

MEETING AT SOUTHEND re: Video Access Library

Tuesday 9 February 1988 2pm

Present: Elizabeth McGregor, Will Bell, Mark Thres, David Ryan, Martin Ayres

David Ryan to be our new contact.

Good meeting that took stock of the first six months of use and outlined possible developments.

Will Bell chaired: he expressed concern at the level of use but was reassured by David Ryan that, although the video access library had only been used 160 times there was now a marked increase in its use of 42% over the past 3 months. There had also been an increase in group usage as opposed to individual use.

Will Bell asked if there were any changes to be made in the library's overall use of video. Mark Thres said that they were considering combining video facilities and by implication extending the use of the video access library, while extending the use of general stock into video access library stock.

Will Bell was encouraged by this development; he said that the video access library had always been seen as a facilitator for other sorts of use.

He outlined the Arts Council plans for Public Libraries and arts video which was received enthusiastically by Mark Thres and David Ryan. They saw no contradiction in holding both reference stock on u-matic and lending stock on VHS.

Will Bell indicated his concern that Eastern Arts had not taken advantage of the resource. Martin Ayres described a new distribution scheme devised by Eastern Arts that might include a commitment to the video access library. He was, however, ambiguous on the form that that commitment might take.

Will Bell reminded him that a commitment was written into the conditions laid out by Joanna Drew in a letter to Jeremy Newton (19.2.86).

Will Bell asked about marketing. David Ryan said that the resource was mainly used by student groups. But he hoped that once the video stock was extended, whole new groups of people would use the facility. He also suggested mounting a touring exhibition of stills and information about the video access library to other libraries within the region.

Will Bell to supply stills.

Will Bell suggested a more imaginative use of the resource of space, using the video access library as a focus for independent and experimental work.

Will Bell to supply 'umbrella' information and film makers on tour booklet.

Martin Ayres said that he felt the resource could become a focus for the development of media studies with Essex schools and colleges and was particularly enthusiastic to assist the library in establishing the appropriate links.

Mark Thres informed the meeting that the library had a lecture theatre that could be used until 10.00pm at night; he and David Ryan were enthusiastic to develop a combined programme.

Elizabeth McGregor suggested that the video access library might wish to take advantage of the new marketing department at the Arts Council. Perhaps once various parts of the new programme were in place a re-launch could be organised.

Elizabeth McGregor and Will Bell to look into possible collaborations.

It was agreed to meet again in 3 months to assess findings.

WB.

cc Rodney Wilson
David Curtis