

*Call for papers*

## **Struggle to create libraries for the people: a progressive international perspective**

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[www.londonmet.ac.uk/isj](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/isj)

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century has seen most countries, including Britain and USA, under the sway of neoliberal capitalism. This affects all aspects of life, including information and libraries which have seen their "rapid drift into dubious alliance with business and the information industry, and into complacent acceptance of services to an unquestioned political, economic and cultural status quo" (Progressive Librarians Guild). This situation demands urgent attention from progressive librarians to find alternative solutions to the marketised future planned by political "leaders", sometimes with active or tacit support of some professionals and library managers.

*Information, Society and Justice (ISJ)* joins others in seeking possible answers to the urgent issues facing libraries and societies today. While an Egypt-like solution is not yet possible in the industrialised countries, the search for new ideas and solutions can start now. Thus, *ISJ* is producing a special issue with equal emphasis on ideas, policies and practice that can liberate bodies and minds from the imposed market solutions. The special issue of *ISJ* will also mark an international exchange of library staff and students during July-August 2011. This is when a USA study trip to UK takes place. Leading the trip are Jenny Bossaller and Melanie Brooks from the School of Information Science & Learning Technology, University of Missouri. Their courses are "Libraries, Literacy, and Social Justice" and also relate to issues in international libraries. They are interested in discussing, among other issues, curriculum development for training librarians, for example the social aspects modules previously taught at the Information Services Management courses at the London Metropolitan University, together with projects such as the Quality Leaders Project – Youth (QLP-Y), the "Skills for a Globalised World: Relevant Skills for Public Library Staff" (Skills Project) and its practical outcome, the "Studies in progressive

librarianship" course delivered at University of East London for library staff of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The first Module was "Change Management and Leadership in Public Library Services" and the second one will be "Alternative public library services: meeting challenges, retaining public service ethos".

One of the highlights of the UK visit will be a Discussion Day on 3 August when the visitors will meet staff, students and management of University of East London Libraries and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The discussion, as well as issues raised during the UK visit, will form the basis of articles in this special issue of *ISJ*.

Submission to the special issue of *ISJ* can also address some of the following themes:

- The role of libraries in creating greater understanding of the relationship between information and power, and the hidden hand of ideology in the struggle
- Curricula for information and library studies: theories and practices to meet people's social, cultural and political needs
- The role of information professionals in ensuring that people have relevant information for social change
- Global and national social and political trends and their impact on libraries and information services for the people
- Libraries in a period of free market globalisation
- Information activism as a partner in people's struggle for social liberation
- Technological developments and their impact on a people-orientated library service

You are invited to submit articles for consideration for publication in the December 2011 issue (Vol. 4 No.2) of *ISJ*. Articles should meet *ISJ* requirements as indicated on its website <[www.londonmet.ac.uk/isj](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/isj)> where previous issues are also available. Submissions should be received by **31 October 2011**. They can be submitted to the Journal Editor or to one of the special issue editors:

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