

# Consultation Workshop on the Future of the Local History & Archives Services in Tower Hamlets, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007

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**Abstract:** Participants agreed that what was wanted was a service that provided traditional, professional, quality services while at the same time reaching out and being relevant to the wider community. It should be adequately staffed and resourced, providing a modern search room with full facilities in a refurbished building. All avenues for establishing partnerships should be explored and opportunities for funding and revenue generation pursued. Education and outreach should be priority areas for service development.

The service objectives should be the development and improvement of the Local History and Archives Service to bring it in line with best practice.

### 1. Services

The position of the LS&A in the Idea Store Strategy needs to be identified and highlighted. There needs to be co-ordinated management of the services with an annual business plan and adequate investment.

The service should remain a public local history and archives service and remain a single cohesive collection, in one central location. The subject matter is common to both regardless of the form of the document, be it book, map, photograph or archive. The resources and the staff are the key to a successful service.

The service needs to be dynamic and innovative and reach out to the community as well as provide high quality traditional research services. These need to be built on, developed and brought in line with current cutting-edge developments, practices and service standards.

There needs to be a proper records management system in place.

All stock needs to be fully catalogued and indexed and should be available online. Backlogs need to be cleared.

A digitisation programme is necessary to provide greater access to the resources of the LS&A. This should be delivered online through development of the Idea Store website. Digital services should be complementary to the hard copy collections and personal enquiry service.

A marketing and promotion strategy of the service is needed to create a strong image. Particular collections such as the photographic collection may merit special consideration and promotion. Idea Stores need to promote the service more actively. The annual Local History lecture should be re-instated.

The following service areas need to be improved: additional day/ hours opening, user education, stock security and invigilation, speed of response to enquiries. Development of oral history projects.

The building housing LS&A should be developed as a Local Studies Centre, sharing the premises with other local history organisations.

A collection policy for archiving contemporary records for future use needs to be established.

## **2. Staffing**

The issue of staffing levels needs to be addressed if the service is to develop and improve. All angles for achieving this need to be explored. There are possibilities for the use of volunteers, for staff secondments as part of personal professional development programmes, for working with partners both within the council and in the wider spectrum of interested parties.

Specialist qualified staff are essential for the successful delivery of this specialist service. A new generation should be being trained and the knowledge and expertise of the present staff should be being passed on. An introduction to LS&A services should form part of the induction training for all staff.

The present staff are dedicated and helpful, offering an excellent personal service. This needs to be retained and built on.

## **3. Premises**

There is a pressing need for more public seating and desk space set in a spacious working and study environment. There is a parallel need for more storage space with a capacity for expansion.

It is felt that a historic building such as Bancroft Library should be refurbished and use of all available space be maximised. The ground floor of Bancroft Library should be brought into use and the whole building should be dedicated to local studies and archive services.

The building needs to be in a central, easily accessible location. It needs to be DDA compliant with particular attention to toilets, lifts and disabled parking. Lighting and sound-proofing need attention.

The building should be more welcoming and user-friendly while retaining the 'wonderful ambience' of the current local history library.

#### **4. Facilities**

The principal need is for a modern spacious search room with full ICT and other facilities; computer terminals with internet access, printers, scanners, photocopiers and relevant online subscription services. Good table and desk space to spread books, maps and documents with adequate elbow room in a quiet study environment.

There needs to be a rest area with some basic refreshments available.

There should be a meeting room available and a group space for conferences, family history days, exhibitions etc.

Good facilities would attract a greater take up of services.

#### **5. Partnerships**

There is prolific local support for the LS&A service. This should be built on, cultivated and exploited for the benefit of the service.

A register of local stakeholders should be set up and the service could become a hub for local history groups.

Following on from the success of the Consultation Workshop an annual conference / seminar should be held to continue the good work and provide stakeholders with an opportunity to voice and exchange views.

Partnerships were suggested in five broad areas:

Academic: e.g. Queen Mary, University of London; University of East London

Museums: e.g. Ragged School Museum, Museum of Childhood, Museum in Docklands

Other archives services: e.g. Bishopsgate Institute, Hackney Archives

Other local history groups: e.g. East London Family History Society, East London History Society, Island History Trust, Somali Arts, Stitches in Time, Back 2 Basics.

Other council services: e.g. TH School Library Service, Humanities Education Centre, PDC, Children's Directorate, Lifelong Learning.

Partnerships might be conducted on several levels ranging from a suggested formal joint management agreement with QMUL to informal networking meetings, sharing news of developments, good practice etc.

There would be considerable scope for investigating the potential for sharing premises, staff and resources with other bodies in the field and entering into joint ventures in areas such as funding bids etc.

## **6. Funding**

A fundraising strategy needs to be developed and a fund raising body set up. This might be in the form of a professional fund raiser / business development manager, a 'Friends of LS&A' group focussed on fund raising or could be in-house.

The Heritage Lottery Fund and 'section 106' funding were suggested as possible sources.

Local businesses should be approached for support and sponsorships.

There is some potential for in-house income generation e.g.:

Charging for research services to out of borough enquirers.

Recharging other council departments for managing their archives.

Rental income from accommodating other local history groups.

Setting up as a picture agency to market the photographic collection on a more professional footing.

Better marketing of publications.

## **7. Education**

The service needs to discharge its educational responsibilities.

There needs to be a dedicated education room and staff to work with children. There is a potential for working with partners in this field and space would be available at Bancroft Library for this purpose. Children need to be engaged but not at the expense of existing users. An education room would address this issue.

Suggested areas for work were:

'Citizenship' aspects of the curriculum

Working with young children through drama

The 'thrill and excitement of finding information' needs to be made accessible to the younger generation.

## **8. Outreach**

Outreach is difficult but nonetheless needs to be addressed.

An outreach co-ordinator is needed.

The issue of the inadequate recording of black and ethnic minority groups needs to be addressed. Approaches need to be made to black & ethnic minority groups and partnerships established. BMEGs should be encouraged to deposit their records with the LS&A service.

Previously under recorded areas such as the local history of the Catholic and Lithuanian communities need to be addressed.

## **9. Comments**

The LS&A service was variously described as:  
'The Crown Jewels of Tower Hamlets' and  
'The Cutty Sark of Tower Hamlets'

'Improvement is more likely to happen as a result of the consultation'

Some participants were of the opinion that the service would not fit in to an Idea Store environment and that relocation of the service was unacceptable.

## Appendix 1.

Summary of issues raised, suggestions and comments made by participants at the Consultation Workshop on the Future of the Local History & Archive Services, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007.

<b>Services</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Premises</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Need to eliminate backlogs	More staff needed	More storage space needed. Capacity for expansion	Need for a quiet study area
Need for records management system	Use volunteers	More seating/ desk space needed	Need for a rest area
Develop a digitisation programme	Train staff in LS&A work for the future. Introduce LS & A into induction training	Bring ground floor into use	Provide refreshments
Service needs investment & new building	Put more emphasis on staff than buildings	Use ground floor for exhibition space	Improve facilities to attract locals
Co-ordination of the management of local history and archives needed	Specialist staff essential	Refurbish building. Improve toilets, lifts, accessibility	Modern search room with ICT facilities
Build on the service as is now and make short term improvements	LS&A staff have an enormous knowledge base and need to disseminate this	Need DDA compliance, better public toilets, refreshments and parking	Need for a meeting room
Idea Stores need to promote LS&A services more actively	Staff are dedicated and helpful. Personal service is excellent. Need to retain this.	Open front door and make the building more welcoming	Group space for conferences, family history days etc
Greater access to LS & A resources online needed		Good sound proofing needed	

<b>Services</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Premises</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Need to retain present high archive standards		Use the historic building and restore it	
Improve marketing and promotion of the service. Create a strong image.		Location needs to be central & accessible	
More days/ hours open.		Lighting needs to be improved	
User guides on how to use the archives		Maximise use of all available space	
Develop oral history services		Reinstate the annual Local History lecture	
Online provision should increase to enable remote access		Annual business plan ( team plan)	
Central location for records		Archive service should remain within LBTH	
Speed of response needs to improve		Need to preserve the 'wonderful ambience' of the Local History Library	
Promote the photographic collection effectively			
User education			
Need for online catalogue			
Better stock security and invigilation			
'Website is the key to history' Develop the website.			
Higher profile for LS&A services			

<b>Services</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Premises</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
There needs to be a public service for local & family history but on less traditional lines			
The resources are the key to the service			
LS & A needs to remain a single cohesive collection			
The position of LS & A in the Idea Store strategy needs to be identified			

<b>Partnerships / funding</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Partnerships with other local stakeholders e.g. QMUL, Ragged School	Educational function & space. Address the 'citizenship' aspects of the curriculum	Documenting of the Catholic and Lithuanian communities needed	Improvement more likely to happen as a result of consultation
Partnership with the Bishopsgate Institute	Need to engage children but not at expense of existing users – separate educational space	Outreach needed despite difficulties	Relocation is not acceptable
Partnership with family history organisations e.g. ELFHS. Share premises. Filby Fund.	Need to address the staffing issue for educational outreach purposes	Outreach co-ordinator post	'Crown Jewels of Tower Hamlets'
Partnership with UEL	The thrill & excitement of finding information needs to be made accessible to the younger generation	Address the issue of the inadequate recording of black & ethnic minority groups	

<b>Partnerships / funding</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Partnerships with museums or special interest group e.g. Jewish history	Have an Education Officer at Bancroft	Partnerships with BMEGs	
Partnerships with other local authority archives departments. Learn from good practice.	Needs to be provision for working with young children e.g. through drama		
Partnerships with: Museum of Childhood, Somali Arts, Stitches in Time, Children's Services, Back 2 Basics			
'Business Development Manager' to search out revenue funding			
'Section 106' funding for capital costs			
Members directly responsible for LS&A?			
Recharging for records management services to other LBTH departments			
Set up a local stakeholders register			
Set up a 'Friends of Bancroft' group for fundraising. Community steering group.			

<b>Partnerships / funding</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Look for sponsorships and local business support.			
Develop a fundraising strategy and set up a fundraising body.			
Use a professional fundraiser			
Bids for HLF & other funding			
LS&A should be a hub for local history groups			
The prolific local support for LS&A should be built on			
Introduce some charging for research services			
There should be a revenue generating Heritage Centre in the building			

## Appendix 2.

Transcription of questionnaire responses to Question 6:

**What do you think a modern local history and archives service should provide for its users?**

'A dedicated service to the promotion of the rich history of Tower Hamlets, to it's residents, incorporating family and local history and a local museum in a historic building such as Bancroft Library, promoting our history of past, present and future residents. N.B. The above cannot be achieved in an Idea Store.'

'Excellent one-to-one service, (which the LH&A service does and without which none of my work would have been possible) is very important. IT and online presence is good but nothing beats a one-to-one service using experience and knowledge obtained over many years.'

'The current services are first class (I'm a regular user of their services in London) and appropriately located. The relocation of other services from Bancroft Library provides a wonderful opportunity for the expansion and -

improvement of the LH&A services at Bancroft Library, including more professional staff. ‘
<p>‘Access to original records.  Teach people about the history of the area covered and the people who lived there.  It’s not like ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’, it’s better than that, it’s more interesting and more fun.  Family History, Local History – you can’t have one without the other.’</p>
<p>‘Helpful and <u>knowledgeable</u> staff  Spacious search room  Good cataloguing &amp; indexing (hard copy or database)  Late opening hours  Photocopying facility  Scanning or similar provision for copying hard images  Support for education services locally  History related activities (clubs, walks etc)  (See the Guildhall Library for a good environment)’</p>
<p>‘A local history and archives must provide easy access for users to examine historical books, documents and local newspapers.  The archive should also employ helpful and patient staff who are able to assist visitors with their enquiries.  In addition the archive should have a telephone enquiry service.’</p>
<p>‘A modern local history and archives service should provide a large, accessible and comfortable reading room to accommodate visitors, with knowledgeable staff to help answer enquiries and regular opening hours to suit different types of visitors.  The service should employ sufficient staff for conservation and cataloguing of the collections and provide a comprehensive self-financing reprographics service.  Plus the service should employ dedicated staff for educational and outreach activities.  There has been an explosion in interest in local history following the success of programmes such as ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ and ‘Restoration’. In addition the changes to the citizenship national curriculum following the Sir Keith Ajebo review encourages the use of local history materials to teach wider issues of diversity and citizenship.’</p>
<p>‘First and foremost as rich as possible a collection of books and records as possible and copies of key material in other collections.  Knowledgeable and helpful staff, with a keen interest in the subject (like present staff at Bancroft Road) are a must.  Working space, up-to-date viewers and power points etc to allow researchers to use laptops are very helpful.  Stocking appropriate books etc for sale is widely appreciated, helps promote interest and should generate income.  Exhibitions are also good.  A working photocopier is very important.  Facility to host relevant meetings and events would draw more people in and publicise collections.’</p>
<p>‘Access to books and archives including historic documents, local newspapers, journals of local societies, pamphlets and leaflets produced by -</p>

<p>local organisations, electoral registers, memoirs and biographical information on local residents etc.</p> <p>Facilities for studying, copying extracts, viewing maps etc.</p> <p>Indexes are required</p> <p>Advice and help if required should be available.</p> <p>An archive service needs to collect contemporary and other records not previously available and needs to purchase important historic items, if they become available.</p> <p>It is important to keep a lookout for records and to ensure that solicitors, officers of local organisations etc. are aware that records should be offered to the service when they are no longer required.</p> <p>The service needs to be open five days a week, including some evenings and Saturdays.'</p>
<p>'Well staffed service with qualified archivists and local history librarians.</p> <p>Accessible finding aids, preferably available on the internet.</p> <p>Well conserved archives supported by an adequate conservation budget.</p> <p>Clear guidance on accessibility of records under terms of Data protection Act, Freedom of Information Act etc.</p> <p>A service accredited by the MLA Council.'</p>
<p>'High standard accommodation to guarantee the security of irreplaceable items</p> <p>High standard access provision, both onsite and online. One is not a substitute for the other.</p> <p>In support of access, full documentation of collections, without which research and understanding is impossible.</p> <p>Creative outreach provision to ensure that new audiences are engaged and involved with what archives can offer. This may be at school (but with seeing original documents, in online, TV or other productions), but will probably also involve connections with originals.'</p>
<p>'Educating them (people) the realisation of what a "treasure chest" they have at their disposal.</p> <p>Without the past their future would not be here.</p> <p>More archivists are essential.</p> <p>Pointing the researcher in the direction for further knowledge of their chosen subject.</p> <p>Spreading the 'word' of pleasure and self-satisfaction of what they can achieve with the new knowledge.</p> <p>The libraries must create a desire to learn.</p> <p>Bancroft Library is the Cutty Sark of Tower Hamlets.'</p>
<p>'Access to hard to find books.</p> <p>Records on microfilm, such as Census; newspapers; births, marriage &amp; death records.</p> <p>Knowledgeable staff who can advise how to go about research.</p> <p>Photocopying facilities.</p> <p>Simple refreshments.</p> <p>Toilet facilities (often neglected).'</p>
<p>The existing service is excellent and should be preserved as is, particularly in light of the rich knowledge of it's librarians who cannot be replaced by digital search systems. While local heritage facilities seem to be approaching a digital 'sound byte' era which in some ways diminishes the richness of fuller -</p>

documentation and stories available, there is of course always room for future digitisation of info available.'
'Interpretation and producing educational packs mainly for primary age level pupils, especially on the Census and also school neighbourhood. Family history facilities; help in interpreting archive material.'
'Springboard was set up as an educational charity in 1979. Almost all of our materials are strongly visually based Over the years we have produced six picture books, eight audio-visual films, three exhibitions at the Whitechapel Art Gallery and more recently a DVD on the Jewish East End. Without the photographic collection at Bancroft Rd in particular and the professional advice of the local history service it is unlikely that we would have been able to produce a fraction of the work we have over the years. It has allowed us, for example to bring together Bengali youngsters from the East End with Jewish youngsters in Barkingside to examine stories of immigration in formal education using material from the library. For us, providing access to all kind of materials through a collection that is as wide ranging and comprehensive as possible under one roof has been indispensable. We feel sure that in the future more could be made of the library's collection in this way for other communities. Finding more ways of integrating the collection within formal and informal education seems to us an important way forward provided the current level of service is not affected.'
'Up to date technology – computers, scanners, copiers. Knowledgeable staff. Clear user instructions A welcome and comforting environment.'
'Online catalogue. Family history – links to census data, public records office, obituaries etc. Reading room with internet access to databases and other resources and good quality printing and copying facilities for photographs, archives etc. Links to other archive and special collections in the Borough, Island History Trust and other local interest groups. Digital access to resources e.g. digital maps so that schools can print only their own immediate area, census statistics, local photographs fully indexed and retrievable by keyword. Explanation of range of resources held, how to access them and what type of information likely to be found. Specialist collections on topics unique to Tower Hamlets e.g. Tower Bridge, the docks, Annie Bessant and women's rights, Sidney Street etc. Advice for schools/ individuals on funding opportunities for research projects. Be aligned to museum services in terms of facilitating school visits to explore local archive materials etc. Offer workshops for classes to study, say on immigration in the East End, Victorians and famous local people. Organise displays to lend to schools and local organisations, regular changing feature of key resources e.g. photo / archive of the month.'
'The Consultation Workshop is an excellent introduction to what needs to be done in the way of co-operation. We hope this will be the beginning of a long and fruitful collaboration between the Council, the libraries (and Idea Stores) and local students and interested members of the public.'
'Just as your Bancroft Rd Library has provided over many years polite, -

knowledgeable advice and help towards gaining information necessary to advance work of the above kind ( Sir William Perkin ). But I have noticed recently that locked doors and other procedural matters have made the library services less accessible and welcoming to the general public.'

' Q1. How well curated are the archives from previous centuries? From this follow questions concerning access, storage and indexing.

A1. The collections of Tower Hamlets Local History Library provide a unique insight into previous generations of an area with a distinctive local history and every effort must be made to ensure they continue to be available. Local and family history has never been so popular. The materials I have examined have generally been in good condition considering their age but this requires an expert's opinion.

Computer facilities and computer based indexing are completely inadequate by modern standards. Visitors must be able to access the Internet and databases without the intervention of staff.

The closure of the National Archive Family Research Centre in Clerkenwell at the end of 2007 makes it essential that good computer based research facilities are available in the Tower Hamlets Archive. In particular access to the index to wills PROB 11 is required to avoid expensive journeys to Kew. For modern practice, visits to the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford and the 'Collage' archive at the Guildhall Library are essential.

Q2. What materials should be / are being collected at the present time?

A2. I would like to see schools encouraging students to provide diaries and descriptions of family histories and life in Tower Hamlets, which are surely unique, compared with previous generations and will be of great benefit to historians in 200 years time. Such material should be confidential for 30 years.

Q3. What will researchers in 200 years time think of the archive?

A3. This raises the question of how to maintain computer systems and paper records for very long periods and is being addressed by many national archive organisations.'

'Access mainly; guidance as necessary on how to use. Website information.'

'Well lit rooms, with sufficient tables.

Books and maps on Tower Hamlets displayed and available to purchase.

Computer points for laptops.

Computers and printers.

The latest technology (but don't know what it is).

Most of all knowledgeable and helpful archivists.'

### Appendix 3.

Transcript of questionnaire responses to Question 4:

#### What is your main area of interest or research?

Local and family history within LBTH Industrial and commercial history in and around Tower Hamlets
Industrial history of TH School buildings Charitable / philanthropic organisations in TH East End history
Research for book authoring, using the photo collection and research resources.
East London
The history of the Isle of Dogs from the earliest days to the present.
Family and social history of Eastern London including Metropolitan Essex.
Research for book authoring.
London history, in particular the social and cultural history of the East End, the history of the labour, co-operative and freethought movements.
Nineteenth century working class history
Catholic history in TH
History of Bethnal Green Family history Political history Cultural history e.g. Arthur Morrison (novelist) etc.
The Royal London hospital and it's associated educational institutions; Hospitals and health care in TH, City of London, Hackney, Newham; particularly Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney and London Chest Hospital. History of medicine. History of nursing.
Development of archives and information management.
Family history
All aspects of history of primarily Tower Hamlets but also other East End boroughs
East London's animal and horticultural history, railways, minority ethnic communities, religious worship and community, charitable initiatives, underground structures, Wapping and Roman remains.
Census interpretation, famous people, very localised local history on a small area around a school.
The history of the Jewish community mainly in East London.
Childhood
Foundation to post 16 education.
Education in science, technology and medicine relating especially to important events which took place locally in TH, leading to potential social benefits. Writing a book on the life and work of Sir William Perkin. Giving talks and

writing a children's drama on the subject.
Social and economic history of Tower Hamlets in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century. Authoring of book on Mile End Researching for books on Wapping, Whitechapel & St George-in-the-East Captain James Cook, the Moravians, the rich and the poor, churches, criminals, merchants, plant collectors, breweries & ropemakers. Authoring of periodical articles.
Huguenot history
Architecture History of Whitechapel & Spitalfields.

#### Appendix 4.

Transcript of questionnaire responses to Question 2. :

#### What local history or archive services does your organisation provide?

<p><b>East London Family History Trust:</b> Membership: 3500 worldwide, 4 branches + computer group, monthly meetings with average attendance of 300. Large bookstall. Annual AGM includes a 'Family &amp; Local History Fair with 120-150 tables. Involved in creating indexes to all areas of East London over the last 29 years, e.g. 1851/1871/1891 censuses, parish returns &amp; monumental inscriptions. Currently, Index to Poplar Mortuary Records about to go on CD. Publish quarterly journal: Cockney Ancestor. Each month speakers are arranged to talk on family or local history subjects.</p>
<p><b>Island History Trust:</b> Public access to collection of 5000 local photos fully captioned &amp; indexed in hard copy or database. Publish regular Newsletter. Publications &amp; exhibition programme. History Club Website Response to enquiries by post, phone, email &amp; in person. Support for other organisations. Occasional project work with schools. Support for teachers Access to archives for students.</p>
<p><b>Bishopsgate Institute:</b> Repository for internationally renowned printed &amp; archive collections on London, labour, freethought &amp; co-operation. Include the archives of George Howell, Charles Bradlaugh, George Jacob Holyoake, Raphael Samuel &amp; the London Co-operative Society.</p>

Reading room is open free of charge to all visitors, without formalities.  
 Friendly & knowledgeable staff available to answer enquiries.  
 The London collection covers the social & topographical history of inner London, with particular focus on the East End. It includes:  
 45,000+ books, pamphlets & journal extracts  
 2000+ photographs  
 3000+ glass slide images  
 275 watercolours  
 900+ prints  
 250+ maps, 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards  
 350 miscellaneous deeds  
 40 currently received journals, magazines & annual reports  
 Newspaper cuttings & ephemera, 19<sup>th</sup> century+ on Bishopsgate & Spitalfields  
 Family history materials, including transcripts & microfiche of church registers, voters & censuses.  
 Run user education sessions for new users.  
 Run 'discovering local history' sessions for local community groups.  
 Currently undertaking an oral history project.  
 Retrospectively cataloguing all material for an online catalogue.  
 Project work with tertiary level & A level students.  
 Sessions with local schools relevant to curriculum interests.  
 Long-term goal to employ a f/t learning officer.

**Royal London Hospital Archive Service:**  
 Provide archive service for the RLH and health services in LBTH, together with associated educational organisations.  
 Act as place of deposit for the storage of public records, recognised by the Lord Chancellor.  
 Operate a museum, open to the public, relating to the RLH.  
 Provide support for students engaged in f/t education at all levels.

**National Archives:**  
 TNA maintains the archives of central government, provides access to them and contributes to and supports a platform of outreach and collaborative archives activities.  
 Online and onsite learning experiences including the Learning Curve website.

**East London History Society:**  
 Lectures, newsletters, publications, website, coach trips.

**Springboard:**  
 Gives talks & produces picture books, exhibitions, audio visual films, DVDs on the Jewish East End.  
 Supply local history materials to Jewish schools in Hendon, Barkingside and Hertfordshire.

**V & A Museum of Childhood:**  
 Researchers may access museum's archives by appointment.

**Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service:**  
 Provide resources – books, maps, pictures, CD-ROMs etc to support the teaching of local history.  
 Only provide material aimed at children  
 Provide information to schools on where to find local history material.  
 The Humanities Education Centre has, among other resources published *100 years of Tower Hamlets History* CD-ROM, *Bangladeshi Children in our*

*Schools and We live in the East End* pack *Sailors of the Caribbean*.  
Manages the [www.eastendtalking.org.uk](http://www.eastendtalking.org.uk) website.  
Works closely with all local museums.

**Archives for London:**

Seminars to users and practitioners in London on archive related topics.  
Annual conference.  
Members' newsletter.  
Represent user and other views on archive services in London.

**Huguenot Society**

Provides access to HS archives currently housed at UCL Special Collections.  
Provides 'how to use / research' aids  
Sale of publications & digitised records.  
Presence at Family history / local history fairs.

**Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group**

Provides published papers & other printed matter linked to research in local history relating to the above.  
Is involved in drama projects especially aimed at children, in which the lessons of history can be imparted more effectively to lay persons & children.