things that really capture people’s imagination and encourage discussion. My proudest achievement has been planning, organising, promoting and running a successful archive film screening for which I got positive feedback. This led on to me being asked to do more at other prestigious venues. I am also incredibly proud to have put together the application for a national volunteering award, which the Manchester Chinese Archive won. Read about it in ‘News from the archives sector’: nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/information-management/archive-sector-update-autumn-2011.pdf

I’ve learnt to rise up to challenges, to be resourceful and I have surprised myself by becoming quite adept at performing in public. I’ve enjoyed the freedom of the traineeship and have really appreciated the encouragement and support I’ve had especially when it comes to trying something new. I can’t stress enough how great I think archives are, I love the hidden depths of archives, creating narratives and developing new ideas using such fantastic primary sources. This traineeship has made me see archives in a new light and I am determined to get as many people as possible to love archives as much as I do.
Developments in Data Protection

Kevin Mulley
Research and Strategy Manager, The National Archives

The European Commission has recently published proposals for a major revision of data protection legislation in Europe, to replace the existing Directive 95/46/EC, given effect in the UK by the Data Protection Act 1998. These take the form of a new draft Regulation, which would apply directly across all member states, and a new draft Directive, on the processing of personal data relating to criminal matters by law enforcement bodies, which would be implemented via national legislation. The text of these proposals, and a number of related documents are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/data-protection/news/120125_en.htm

From an archival perspective, the proposed Regulation makes specific provision about processing for ‘historical, statistical or scientific research’ at Article 83, subject to any overriding interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of data subjects, and this affects the implementation of other aspects of the Regulation, including the widely-reported provisions about the ‘right to be forgotten’. One of the main aims of the Regulation is to harmonise and strengthen enforcement, and there are a number of proposed changes here (such as free data subject access, mandatory reporting and penalties for breaches) which would affect all data controllers, including archives.

The Commission is aiming to negotiate agreed final proposals by the end of 2012 for implementation in 2014. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ), which leads on data protection matters for UK government, issued an informal consultation and call for evidence on the potential impact of the proposals: https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/data-protection-proposals-cfe

A number of archive sector bodies were invited to respond, and The National Archives is already discussing the archive aspects of the proposals with MoJ colleagues.
Some cases involving archive services have come before the Commissioner in the last few months.

**Charging and 'Reasonable Accessibility'**

In FS50412611, the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) again upheld use of the s.21 exemption (reasonably accessible by other means) by the Modern Records Centre (MRC) at University of Warwick. MRC’s charges for the supply of copies (in this case electronic copies) were in accordance with the University publication scheme, the terms of which were clearly explained on its website, and pitched at a level which was consistent with being ‘reasonably accessible’ (30p per image), particularly given that the records concerned were also available for inspection free of charge on site.

The Commissioner also confirmed that MRC’s requirement for the applicant to provide a copyright declaration under the Copyright etc Act 1988 was consistent with ‘reasonable accessibility’. Archivists will be aware that the copyright declaration is required by SI 1989 No. 1212, The Copyright (Librarians and Archivists) (Copying of Copyright Material) Regulations 1989, which also specify that the full cost of copying unpublished copyright literary works should be recovered. (This SI does not apply to unpublished public records.)

In EA/2011/0214, The First Tier Tribunal (FTT) looked at charging in relation to an application for digital copies of material at The National Archives. The applicant argued that the level of copying charges imposed by The National Archives was ‘unreasonable’ in terms of applying the s.21 exemption (information reasonably accessible by other means) and that charges should have been in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) fees regulations. The FTT held that in accordance with FOIA s.9(5), TNA could apply its own fees regulations rather than those under s.9(3) of FOIA, and s. 21 was not involved. We are still considering the implications of this decision and may say more about it in a future update.

**Sexual offences and Family Relationship**

FS50416747 involved records of a prosecution of a 1943 sexual offence by a foreign soldier. The soldier is understood to be less than 100 years old and may therefore (in the absence of information to the contrary) be assumed still to be alive, following the line given in the statutory Code of Practice for Archivists and Records Managers issued under s.51 of Data Protection Act . The applicant had requested access as the records might throw light on her parentage. The applicant had argued that refusal to release would contravene the positive obligation to respect for her private and family life under Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention Rights, which in various judgements by the European Court of Human Rights has been held to include the right to establish identity and family connections.

ICO supported use of the s.40 exemption (Data Protection Act) in the circumstances of the case. Given that release under FOI would be access to the whole world, not just the applicant, the offender would not expect such information to be made generally available to the public now, so that release would be unfair in terms of Data Protection Principle 1. A possible issue in relation to the application of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act was also noted, but not further explored. However, ICO acknowledged the strong personal interest of the applicant in obtaining the information (for example, in respect of Article 8 rights to establish personal identity, which have long been recognised by the European Court of Human Rights), and suggested that there might be other possible routes by which she might obtain it outside the terms of FOIA.

This case underlines the importance of following the guidance contained in the Data Protection Code of Practice, which has been referenced by ICO in a number of cases now. The Code can be found here: nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/legislation/data-protection.htm
What’s happening

The Archive Awareness Campaign

Winning Endeavours Website
1 March 2011 to 1 March 2013
Details: www.winningendeavours.org/

Evening Skills Course - 16 weeks
15 March to 5 July 2012
Contact: 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road
London EC1M 7BA / Tel: 020 7553 3290

For more information on events see:
  ▶ www.archiveawareness.com/events
Contacts

If you would like to get in touch with us, or if you have ideas for inclusion in future issues of this newsletter, email us at asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. Please note that we reserve the right to edit articles.

Some key contacts in Archives Sector Development are given here:

Head of Archives Sector Development: Nick Kingsley
Head of Engagement: Isobel Siddons
Head of Private Archives: Norman James
Head of Collections and Knowledge: Cathy Williams
Head of Strategy and Programmes: Malcolm Todd

The following people are the current lead for each region/country:

- **Northern Ireland**: Norman James
- **Scotland**: Alex Ritchie
- **Wales**: Jessamy Carlson
- **South-East**: Melinda Haunton
- **South-West**: James Travers
- **Yorkshire and Humberside**: Andy Rowley
- **East of England**: Liz Hart
- **North-West**: Kevin Mulley
- **East Midlands**: Nick Coney
- **West Midlands**: Nick Coney
- **North-East**: Andrew Rowley
- **London locals north of river**: Malcolm Todd
- **London locals south of river**: Rosie Logiudice
- **London specialist**: Sam Velumyl and Fleur Soper

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