

A Brief History

This Learning Plan is a development of ‘Many Stories, One Scotland; A National Plan for Learning 2012-2015’ which was commissioned by the Scottish Council for Archives Education Working Group.

The Education Working Group was brought together with the aim of delivering high quality, relevant and exciting archive-based resources to teachers, pupils and members of the wider educational community. The membership of the group reflected the fact that in order to achieve this, partnership working between the education and archives sectors is crucial. A key role of the group was to plan a coordinated approach across what is a vast and diverse range of archive bodies, and specifically to:

1. Develop the framework for a pilot scheme in 2012-13 and monitor its progress
2. Produce an up-to-date directory for teachers and local authorities of resources and services available from Scottish Archives
3. Contribute to, and develop links with the bid to update the Scottish Online Catalogue (SCAN)
4. Establish a ‘learning agenda’ as part of a three-year plan 2012-2015
5. Draw up a framework for the professional development of archives staff in relation to Curriculum for Excellence
6. Draw up a list of opportunities for teachers to work with local and national archives to develop local initiatives
7. Bring together a cross-sector group to develop a number of national resources made available through the Education Scotland Studying Scotland website

Progress

Much of the work undertaken by the SCA Education Committee over the period 2012-2016 focussed on raising awareness of archive services within the education sector, promoting the use of archive records by schools and archive services in delivering key aspects of Curriculum for Excellence, and building links between archive services, local schools and their wider communities. This has been achieved in part through training that raised the confidence and skills

of archives staff across Scotland to create high quality, relevant education resources, promoting these to learning communities, and delivering them in a professional and engaging way to teachers and students.

Increasing engagement of archive services with the education sector continues to be an important priority, not least because the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence contains specific outcomes related to understanding and using original sources across a number of curricular areas and at all levels (from Early Years to National 5 and Higher), and encourages schools to build links with trusted expert external agencies. As the organisation which supports, oversees and monitors the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence, Education Scotland is a key partner for SCA in its work in building links between archive services and schools. Education Scotland is represented on the SCA Education Committee, and SCA has most recently been involved in the Glasgow City Archives project on James Maxton, alongside Education Scotland and Glasgow City Council.

Despite all of this, however, the reality is that there still exists a hesitancy in the education sector (particularly in secondary schools) about engagement with external agencies such as archives. Insufficient time for correspondence, a crowded curriculum and limited understanding of archive services are all factors, and in secondary schools the combined effects of separate subject departments, fixed programmes of work, a focus on preparation for exams and a rigid timetable system limit the extent to which teachers are willing to engage with services or resources that fall outside the existing programmes and topics, cross subject boundaries or involve timetable flexibility. This necessarily limits the effectiveness of education and outreach resources created by archives staff.

Recent evidence suggests that community-focussed archives projects have successfully engaged schools in ways that schools-focussed projects have not. In East Dunbartonshire in 2015 the 'East Dunbartonshire's War' project, funded through SLiC, offered a community-based programme of events and exhibitions over 10 months. Each locally-based event was held over a day, sometimes at weekends, in community halls, libraries and other central venues and was promoted to the local community and to schools. More than half these events attracted either formal or informal school involvement.

Schools became involved in many of the individual projects through teacher or student participation, which led to deeper awareness and understanding of heritage services and subsequent school engagement with services. This experience suggests that the method of engaging with schools through community events deserves further exploration.

Over the three-year period of 'Many Stories' the focus of the Committee's work shifted in response to experience and feedback. While increasing the purposeful use of archive resources by teachers in schools continued to be a central aim, the means by which this was achieved was under constant review. In relation to the seven specific objectives set out by the SCA Education Working Group, progress was largely positive and very encouraging, though external factors sometimes contrived to force a change of course or a re-consideration of priorities:

Objective 1. Develop the framework for a pilot scheme in 2012-13 and monitor its progress.

Review

A pilot programme was established, matching an archive service with a school in five different locations. These included all stages from Early Years to middle Secondary and a range of curriculum areas.

The Education Committee recognised that piloting a series of collaborative projects with schools and archive services offered the opportunity to demonstrate practically how archive material can be used to support and inspire a range of learners, from nursery through to secondary. The five pilot projects were devised and facilitated between September 2012 and October 2013. Each project involved collaboration between an archive and a local school. Schools and archives were selected to provide a range of age and ability groupings, available resources, educational approaches and outcomes.

The pilot projects were monitored by Douglas Roberts, SCA Education Development Officer, and Lesley Dunlop of Bett Associates. At the end of the programme in 2014, a Pilot Education Projects Report identified gaps in understanding between education and archives professionals, and was subsequently used to inform the staff development framework for archives staff, as well as re-shaping the direction and focus of the Learning Plan in general.

The projects were:

Bringing It Home: a collaboration between the Scottish Borders Heritage Hub and Hawick High School history department with S3 students across several classes.

Local Study Then and Now: a collaboration between Glasgow City Archives and Riverside Primary School Govan Campus with P3/4 students.

Secondary Art Project: a collaboration between Glasgow City Archives and the Principal Teacher of St Mungo's Academy with S3 students.

Angels and Cherubs: a storytelling collaboration between Glasgow City Archives and Broomloan Nursery School Govan Campus with Early Years students.

Amy Laws Letters: a collaboration between Aberdeen University Special Collections and St Peter's RC Primary school with P6 students in one class.

These projects were intended to produce ongoing exemplars of good practice. Even more importantly they identified areas for collaboration, development, resourcing and training for archives staff. The five pilot projects were evaluated in a printed report (May 2014) and distributed with explanatory covering letters to MSPs, as well as senior management and CEOs of host organisations who had supported the pilots. This contact was a precursor to exhibiting the work of the Education Committee and archive services across Scotland at SCA's Education and Skills themed days at the Scottish Parliament over the period 24-26 March 2015.

The Pilot Education Projects Report identified gaps in understanding between archive and education services, potential opportunities for development and collaboration, and the need for skills development in both sectors. The report made 14 recommendations about ways to develop archives education work, and the SCA Education Committee has progressively adopted many of these recommendations. The pilot projects themselves have also provided effective exemplars of collaborative working between archives and schools:

Objective 2. Produce an up-to-date directory for teachers and local authorities of resources and services available from Scottish Archives.

Review

While this seemed like a good idea in theory, on reflection it was felt to be an ineffective use of limited resources to produce a discrete directory for teachers only (who and how to decide what to include?), but a Scottish archives Google map with links to archive services was developed and the SCA website now has a directory of archive services in Scotland, which was created in time for the Scottish Parliament exhibition on archives education in 2014. The directory lists local authority archives by region, but doesn't yet include business and private archives, something to consider in the longer term. 

Objective 3. Contribute to, and develop links with the bid to update the Scottish Online Catalogue (SCAN).

Review

The Scottish Council on Archives has been progressing discussions around sustainable infrastructure options for the catalogue. Work to date on progressing the project is currently under review and a Project Manager has recently been  appointed.

Objective 4. Establish a 'learning agenda' as part of a three-year plan 2012-2015.

Review

In 2012, the SCA Education Committee commissioned a three-year National Plan for Learning, 'Many Stories, One Scotland: A National Plan for Learning 2012 -2015'. The Plan provided a solid strategic framework for the work of the committee, in part by highlighting the enormous educational potential of archive material, particularly in relation to Curriculum for Excellence. In addition, the appointment of an Education Development Officer has had a significant impact on the education and outreach element of the SCA, not least through the successful Professional Development sessions mentioned below.

Objective 5. Draw up a framework for the professional development of archives staff in relation to Curriculum for Excellence.

Review

Prior to the launch of the Learning Plan, archives staff were consulted to ascertain what their skills development needs were, and a programme of training was developed. This was further informed by the experience of the pilot projects, and adjusted accordingly. Although a formal training framework has not yet emerged, there is now in place a professional competency framework for archives staff, and the intention is that any future staff development training will reflect this. A look at the 2014-15 professional development programme will confirm that courses are consistent with the aims and objectives of Curriculum for Excellence.

In 2013 SCA offered two initial one-day training workshops for archives staff. The first, held in Glasgow, covered the technique of using enquiry questions in archives education work. The second, held in Edinburgh, demonstrated the effective use of drama techniques to explore archive records with students. Both were well attended and feedback suggested considerable interest in further such training opportunities.

In 2014, following feedback from the pilot projects and the initial training courses, SCA offered five training workshops for archives staff:

The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Scottish Curriculum: A practical and informative tour of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

A Silk Purse from a Sow's Ear: A six-stage process on how to create interesting and engaging education materials from archive records.

Archives Across the Curriculum: Ways of using archives in different curricular areas, particularly less 'obvious' ones such as maths, sciences, sports and expressive arts.

Question and Discussion: A revised and updated version of the Enquiry Learning workshop about using effective questioning and facilitation techniques with school students.

Active Learning: A revised and updated version of the Drama Techniques workshop about using active learning approaches to engage school students with archives learning.

Each workshop attracted between 15 and 22 attendees, and the 2014 workshops programme offered a total of 103 training places. The curriculum workshop was so popular it was repeated later in the year. Feedback was positive and encouraging, with attendees saying they had benefitted from the training, enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues and had been encouraged to try new ideas and approaches in education and outreach work. It also confirmed evidence from a wider survey that there was interest in learning more about working with local communities as well as schools. As a result, in 2015 SCA offered three new training courses focussed on archives education with community groups:

Archives In The Community: practical ways to widen community and school use of your archive and build a programme of events.

Working Effectively With Archive Groups: different and interesting ways of working with community groups and examples of good practice.

Reaching Out A Bit Further: three short presentations of inspiring archives-based community projects followed by practical session on creating new community project ideas.

These three workshops successfully used a more collaborative approach, reflecting the growing confidence of participants in working together to originate creative ideas and experiment with approaches to education and outreach work.

All the workshops over the three years were well-attended and favourably reviewed by respondents to subsequent surveys and requests for feedback. Responses showed that the workshops had made a material difference to both the quantity and the quality of education and outreach provision within archive services.

A 2016 survey of SCA workshop attendees - from 22 archive services - indicated that over 12 months, respondents had engaged with over 1,000 pupils and teachers. An impressive 35% reported increased outreach work with schools and 46% increased work with community groups. Moreover, 62% said their education and outreach work had improved their profile within their wider organisations, 75% felt more confident to create relevant materials for schools and 91% felt they understood more about the Scottish curriculum.

Objective 6. Draw up a list of opportunities for teachers to work with local and national archives to develop local initiatives.

Review

In practice, this was found to be too prescriptive an approach, and it was decided instead to facilitate discussion around the development of opportunities and partnerships, and generate ideas for others to take forward. The content and outcomes of the pilot projects were publicised in their immediate communities, but still the experience on the ground was that it was very difficult to access teachers and schools, despite the emphasis in CfE of 'use of primary sources' and 'input by (sic) external contributors'.

Informal discussion with teachers suggested that time and administrative pressures, along with the need to meet immediate learning objectives, meant that engaging other professionals or agencies was seen as an additional burden. Archives staff reported similar concerns. In addition, many archive services have been re-assigned to 'leisure trusts', along with museums, galleries, libraries and sports staff, and managed at arm's-length from their local authorities. These trusts have charitable status, allowing them to apply for funding from, for example, the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Funding bodies won't fund projects for schools (on the basis that schools are already funded), and in such instances the emphasis has had to shift to community-based projects which invite schools to participate, rather than the other way round. However, one of the potential benefits of this is that it widens participation and promotes inclusion, a key objective of the Learning Plan, as well as proving more effective in engaging schools.

Objective 7. Bring together a cross-sector group to develop a number of national resources made available through the Education Scotland 'Studying Scotland' website.

Review

Unfortunately this option was not possible in the event, as the development of the Studying Scotland Website itself at Education Scotland did not go ahead, partly due to the loss of the appropriate Development Officer and partly due to changing educational priorities at this time. There was some discussion regarding the uploading of SCA content to the ES website, but there was no capacity at ES to progress it further.

Many Stories, One Scotland: A National Plan for Learning 2012-2015

The title of the learning plan was carefully chosen to reflect the fact that within Scotland's archives there are many personal stories, and that collectively they add up to the story of a nation. Stories, and storytelling, are also very much at the heart of learning. In fact it could be argued that learning is all about stories, and the ways in which we construct them to make sense of our world.

Concluding in 2015, the three-year plan set out to achieve **three key objectives**:

- to raise awareness of the potential for archive materials and archivists to make valuable contributions to education in Scotland
- to facilitate and deliver the training required to allow archivists to develop and deliver relevant educational activities and resources
- to facilitate the necessary partnerships and foster communication between individuals and organisations to both build on and expand the existing good practice within archive services and to open up opportunities to those with limited experience of delivering education and outreach to their local schools and communities.

The 3 Key Objectives

Raising Awareness

The main focus of this national plan was to raise awareness in schools, communities and education centres of the many treasures which exist within Scotland's archives, and the ways in which they can be accessed and used to their full potential. This was to be done in a number of ways, including:

1. Extending the range of the e-newsletter 'Broadsheet' into schools and communities, encouraging reader contributions and case studies of teachers and classes using archives to good effect

Review

Raising the profile of archive services and increasing public awareness of the richness of the collections and the in-depth expertise on offer is central to the work of the Scottish Council on Archives. Through a series of articles, events and publications, SCA worked continuously over the three years to highlight and demonstrate the value of archives to education centres and the wider education community in Scotland.

The SCA Education Development Officer, Douglas Roberts, has been a regular contributor of education-related materials to the SCA e-magazine Broadsheet, which is widely distributed through the archives community (and beyond), and two editions of Broadsheet with a specific focus on education have been produced, including 'how-to' pieces, case studies and articles from archives staff about their work with schools. An education-themed edition in 2014 was distributed to all pilot project participant heads of service as well as heads of education, and made available to MSPs at the SCA Scottish Parliament event.

The General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) signalled its interest in the education work of SCA and of the archive sector by carrying a feature article in the February- March 2014 edition of its magazine, 'Teaching Scotland'. A follow-up article in April 2014 focussed on the importance of using original sources in the commemoration of World War One.

2. Tapping into other news channels, such as Education Scotland's daily news bulletin, on a regular basis to publicise local and national events

Review

Efforts have been made to build closer links with Education Scotland but the  rotation of secondments and changes in staffing structures at ES have made this extremely difficult. Over the period of the Learning Plan it became clear that links with GTCS were more effective in reaching a teacher audience with messages regarding the educational potential of the SCA resources.

3. Identifying individual archivists in local centres with a specific interest in and responsibility for raising awareness in schools and communities, and for encouraging access and openness

Review

Archivists with a particular interest and enthusiasm for education and outreach work tended to identify themselves, and were pro-active in signing up for the training courses on offer, or contacted SCA for advice on certain aspects of their work. Through this contact SCA has attempted to nurture their interest and encourage them to form partnerships with other archive centres, museums, galleries and libraries. With a growing confidence among archives staff, allied to a new generation of archive professionals with a different vision of their role in the community, this approach has been gaining momentum over the period of the Learning Plan.

4. Developing, in association with Education Scotland, an archives section of the Studying Scotland website and highlighting, for example, the excellent Scottish Archives for Schools resources and workshops

Review

Again, this proved difficult due to staffing and other changes at ES, although  there was an opportunity through the Scottish Learning Festival to showcase the James Maxton Project, a collaborative project between Glasgow City Council, Education Scotland and SCA.

5. Capitalising on major events, such as Homecoming Scotland, to highlight the resources which are available to support local project work

Review

The SCA's Education and Skills themed days at the Scottish Parliament in 2015 allowed SCA to present the many contributions made by archive services in support of education and skills development in their local communities. In addition to an attractive display of archive materials, there was access to an interactive electronic map highlighting archive-related projects and activities within each Scottish parliamentary constituency, as well as print copies of various publications, including the education- themed edition of Broadsheet.

SCA had the opportunity to engage with MSPs at an evening fringe event organised within the parliament, where several members took a clear interest in the outreach and education activities delivered by archive services in their local constituencies. The event also gave the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Skills for the Future' trainees the chance to exhibit and to talk about their experiences of developing and delivering a range of outreach projects.

A number of resources were developed and made available as part of the WW1 commemorations in 2014, and SCA is represented on the board of the 'Connecting Scotland's Sounds' project, which champions the preservation and sharing of Scotland's audio heritage.

6. The joint development of further resource by education and archives professionals working together, and made available via Education Scotland's Studying Scotland website, facilitated by Education Scotland and using the model of the Scotland on Screen resources at www.scotlandonscreen.org.uk.

Review

Again this turned out to be difficult, despite regular attempts at building closer links. It has proven to be more practical and realistic to host content on the SCA website and make links with Education Scotland and other relevant organisations via social media. The SCA has started a redesign and development of its web-based education materials using the TNA website as a model. Other platforms and websites, such as Education Scotland, were seen to be less stable due to shifting political priorities.

Nevertheless, over the three years, in conjunction with the development of training courses for archives staff, SCA created a collection of online education resources hosted on its own website. A major redesign of the education and outreach section of the website (in 2015) arranged the resources into topics related to the training course in which they featured. Downloadable guides, planning templates and exemplars are available in PDF format in a range of areas such as enquiry learning and resource creation, as well as detailed guides to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence written with specific reference to archives education.

Positive feedback from a recent SCA survey and from website statistics indicates that these resources are well used and helpful. In general, there was a 230% increase in traffic to the education pages of the SCA website between 2013 and 2015, and a 150% increase between 2015 and 2016.

To date SCA has correctly concentrated on resources for the archives community, but there is considerable potential to develop further SCA online resources for archives staff, for teachers and other education professionals, and for the general public. As the confidence and competence of that community to create and deliver high quality education resources grows, teachers are now benefitting directly from resources created by archives staff. The Scotland Online Catalogue (SCAN) project offers another major opportunity for education and outreach resources to develop audiences for archive services and promote Scotland's wealth of archive collections.

7. The use of social media to promote the use of archives in education.

Review

The e-magazine has proved effective in raising awareness of archive materials and their potential uses, but it is becoming obvious that social media such as Twitter and Facebook are the tools with which to reach a bigger audience.

SCA currently has 3,920 itter followers and regularly circulates and retweets items pointing to outreach and education-related activities in archives across Scotland. On average, the SCA twitter account makes over 19,000 impressions per month (and growing) with Skills for the Future, CPD and education-related tweets consistently top ranking in popularity.

Over the past three years many archivists, schools and service managers sought one-to-one advice and assistance from the SCA's Education Development Officer about resource development, funding applications, quality assurance, contacts and teaching methods. This service, occupying less than 10% of the officer's contracted time commitment, raised the profile of the Scottish Council on Archives, provided individual archivists with a neutral sounding board and external feedback on their work, and appears to be a valued component of the SCA's education support service with nearly 30% of survey respondents having used it.

Continuing Professional Development

It was considered essential that, in order to expand the role of Scotland's archives in the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence, professionals in both the education and the archives sectors should be encouraged and supported in the development of their knowledge and skills, and given every opportunity to learn from each other. Much of that learning comes from the informal meetings of staff with a common or shared interest, but there is also a role for more formal

training and development. The increasing availability of technology and access to the internet provides opportunities for further CPD at minimal cost.

In order to promote the professional development of staff and to increase awareness and understanding of their respective roles it was proposed in the 2012-2015 Learning Plan that the use of Glow, including Glow Meet, already embedded in the NRS's Scottish Archives for Schools Programme, should be extended to include professional development opportunities for both teachers and archivists, and that archives staff nationally be given access to CPD opportunities advertised and provided by Education Scotland and the Archives and Records Association (ARA) 

Unfortunately, the use of GLOW as an education 'intranet' has not been universal, due to security issues, poor structuring of material and the use of outdated technologies.  A did collaborate with Education Scotland in the production of a schools resource on the politician James Maxton, some of which is now available on GLOW, but very difficult to find. In addition, the NRS programme was temporarily suspended after the retirement of the Education Officer, but a new officer has recently been appointed (Autumn 2017) and SCA will continue to collaborate with NRS to determine what progress can be made.

It was further suggested in the Learning Plan that local archives staff should be encouraged and enabled to make formal links with educational establishments in their area using the model of the Paper Treasure partnership in Aberdeenshire.

In a survey of training needs, and at the beginning of the staff training programme, it became clear that archive staff were most keen to learn about how schools and the curriculum work, how to create interesting resources and activities for school groups, and how to contact schools. As confidence grew in these areas, local partnerships with schools began to develop, notably in Aberdeen, Borders, East Lothian, East Dunbartonshire and Highland, and later in other areas.

Working with Partners

Archives offer an almost limitless store of content for inspiring and enhancing learning and teaching. They can and do help people to make sense of their world. The SCA is committed to facilitating wider access to archival collections for learning, particularly for young people. Successfully delivering archival materials to teachers and pupils, requires the expertise and experience of

educators AND archivists. In that partnership the teacher' role is key and opens to the archivist the opportunity not only to support but also to learn in the process. Likewise, teachers have much to learn about the significance of Scotland's archives, how they are collected and maintained, and how best to integrate them into everyday learning and teaching practices.

Partnership working is also a recurring theme of Curriculum for Excellence, whether it is in the context of the classroom, in the wider community or across national borders in the form of school trips, or indeed virtually, through the technology now available thanks to the internet.

The pilot projects undertaken in 2012-2013 offered unprecedented opportunities to create partnerships between local authority schools, local archive services and the Scottish Council on Archives. Three local authority education departments (Aberdeen City Council, Scottish Borders Council and Glasgow City Council), and three archive services (Aberdeen University Special Collections, Glasgow City Archives and Hawick Heritage Hub), collaborated in the five projects. In all cases collaborative project work has continued between them. For example, in 2015 Glasgow City Archives worked with Education Scotland, Glasgow City council's education department and SCA to create a secondary education resource about the life and work of the radical politician and Red Clydesider James Maxton.

The Heritage Lottery Funded 'Skills for the Future: Opening Up Scotland's Archives' traineeship programme is a high profile project for SCA. In 2014 and 2015 the Education and Outreach trainees on the project attended most or all of the SCA education and outreach training days. Feedback from the trainees showed that the training days inspired more adventurous education and outreach activities in their traineeships. Several trainees delivered projects related to community outreach within their host organisations which received media coverage, in addition to making new links within communities, with schools and other organisations.

A current 'Skills' trainee created an exhibition and education materials relating to the Albion Rovers football collection held at North Lanarkshire Archives, using approaches learned from the 'Archives In the Community' workshop. Other trainees from the 2014 cohort also applied their learning to the outreach they delivered. The Glasgow City Archives trainees devised workshops for the LGBT community, and at the University of Dundee curriculum-specific training was beneficial in the creation of workshop materials for visiting school groups.

Looking ahead to 2020

An evaluation of the ongoing education programme at the end of 2016 showed that SCA has an important role in supporting archivists in Scotland in the development of effective archives education and outreach programmes into the future.

Survey respondents and course participants showed strong interest in further training courses, more online resources and exemplars of good practice, new opportunities for collaboration and networking, and support in areas such as drafting resources, creating new projects, building relationships with schools, writing funding applications, and finding collaborative partners.

The Scottish Curriculum for Excellence makes compulsory the use of original sources in building children's understanding of evidence-based approaches in social subjects. There remains considerable potential for archive services to supply the resources to address this aspect of the curriculum in both primary and secondary schools, and in areas where physical resources are more limited, access to archive material and expertise can contribute significantly to addressing the attainment gap in schools.

Going forward it would be beneficial to emphasise the significant role archives can play in helping young people to understand the importance of storytelling in learning, rather than try to match every resource to a specific area of the curriculum. In fact, 'Many Stories, One Scotland: A National Plan for Learning 2012-2015', identified the much wider potential for archives' use across all areas of the curriculum. This has started to happen through innovative projects in many areas of Scotland, but archivists need continued support in building relationships with schools and local communities, devising appropriate materials and working with teachers and students.

With ongoing budget and time constraints and the relative isolation of many archivists, there is a need for creative collaboration between archive services in building education and outreach programmes. The movement of more archive services into local culture and leisure trusts creates opportunities for this creative collaboration within organisations. 

The Scottish Council for Archives  has an established role in facilitating such collaboration at both local and national levels, and it would make sense in the longer term to build regional networks which reflect the proposed new regional boards for education, should such a re-organisation occur.

The centenary of the First World War has raised the profile of archive services across the United Kingdom through a multiplicity of events, broadcasts and well-funded heritage projects. Archive services have an unprecedented (but time-limited) opportunity to use this phenomenon to capture and maintain public appreciation of their value and importance beyond the period and subject of the War, through education and outreach work and coordinated activity.

In Scotland SCA is in a good position to build on this opportunity over the next three years, given its established reputation as a provider of training, support and learning resources as well as exemplars of good practice.

Key Objectives 2017-2020

Having fully proved their value during the 2012-2015 programme, the Education Committee recommended that the three key objectives then used should be (with slight amendment) carried over into the 2018- 2020 period, with emphasis in the first twelve months on:

- building online and interpersonal networks
- facilitating creative collaboration and partnerships
- training and skills development
- delivery of quality online resources and exemplars
- raising awareness of existing good practice

Taking account of the Education Committee's recommendations for the way ahead, the evaluation report of 2016, feedback from the pilot projects, and the current national priorities in education (emphasis on equity, closing the attainment gap and a focus on literacy and numeracy), the key objectives of this learning plan, '**Many More Stories: A National Plan for Learning 2017-2020**' will be:

1. to raise awareness of the ways in which archivists and archive materials are making essential contributions to education in schools and communities in Scotland and to develop further resources in conjunction with other partners
2. to ensure greater access to archive material and resources, particularly in areas of the country where opportunities are more limited, by extending the ways in which archive material and resources are delivered
3. to facilitate collaboration and deliver the training and resources required to allow archivists to develop and deliver relevant education and outreach programmes
4. to facilitate partnerships and foster effective communication between individuals and organisations to build on and expand existing good practice within archive services, and to open up opportunities to those with limited experience of delivering education and outreach to their local schools and communities

As in the 2012-2015 programme, regular consultation and feedback should be sought, and continuous review of the programme undertaken by the Committee to ensure relevance and effectiveness. Where evaluation and feedback from archives staff was invaluable in shaping the previous Learning Plan, the views of teachers and other education professionals should also be sought when reviewing the 2017-2020 Plan for Learning.

Objective One

Raising Awareness

This remains a priority of the SCA Education Committee, and rightly so. Many of the approaches so far have been very successful, and others less so. In light

of previous experience and in the context of a growing digital environment, the plan will be to:

- Continue to collate, edit and publish (digitally) a collection of existing education materials from archives around Scotland. Much good work has been undertaken over the years and can be inspirational to those seeking to build their confidence and skills.
- Using the Scottish Council on Archives website, create and publish online instructive planning templates for archivists to use in creating simple education resources. These should be accompanied by a series of short online video tutorials.
- Prepare and publish a summary booklet of exemplar projects and approaches to using archive material, to be made available in PDF format to download from the SCA website.
- Prepare a booklet for teachers on using archives in the classroom, made available in PDF format from the SCA website and from Education Scotland.
- Prepare and distribute, or make available to schools, an attractive one-page flyer, for display in staffrooms, which provides basic information on archives and their potential role in education. The flyer should be localised to include details of ‘how to find and contact your local archives service’.
- Commission a series of written features and offer them to local and national media in order to raise the profile of archives. These could focus on the general purposes of archives as well as their role in national life, local communities, schools and personal histories.
- Devise a set of expressive arts-based projects using archive records as inspiration. Focussed on the aesthetics of records such as materials, handwriting, seals, illumination, graphics, photography, textures, colours and sounds, these projects should seek to raise awareness of archives’ visual value through exhibition and media coverage.

Objective Two

Increasing Access

Providing equality of opportunity is a national priority in education in Scotland and is one of the defining features of Curriculum for Excellence. The SCA should aim to reflect this when creating resources, hosting conferences and workshops, and reaching out to the communities which they represent. The ways in which they do this will include:

- Continue to restructure the education section of the SCA website in line with the outline proposals submitted earlier and as part of the broader Scotland Online project, in order to increase the value of the web resource to existing users and to widen the audience for archives-related education and outreach materials, training and projects.
- Develop a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section of the website to support and help new visitors, whether they be archivists, teachers or students.
- Promote, grow and develop the SCA Twitter account, and establish an SCA Education Group on Facebook to provide a discussion forum and a page for sharing resources and ideas.
- Continue to offer advice and support to individual archives staff who are attempting to reach out to their local communities, including local schools, particularly those in more disadvantaged areas.
- Consider the introduction of a pilot 'Work Experience' project for secondary school students which aligns with the national skills development agenda.
- Organise a national 'multimedia storytelling' competition which invites young people from across Scotland to create a story in any medium, and which demonstrates creative engagement with archives resources.

Objective Three

Training and Resources

The Education Committee acknowledged in its report of August 2017, that the foundational training workshops held in 2014 and 2015 had been successful in capacity-building and skills-development, and that, while there was still a demand for such training and support, a downward trend in attendance at training events, allied to increasing demands on staff time, pointed to the need for a change in emphasis. The suggestion therefore is that the focus over the next three year should be to:

- Revise and re-purpose the earlier, popular, workshop material to be made available to archives staff via the website.
- Organise and facilitate a national event in each of the three years of the plan, in different parts of the country (north, central, south) where archives staff, and possibly teachers, can meet for a full day to jointly devise education resources and activities from archive records.
- Organise and host regional education and outreach training days, such as those organised by the Archives and Records Association (ARA) and The National Archives (UK) where archives staff can learn about existing projects and resources, join discussions and presentations about archive-based education, meet other practitioners and take away support materials.
- Identify a number of suitable and willing archive services to receive a period of support and training (four to six weeks) from the SCA Education Development Officer, or other education staff who might be made available, to research collaboratively and devise some education materials using local collections, to train staff, and to make links with local schools.
- Develop a programme of in-service training in education and outreach for archivists in collaboration with, for example, the University of Dundee's Centre for Archive and Information Studies (CAIS), building on materials used in the MLitt Archives and Management course.
- Consider the longer-term appointment of peripatetic education officers to work with local archives around Scotland to train staff in education techniques, create and collate education resources and projects, manage online components such as resource banks, discussion forums and email requests, organise training and collaboration events, and build relationships with schools.

Objective Four

Working with Others

Partnership working is crucial if the objectives of this Learning Plan are to be met successfully. Many opportunities for partnership working emerge unexpectedly and through chance meetings between individuals. Having said that, formal approaches should be made to:

- Engage with Education Scotland to create modular education materials adaptable to local archive collections under CfE unit titles such as N5 Domestic Impact of the Great War, L2 Social Studies; primary and secondary sources, L3 Literacy in English: literal, inferential and evaluative questions. Such materials would be available to local schools and archives as models from which to build local projects appropriate to their contexts and resources.
- Create and publish ‘education basics’ training materials, in conjunction with teachers and Education Scotland, for archivists and teachers seeking to improve their skills. These might range from short leaflets about aspects of the Scottish curriculum through to online video examples of lessons using archives, and short learning modules about how to create education materials and activities.
- Connect with and practically support existing initiatives and significant cultural events in all areas of the country to widen public awareness and use of local and national archives, focussing on the educational potential, and providing practical activities for young people.
- Explore the potential for partnership working with galleries, museums and other cultural centres across the country, such as the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway and the Riverside Museum in Glasgow, as a way of raising the profile of the SCA.
- Establish better links with Creative Scotland and Scottish Film Education, whose practitioners are promoting the use of film in the classroom and including archive material from the Scotland on Screen website, to explore the possibility of joint working.

We are living at a time when interest in Scotland’s history and our own personal histories within it has never been greater. The Scottish Council for Archives is able to tap into this collective thirst for knowledge, and bring the past alive again in many rich and creative ways. The role of the SCA Education Committee in implementing this plan is to ensure that the archives nationally come to be seen as a historical treasury which informs the present and the future, which belongs to all of us, and which is easily accessible to all members of the community.

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