The Friends of the Newsam Library and Archives was launched on Thursday 24th July, the last day of the Institute's centenary celebrations. At a small drinks reception, Anne Peters, Head of Information Services, welcomed visitors and outlined the structure and future plans of the Friends Group. Speeches by Professor Richard Aldrich and Dr David Crook focussed on their work within the Newsam Library and the importance of its collections for the historical study of education.

The Newsam Library and Archives
The Newsam Library and Archives has the largest collection in Europe of learned books and periodicals on educational studies. It contains over 300,000 volumes, and has files of nearly 2,000 periodicals from all over the world. Electronic resources are now being added to its traditional collections, and include subscriptions to over 900 databases, journals and document collections.

Its special collections include the History of Education Collection of materials dating from the 17th century onwards, and the Historical Textbooks Collection of textbooks and instructional materials, as well as smaller collections such as the Ian Michael Collection of 18th and 19th century books on the teaching of English grammar.

The Archives house the historical records of the Institute from 1902, as well as nearly 100 deposited collections of documents relating to education from organisations and individuals. They include the papers of the National Union of Women Teachers, the World Education Fellowship, Sir Fred Clarke and Susan Isaacs.

In addition to the Institute’s current staff and students, the library receives over 10,000 visitors annually, to make use of its collections for research and study.

Who are the Friends?
The Friends support the future development of the Newsam Library and Archives as a unique resource for research in education, and especially its role in preserving the UK’s educational heritage by acting as a national centre for archives and special collections.

Why join the Friends?
By becoming a Friend, you will join our network of supporters, who receive regular news of the Newsam Library and Archives, and contribute to the future development of our collections and services.

The benefits of membership include:

- A programme of meetings and visits, including talks and displays relating to library and archive activities
- A bi-annual newsletter
- Discounted membership of the Newsam Library and Archives
- The opportunity to contribute to preserving the UK's educational heritage
News and information

Success with the Heritage Lottery Fund

The Newsam Library and Archives recently applied for, and was granted, a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £27,000 to catalogue records of post-war educational reconstruction. The Education and Democracy Project provides for the employment of staff to catalogue, conserve and improve access to five key collections on the reform and reconstruction of education in Germany after World War Two. The grant will provide for a full-time archivist for nine months, to catalogue the materials in full onto electronic systems, and to carry out basic conservation work. Dissemination will include descriptive web pages; online access to catalogues and lists, printed leaflets, an electronic exhibition, published articles and public talks, INSET courses and mailings to relevant societies.

Emerald Street building for archives and rare books

The new Institute of Education building on Emerald Street will house a Knowledge Lab and Archive. Work is currently being undertaken to convert the building, which should be available by the end of February 2004. The Archive floor will provide space to undertake detailed work on larger uncatalogued collections, mainly those relating to former staff of the Institute, such as J.L. Lauwerys and L.A. Reid.

Ministry of Education Project in preparation

The Newsam Library and Archives Fundraising Group are currently working on a proposal to purchase and catalogue a substantial part of the Ministry of Education Collection. This collection of books and journals was built up by the Ministry and its predecessors between 1870 (the beginning of compulsory education in Britain) and 1970. As part of Department for Education library it provided a record of the development of the education system and educational thinking in the UK, and, although not open to the general public, was accessible to researchers and policy makers. In 1991, a substantial part of the library’s historical holdings were sold, and the current owner has offered first choice of these materials to the Newsam Library. The Fundraising Group are applying to the Foyle Foundation, the Pilgrim Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund for the costs of purchase and cataloguing.
'A Society for Promoting Anglo-German Educational Relations': the GER Archive

German Educational Reconstruction (GER) was a voluntary organisation founded with the aim of helping German refugee educationists to prepare for their post-war return to Germany. The group was created by a number of English educationists combined with a circle of German teachers and social workers that met regularly in London. These two groups met informally from 1941 onwards and the GER was officially created in 1943.

The main consideration was the restructuring of the German school system on 'democratic principles', although consideration was also given to youth and welfare work, adult education and vocational training. After the War the emphasis shifted toward promoting Anglo-German relations by acting as an information bureau and means of communication and exchange between British and German educationists.

GER undertook a wide variety of activities, including organising conferences, lectures, and study groups; co-operating with other voluntary bodies; arranging visits and youth work; and publishing and distributing memoranda, pamphlets and textbooks. Several prominent figures were associated with GER, including Eleanor Rathbone (its first president), Sir Ernest Barker, Karl Mannheim, Fritz Borinski, S.H. Wood, Erich Hirsch and Fritz Burchardt. It was wound up in 1958.

The collection comprises some 40 boxes of material from all stages of the existence of GER, and includes minutes; correspondence, administrative and policy files; bulletins, reports and memoranda; files on conferences, meetings and group visits; material relating to a wide range of other organisations; and press cuttings.

The importance of these materials lies in their uniqueness, and the light they shed on a historical period of great significance. The greater access provided by the forthcoming Heritage Lottery Fund Project will contribute greatly to the study and continuing debate on a number of issues, including education, citizenship, democracy, the treatment of refugees, and 20th century history. The subject of democratic reconstruction of countries following conflict is a particularly current concern.

The GER collection will form the main focus of the Education and Democracy project. It will be catalogued electronically, along with three other archives: the records of the Moot discussion group and the papers of Mimi Hatton and Arabella Kurdi, both teachers in British-occupied Germany in the 1940s. All of the collections will feature in an electronic exhibition and other outreach activities, such as articles and lectures.

The Baines Collection

One of the Newsam Library’s most unusual collections, the selection of 200 children’s books was compiled by the Baines family for over two centuries, with the earliest works dating back to the mid 1700s. Little is known of the Baines family, other than their origins in [CHECK], although the children of the family often signed their names in the front of favourite books.

The books themselves are a fascinating mix of the didactic and the whimsical, including textbooks and fiction and covering several languages and age groups. Among the textbooks
are subjects including French, Latin, Italian, Geography, natural sciences, history, religion, English grammar, arithmetic and musical drill.

Following the teaching methods of the time, many of the fictional works deliver unsubtle moral messages, to be found in such works as Right and wrong: exhibited in the history of Rosa and Agnes by ‘Mother’ (London: John Harris, 1818) and Fables in monosyllables; Morals in dialogues passing among a mother and children by Mrs Teachwell (London: John Marshall, 1783). The last shows the strong trend for morals and learning to be imparted through the mother, and many of the works, especially those for younger children, are couched in terms of a dialogue between a fictional mother and children.

Classic fiction and famous authors also feature in the collection, and the children were reading such works as Aesop’s Fables, The adventures of Captain Gulliver in a voyage to the islands of Lulliput and Brobdingnag, Through the looking glass and what Alice found there, and The history of Tom Jones: a foundling. Amongst these, however, sit books of instruction for parents, collections of nursery rhymes and fables, and activity books for boys and girls such as The boy’s own book: a complete encyclopaedia of sports and pastimes, athletic, scientific, and recreative (1882).

New acquisitions to the archives

This year has proved extremely fruitful for the Archive, with over 80 new accessions. Although many of these comprise additional material for existing collections, a significant number are brand new acquisitions.

For the Institute’s own archives, the largest addition has been papers relating to the recent Centenary. Staff from all over the Institute willingly provided archive material (many thanks to them all!) so that the Centenary events will be apparent to researchers of the future – maybe at the 150-year mark?

Deposited collections continued to grow, with additions to the papers of Sir Fred Clarke, Basil Bernstein, Bernarr Rainbow, the British Forces Educational Service, the College of Preceptors and the Jack Kitching HMI Archive.

New accessions are varied and wide-ranging. Some highlights are:

- Papers of the REfIT Project, 1997-2002, which was created to look at the future of RE and IT, and discuss how information and communications technology would affect the teaching of RE.
- Records of the London Parents' Ballot Campaign, 1987-1988, which was intended to ask the opinion of parents about the transfer of responsibility for education services from the ILEA to local authorities.
- Papers of Frederick James Gould (1855-1938), an assistant master in London Board Schools, who became a member of the Positivist Society and the Moral Education League.
- Papers of Charles Henry Burden (1869-1957), mainly letters home to his wife describing a tour of US and Canadian schools under the aegis of the second Mosley Commission, 1906-1907.
The papers of Katherine Bathurst (1862-c1930), one of the first female HMIs, notably relating to a report written by her on the state of infant schools.