



WIRP Workshop: initiating and maintaining international contacts 1 March 2017, The British Library

Speakers Biographies and Abstracts

Rob Freeman, Craven and the First World War Project Officer, Craven Museum & Gallery

<https://www.cravenmuseum.org/>

Read Rob's WIRP Travel Grant Report at: <http://uk.icom.museum/resources/case-studies/craven-museum-gallery-visit-germany-wirp-travel-grant>

Rob Freeman is a Project Officer at Craven Museum & Gallery in Skipton, North Yorkshire. He has been working on a HLF funded First World War Centenary project for the past three years, co-ordinating events and exhibitions to mark the centenary commemorations in the area. Before that, he worked in the Education Department at the Royal Shakespeare Company, managing their workshop programme for school groups.

Rob's presentation will focus on how he managed to make the most out of a small budget when he visited Skipton's twin town of Simbach-am-Inn in Germany with the WIRP Travel Grant. It will cover establishing and making contact with partner organisations, advice on how to undertake international visits with limited resources and overcoming the challenges of working internationally. Finally, the presentation will discuss the impact that the visit has had on the development of the Craven and the First World War project and the steps that are needed now to take these developments forward.

Kirsty Mairs, Learning Manager and Julie Parry, Senior Archivist, People's History Museum

<http://www.phm.org.uk>

Read Kirsty's and Julie's WIRP Travel Grant Report at: <http://uk.icom.museum/peoples-history-museum-staff-visit-copenhagen-wirp-travel-grant/>

Sarah Lloyd-Durrant, Digital Access Officer, Royal Cornwall Museum

<http://www.royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk/>

Read Sarah's WIRP Travel Grant Report at: <http://uk.icom.museum/resources/case-studies/royal-cornwall-museum-mexico-wirp-travel-grant/>

Ashley Bell, Project Officer (Retail Development), Beamish Museum

<http://www.beamish.org.uk/>

Read Ashley's WIRP Travel Grant Report at: <http://uk.icom.museum/resources/case-studies/beamish-museum-visit-sovereign-hill-ballarat-australia-wirp-travel-grant/>

Ashley Bell is the Project Officer in charge of Retail Development at Beamish Museum. Joining the museum in 2011 as a costumed engager she has worked in a variety of roles, most recently being involved in the redevelopment of the Edwardian fairground. Since moving into the retail team in early 2016 her aim is to improve the offer of Beamish-made and bespoke items, to meet increasing demand from visitors to take home something truly representative of the Beamish experience and brand.

The presentation will cover the importance of developing working relationships with international museums and how this can benefit both institutions, informing programme development and delivery, audience engagement and sustainability through independence. Touching on the importance of offering opportunities for travel to staff across the museum and sharing learning where appropriate it will also look at how the trip has impacted operations in both museums.

Rhian Rowson, Natural Sciences Curator, Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives

<https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/>

Read Rhian's WIRP Travel Grant Report here: <http://uk.icom.museum/resources/case-studies/bristol-museums-galleries-archives-visit-jamaica-with-wirp-travel-grant/>

Rhian worked in the National Museum Wales (NMW) in Cardiff as an Education Officer for Natural History in both Welsh and English and as a translator for Archaeology and Geology workshops. She later became part of the team at NMW to sort the marine invertebrate of the Outer Bristol Channel. To further her career, Rhian took the opportunity to become the Natural History Curator in the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery caring for 700,000 specimens from their growing scientific collection, including the fluid preserved, pressed plants, taxidermy, bones, invertebrate collection among others. She has been here for 12 years delivering exhibitions, events, answering natural history enquiries and training the general public, students and volunteers in species identification, conservation and curation. Rhian is a naturalist with a passion for invertebrates' especially solitary bees and wasps.

In October 2016, even Hurricane Mathew could not derail our initial field trip from Bristol to Jamaica. Rhian will explain how her regional museum initiated, developed and maintained an international collaboration with the Institute of Jamaica, Kingston based on our 18th century natural history collections. Bristol City Council is keen to support international initiatives of this type, with risk assessment of course being important from the outset. Rhian will introduce the background and partners in the project, and describe how they assessed and managed the risks relating to the trip.

In the field, this was tested first by encountering illegal settlements at their botanical sites. Then, even more robustly, it was tested by the predicted arrival of the largest Caribbean hurricane in 10 years. Thanks to their planning and preparedness Rhian and her colleague still completed nearly all their work in Jamaica. She will discuss what they did, and more they might have done in advance. Their collaboration continues to thrive through recent discoveries in the collections on both sides of the Atlantic. Bristol Museum & Art Gallery hope to develop it in future through applying for further funding to support a second trip, this time for their Jamaican counterparts to visit Bristol.

Johanna Zetterström-Sharp, Curator of Anthropology, Horniman Museum, London
<http://www.horniman.ac.uk/>

Read Johanna's WIRP Travel Grant Report at: <http://uk.icom.museum/resources/case-studies/horniman-museum-gardens-visit-nigeria-with-wirp-travel-grant>

Johanna Zetterström-Sharp is a Research Fellow at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, and Curator of Anthropology at the Horniman Museum in London. She has conducted fieldwork in Sierra Leone and is currently working on collections from the the end of British imperialism in Africa.

Stephanie Boydell, Curator, Manchester Metropolitan University Special Collections
<http://www.specialcollections.mmu.ac.uk/>

Read Stephanie's WIRP Travel Grant Report at: <http://uk.icom.museum/resources/case-studies/mmu-special-collections-visit-china-develop-touring-exhibition>

Stephanie has worked in the museum sector for nearly 20 years, in a variety of roles. Her main focus now is exhibition and collections management, and ensuring that the collections are used to support teaching and research in the university, as well as being open to the wider public.

She has a background in art and design history and some specialism in nineteenth century British art and design, as well as contemporary crafts and ceramics. Stephanie has curated many exhibitions and has edited the following books: 'A Japanese Passion: the pottery of Edward Hughes'; 'Firing Thoughts: the relationship between ceramics and drawing' and 'Ravilious in Print'.

Dr Carol Ann Scott, Chair, ICOM UK
<http://carolscottassociates.com>

Carol Scott is the Chair of ICOM UK and an international specialist in museum value. She has been a member of the Executive Committee of ICOM's Marketing and Public Relations Group, Programme Manager for the London 2012 Museums' Cultural Olympiad Project and Manager of Evaluation and Audience Research at the Powerhouse Museum (Sydney, Australia).

Her publications include *Museum measurement: questions of value* (2015, *International Handbook of Museum Studies*), *The Cultural Value of Engaging with Museums and Galleries* (2014, *University of Leicester*), *National approaches to measuring cultural value* (2014, *Cultural Trends*) and *Museums and Public Value: creating sustainable futures* (2013, *Ashgate*).

Katie Childs, Policy and Projects Manager, National Museums Director's Council (NMDC)
<http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk>

Katie is responsible for NMDC's museum policy and practice work, including international relationships, national partnerships and digital. She co-ordinated the museum sector's joint contribution to the Culture White Paper and is the author of the pamphlet *Museums Matter*.

Later this month Katie will take up a new role as Head of Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations at the Imperial War Museums, where her responsibilities include IWM's national and international programmes.

Katie was previously International Programme Manager at the British Museum and a Senior Policy Advisor at DCMS.

Jane Weeks, Museums and Heritage Advisor, British Council

<http://www.britishcouncil.org>

Jane Weeks is a museum consultant specialising in strategic planning and project management. She has worked with large national museums and small independently-run collections both in the UK and abroad. Since 2000, she has worked as the Museums and Heritage Adviser at the British Council, a post part-funded by Arts Council England. During that time, she has developed museum development projects in Iran, Oman, Bahrain, Kenya, Russia, China, India, Brazil and the Balkans. Jane sits on the Executive Committee of ICOM UK.

Dana Andrew, Museum & Gallery Consultant, Trainer & Project Manager

<https://es.linkedin.com/in/danaandrewmuseums>

Dana is an independent museum and gallery consultant specialising in touring exhibitions and international projects. Before going freelance, she managed projects and toured exhibitions, nationally and internationally, for the British Council, the Hayward Gallery and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Recent projects include remotely mentoring two female curators in Libya to mount exhibitions by young Libyan artists, delivering touring exhibitions training at the Museum Exhibition Fair in Rousse, Bulgaria and managing the Working Internationally Regional project (WIRP) for ICOM UK, NMDC and the British Council.

The WIRP is a three-year Arts Council England funded project to help regional and local museums develop the knowledge and confidence to work internationally through a programme of research, international travel grants, a series of workshops and extensive online resources.

As an active committee member of TEG (Touring Exhibitions Group), Dana delivers touring exhibitions training and wrote the International Touring section of the TEG handbook.

ICOM UK

<http://uk.icom.museum>

The International Council of Museums is the global organisation of museums and museum professionals committed to the conservation of the world's natural and cultural heritage. ICOM was created in 1946 and is a non-governmental organisation maintaining formal relations with UNESCO. It also raises awareness of international issues such as combating illicit trade, intangible heritage and restitution.

ICOM UK is the national branch of ICOM in the United Kingdom. It is a gateway to the global museum community and the only UK museum association with a dedicated international focus. It offers access to 20,000 museums in 117 countries, 30,000 museum colleagues throughout the world and 31 professional committees. It is an organisation which promotes intangible heritage and the preservation of material heritage. It develops best practice standards for the world- wide museum industry and, through its global reach and events programme, contributes to the international agenda of museums in the UK. UK is involved in lobbying for the UK ratification of relevant UNESCO conventions for the protection of cultural heritage.

National Museum Director's Council (NMDC)

<http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk>

The National Museum Directors' Council represents the leaders of the UK's national collections and major regional museums. Our members are the national and major regional museums in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, and the National Archives. While our members are funded by government, the NMDC is an independent, non-governmental organisation.

The NMDC was founded in 1929, in anticipation of a Royal Commission recommendation that the national collections should 'coordinate their work and discuss matters of mutual concern. Today the NMDC provides its membership with a valuable forum for discussion and debate and an opportunity to share information and work collaboratively. The NMDC is funded by its membership institutions, the directors of which give their time voluntarily to the organisation.

NMDC's vision is that all relevant policy makers and opinion formers understand the full value of museums and their collections, and ensure they are adequately funded and intelligently supported to enable optimum contribution to society and maximum public value.

Partnerships and relationships between NMDC and other bodies with responsibility for museums are crucial, and NMDC is committed to collaborating with these bodies, supporting them in their work and avoiding duplication of effort.

British Council

<http://www.britishcouncil.org>

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries, and builds trust between them worldwide. We work in over 100 countries, connecting millions of people with the UK through programmes and services in the English language, the Arts, Education and Society. The British Council builds links between UK people and institutions and those around the world, helping to create trust and lay foundations for prosperity and security around the world.

Cultural Skills

From museums to music, fashion to film, the skills that support the artistic process are vital to the development of a thriving cultural sector around the globe. Skills range from technical specialism, to leadership and management; policy and qualification development, to youth engagement and English language.

Cultural Skills strengthen cultural relations between the UK and the rest of the world through sharing knowledge and developing mutual benefit. With UK and international partners, we work to build sustainable cultural skills programmes that develop the skills of practitioners and institutions across the whole of the UK and internationally, supporting the artistic, social and economic benefits of a thriving and dynamic cultural sector.

Museums

In partnership with Arts Council England, the British Council has supported UK museums in working internationally since 2000, by providing advice, offering travel grants, developing networks and building links with museums around the world. The British Council has run museum programmes in China, India, the Middle East, the Balkans and, most recently, in Brazil, as part of the cultural programme for the Rio Olympics.