

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres

United Kingdom and Ireland Branch

founded 1953



Sieghart Review of Public Libraries – IAML(UK & Irl) Submission

IAML(UK & Irl) welcomes this opportunity to submit evidence to the Advisory Panel chaired by William Sieghart which is looking into the current structure and role of public libraries.

Music plays a very important role in society in general, the lives of many individuals, and the economy of the country.

Music:

- crosses barriers of language, culture, and education and can be enjoyed by all.
- enriches local cultural life
- has proven health benefits
- stimulates learning
- is one of the most popular leisure activities

A network of music libraries embedded in public libraries around England currently provide stock and trained staff to support both individuals and groups who wish to nurture and develop their musical skills.

It is vital that the current resources and skilled staff are maintained or enhanced, and that local authorities that currently do not provide these resources make these part of their core library service.

This core public library service should provide:

- Sheet music
 - For all types of music
 - For all ranges of abilities
 - For music groups (chamber, orchestral and choral)
 - Tutors [books and DVDs] for people learning to sing or play an instrument
- Performance sets to support local music [one set of 40 vocal scores can benefit 40 performers and an audience of 150]
- Recorded music for all tastes, cultures and interests
- DVDs – music related (operas, musicals, etc.)
- Books on music for loan and reference
- Online music resources (eg. Oxford Music Online, Naxos Music Library)
- Information about local music groups and concerts

- Knowledgeable staff who are able to manage the stock and assist users to find what they want, and who network with other music librarians in order to provide the best possible service to their users
- A gateway to other libraries and their stock
- Spaces where musicians can perform and practice
- Spaces where people can listen to music
- A focal point for local music societies – where they can explore a wide variety of music and meet to network and gain/enhance new skills
- Facilities that can be used by organisations for courses, exhibitions and events
- Music resources that reflect and support the local community

Further information:

- 1) Thompson, Pamela & Lewis, Malcolm. *Access to Music: Music Libraries and Archives in the United Kingdom and Ireland – current themes and a realistic vision for the future*. IAML(UK & Irl), 2003. <http://www.iaml.info/iaml-uk-irl/publications/access.html>

While this report is over ten years old, it still very much outlines the current situation regarding music in public libraries, although these services have been cut quite substantially in some areas of the country. It also contains a list of core competencies for music librarians in Appendix 4.

- 2) *Future provision of recorded music in public libraries: a position statement*. IAML(UK & Irl), 2011. http://www.iaml.info/iaml-uk-irl/resources/music_audio_provision.pdf
- 3) *Music for performance: materials in public libraries: a position statement*. IAML(UK & Irl). http://www.iaml.info/iaml-uk-irl/news/performance_sets.pdf

IAML(UK & Irl)

The International Association of Music Libraries (United Kingdom and Ireland Branch) was founded in 1953 and is the professional organisation that exists to represent and promote the interests of music librarians and libraries, promote cooperation between them, and provide training. It presents Excellence Awards biennially; organises an annual study weekend, meetings and courses; and publishes a journal and newsletter.

At the 2012 IAML(UK & Irl) awards for Excellence in Music Libraries, Professor Jan Smaczny, Hamilton Harty Professor of Music at Queen's University, Belfast said, "The roster of excellence before us shows, more powerfully than any words of mine, that the very musical infrastructure of the United Kingdom and Ireland depends fundamentally on the work of music librarians."

www.iaml.info/iaml-uk-irl/

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