

SOUTH EAST MUSIC LIBRARIES INFORMATION FORUM (SEMLIF)

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd November 2005 at the Foundling Museum, London (Gerald Coke Handel Collection)

Apologies were received from Robert Foster (Kings College), Tom Kearns (Harrow), Liz Hartt (Wokingham) and Liz Hart (Enfield)

1. Newsround

Wandsworth (Terry Day). Havering, Redbridge and Wandsworth now have an integrated catalogue and issue system giving borrowers seamless access to three library services. There are a few initial problems such as “triple” catalogue entries but generally the project has worked well.

Barbican Library (Liz Wells). The Barbican song index is now available online from the City of London library webpage. As well as popular songs it also includes a small number of indexed classical compilation albums. There are plans to index all the classical collections. Liz will investigate establishing a link to the song index from the IAML homepage.

Building work at the Barbican centre impacts the library in terms of increased noise levels.

Hammersmith & Fulham (Elin Jones). Hammersmith library is moving towards having one single issue desk – to be in place by next year. This will mean there is no longer a separate music counter. It will also mean that the GLASS collection will need to be relocated as it is currently housed behind the existing music enquiry desk.

At Fulham Library the single enquiry desk has changed position several times. There are also problems with the GEAC system.

Kent (Frances Metcalfe). Staff seem to be adjusting to the changes in job role after the recent reorganisation. There has been a big emphasis on training, including in music, to keep levels of service up as far as possible.

As a result of Kent’s involvement in the SE Working Group on set provision Kent has agreed to a partial return to ILL of sets – for a trial period of one year and initially just within the SEMLAC region.

A baseline survey of society users in Kent is being undertaken to access current levels of satisfaction so that the benefit of a return to ILL can be measured in terms of its impact on Kent societies.

Hampshire (Kathryn Durrans/Heather Day). CD charges have been reduced to 60p for a 4 week loan (with a reservation charge of 50p). It is too early to assess the impact on issues.

There are plans to build a new cultural centre at Winchester but an archaeological dig on the site needs to be undertaken first.

Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire are working towards integrating their catalogues.

Guildhall School of Music (Adrian Yardley). The GSMD catalogue is now online although not yet available from the website. The library is now open on Saturdays. There is a new principal in place.

The Guildhall also has building work in progress.

Enfield (Ceri Mann). Enfield is adjusting to life now that Ruth Hellen has retired. A vacancy is being carried for the music sets post.

DVDs are now held by all libraries in Enfield and play station games are now held in 3 libraries.

Essex (Adrian Ure). The music and drama set collections are being integrated into a single collection to be housed at the same site – Chelmsford. The sets will all now be closed access (but with reference copies of all the vocal sets available for public browsing) – until now all small vocal sets and orchestral sets have been on open access. The ILL department will deal with the interloan of sets. All sets should be catalogued by the end of March 2006.

Herts (Lucy Rose). The hire charge for set loans will increase from April to £6.00 per month for orchestral sets and £1.75 per 10 vocal copies per month.

Herts are reviewing their membership procedures after one particular society “lost” a substantial amount of stock.

Herts’ vocal set holdings will be added to the Encore database. Also, all their choral anthologies have been indexed and this database has been offered to Encore.

There is also a song index and sound effects database available in Herts and Lucy is happy to take phone enquiries for these.

SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies). Their online catalogue is accessible to the public (it includes sound and video recordings). The catalogue is linked to COPAC. A day ticket can be issued to members of the public wishing to use the collection and there are listening facilities available. Items cannot be borrowed.

Surrey (Graham Muncy). Surrey council are looking to make efficiency savings, rather than cuts, in the light of the large predicted budget shortfall next year. All vacant posts have been frozen. GM is not sure what impact these efficiency savings will have on library services and the PA Library.

The website has now been redesigned and now has a link to the library catalogue and also a “friends” link.

A considerable amount of music training had been given to staff in Surrey and West Sussex.

Audio listening facilities were being added to the Vaughan Williams collection and a leaflet was being produced about the collection. There would also be a collection of reminiscence material relating to RVW made by the society. Surrey PA would also house Vaughan-Williams’ own collection of orchestral sets.

2. GLASS – Provision of vinyl LPs

Jennifer Cox, from the Society of London Librarians, had been commissioned to undertake a survey of the retention of vinyl recordings within the GLASS scheme and the viability of keeping them. GM thought SLL may be thinking of merging the collections into one and housing them at the National Sound Archive (maybe access/loan issues with this solution). The meeting felt that ILL of vinyl was limited but that direct loans to individual customers still occurred. Jennifer may attend the next meeting.

3. South East Performance Sets Working Group

This was officially launched at the last ASW when Carol Marshall from Hants talked through the SEMLAC report on performance sets provision. The working group was seeking to address the question of drama set provision highlighted by the report, particularly the fact that there was no coherent catalogue. The first major step in cooperation was to try and address this and a subgroup was due to meet on 30/11/05.

The working group would also look at how to make the ILL of performance sets more coherent. The proposals considered at the August meeting were to be

discussed at the Society of Chief Librarians.

4. Music streaming products

FM asked the meeting how many authorities currently subscribed, or were considering subscribing, to music streaming products – Classical Music Library and Naxos Online.

The Guildhall Library had just subscribed to Naxos Online and was very pleased with the product.

Essex was currently trialing the Naxos product amongst staff and had received good feedback. Barbican also were considering arranging trials. Kent were also currently trialing both products.

GM reported that Ruth Benson from Naxos was keen to attend the next SEMLIF meeting and FM would also pass along an invitation to Classical Music Library.

5. Parts pool

Herts has a database of “spoilt” sets – this would be emailed round on a “round robin” basis to SEMLIF members to see if the sets could be completed. Email Lucy Rose at Herts if you want to be part of this circulation list.

6. IAML news

FM asked if any authorities were able to host either a Music for the Terrified or Sets course. Surrey and Herts both volunteered.

FM reported that the Courses and Education Committee was organising the first Public Music Librarians meeting – details just posted on IAML list – to be held at the BL in May 2006.

The ASW would be held at the College of Ripon York St. John from Sat 8th to Mon 10th April 2006. Details were still being finalised.

7. AOB

- i. GM reported that various options were being considered for the updating of Encore – possible alternative hosts were being sought and any ideas were welcome. There was a lot of work still to be done in adding orchestral updates. There had been discussions about whether to charge for access but this had been rejected as it was felt it would restrict access.
- ii. Reform of local government. GM concerned about brief reports he had come across talking about government plans to make every authority a unitary – this will have serious implications for the shire counties.
- iii. GM warned colleagues about a scam currently going round – the European City Guide – they ask for information but if you sign up then you are committed to a subscription and charges without being told

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 26th June 2006 at Surrey PA, Dorking