



Libraries Connected Innovators Network

National Gathering 2019

Wednesday 3 April, 10.00 – 16.30 Leeds Central Library

10.00 Arrival, Refreshments & Icebreaker

10.30 Welcome – Mark Freeman, Libraries Connected President

11.00 Innovation in Helsinki Libraries - Lotta Muurinen

11.30 Practical Shared Learning – session 1

- Claire Pickering, Wakefield - Unhampered Reads
- Ian McArdle, Leeds, 100% Digital Tablet Lending Scheme
- Maria Reguera, Redbridge - Reuse, Recycle...Robots!

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Practical Shared Learning – session 2

- Judith Robinson, Kirklees – Removing Library Fines
- Priyanka Sharma, City of London - The Dragon Café in the City
- Leon Paternoster, Suffolk – Self-Service Tablets

14.30 Practical Shared Learning – session 3

- Darren Edwards, Bournemouth & Poole - Supporting Games in Libraries
- David Fleming, York - Explore Labs
- Liz Evans, Leicestershire – Self-Access Libraries

15.30 Family Theatre Touring in Libraries - Adel Al-Salloum, The Spark Arts for Children

16.00 Open Floor Sharing Session

16.30 Close



Speakers



Lotta Muurinen works as project manager of international tasks in Helsinki City Library, Finland. She has been working in Helsinki City Library for ten years both as a librarian and in manager positions.

She founded the first makerspace of Helsinki City Library in 2013 and was later involved in planning the newly opened Helsinki Central Library Oodi. Her current job includes organizing international visits, projects and conferences. She is a true library lover and loves to see things happen – fast



Adel Al-Salloum is currently the Director of The Spark Arts for Children based in Leicester. The Spark present and produce work for children 0-13 years including [The Spark Festival](#) annually each year

Over the last five years The Spark have led on the development of two strategic initiatives in partnership with Library Services. In Leicester the Imaginative Neighbourhoods programme successfully placed 'artists in residence' for the period of one year into settings with the aim of co creating programmes collaboratively with librarians and communities (2014-2018).

Among Ideal Friends (2016 – 2021) is a touring theatre consortium which works with library services across the East Midlands to transport high quality theatre productions to children, families and schools.

Adel is currently Chair of [Theatre for Youth Audiences \(TYA\) England](#) and Chair of [The City Classroom Leicester/Shires Cultural Education Partnership](#)

Practical Shared Learning Topics

Unhampered Reads - Claire Pickering, Senior Library Officer: Information and Culture, Wakefield Council

Unhampered Reads is one of the current Carnegie Library Lab projects and is a mash up between a reader group and reminiscence kit, it is a themed story sack in a wicker hamper for adults to inspire conversation, reminiscence, and potentially creative writing and spoken word in both a group and one to one setting. Though none of these concepts is new, using a combination of materials delivered in this way by trained staff and volunteers is innovative. This concept of a 'pop up' reader group drives forward the traditional reader group model and enables the established wellbeing impacts of a reader group to be extended into settings where lengthy preparative reading is not possible.



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**100% Digital Tablet Lending Scheme - Ian McArdle, Digital Inclusion Coordinator,
Leeds City Council**

Leeds Libraries is working to achieve the bold ambition of 100% Digital Leeds, ensuring that everyone in the city is aware of the benefits of being online, and has the skills and access they need to make the most of the digital world. A key component of this is our tablet lending scheme – the largest of its kind in the country – which provides organisations with the resources to help digitally excluded people in communities. This presentation explores how we keep the scheme running efficiently and securely.

Reuse, Recycle...Robots! - Maria Reguera, Development Librarian: Digital Services & Innovation, Vision Redbridge, Culture and Leisure

According to a report by NESTA, the UK will need 1 million new creative jobs by 2030 to avoid leaving millions of people out of work. At the same time being environmentally friendly is becoming increasingly important. "Reuse, Recycle...Robots!", a Carnegie Library Lab funded project, seeks to combine these two concerns and inspire children and families' curiosity and wonder to build and programme robots using affordable electronics and recycling materials.

Maria will be happy to share her ups and downs of running this project within a wider context of co-ordinating Lab Central, their library digital making space. From being a Carnegie Partner, choosing and buying equipment, dealing with technical challenges in the library to working with volunteers and programming activities, she is looking forward to meeting other library staff interested in this type of initiatives.

Removing Library Fines - Judith Robinson, Librarian, Kirklees Libraries

To make their libraries as inclusive as possible Kirklees Council took the decision in Dec 2018 to remove library fines for overdue books. The Council felt that fines affect the most vulnerable in our communities and prevented people accessing library services. A few months on Judith will give an update on how it is going and offer an insight into the work that went into building a business case.

The Dragon Café in the City - Priyanka Sharma, Principal Library Assistant, City of London

How can libraries better support the mental wellbeing of people in their communities? The Dragon Cafe in the City started as a pilot project funded by the Wellcome Trust/Carnegie UK Engaging Libraries Programme. The aim of the project is to use the sanctuary of the library as a safe space to provide high quality creative activities such as arts & crafts workshops, lunch & learn discussions, massage, chess and yoga to promote engagement with mental health and support wellbeing. The library service has partnered with mental health organisations, creative arts organisations and Public Health to deliver the programme of activities and engage with new users. The success of the pilot has raised the profile of the library service within the City of London and has led to further funding to continue for another year.





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Self-Service Tablets - Leon Paternoster, Head of Digital and Marketing, Suffolk Libraries

When faced with replacing their self-service kiosks, Suffolk found they had less than a third of the budget they had seven years previously. Add to that an uninspiring choice of existing products, they decided to develop their own. Leon will discuss how Suffolk approached the project and what you might learn if you're considering something similar.

Supporting Games in Libraries - Darren Edwards, Senior Library Assistant, Bournemouth & Poole Council

Interest in the use of games in libraries to engage, entertain and educate users has been rising in recent years. International Games Week in November provides a focus for games in libraries across the world, however in the UK support for gaming in libraries outside this week is slim. This workshop will look at how we can increase support for libraries wishing to utilise games.

Explore Labs - Dave Fleming, Inclusive Arts and Media Specialist, Explore York

Explore Labs urges all people to challenge their imagination.

Under the strapline, "You don't know what exciting ideas are inside your head until you go there: your dreams start here", this award-winning Arts Council England-funded community arts project runs activities at York Explore and in the network of libraries across the city of York.

It's an experimental place where absolutely everyone is welcome - to team up with professional artists, digital makers, techies, coders, researchers and more.

It's positively playful - mixing up art with DIY tech to celebrate the creative diversity of York's people, places and communities.

Dave will share his experiences of coordinating this ground breaking and innovative community arts project where stories, tech, history and creativity collide.

Self-Access Libraries - Liz Evans, Locality Manager, Leicestershire County Council

In the last two years staff in Leicestershire have been working on a project to introduce self-access to 14 of the biggest libraries in the county. This presentation will cover the rationale, process and implementation of the new system, as well as some insight into the challenges we have faced and how this culture change has impacted our delivery and vision for the service.

