

# SHARON MARKLESS

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### 1 QUALIFICATIONS and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**M.Ed.:** Organisation and Planning in Education Systems; University of Manchester, 1977

**P.G.C.E (Secondary):** University of Manchester, 1972 (One year course including sociology, philosophy and history of education, teaching strategies and resources, assessment and evaluation)

**BA. Hons III:** History; University of Leeds, 1971

I have always taken my own professional development seriously; engaging in research and participating in development activities (e.g. peer observation). Recent courses attended include:

Facilitation Styles (one week course run by the Human Potential Resource Group, University of Surrey)

Achieving Excellence in Organisations (three one-week modules spread over six months)

### 2 EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Information Management Associates	Senior Associate	1991 to date
King's College, University of London Institute of Learning and Teaching	Senior Tutor	2002 to date
Kent, Surrey, Sussex (formerly South Thames Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education	Education Adviser – Teacher Education	2000 - 2002
Canterbury Christ Church University College	Senior Lecturer in Professional Development (0.5 permanent post)	1995 - 2000
Freelance consultant, researcher and trainer	0.5	1995 - 2000
Canterbury Christ Church University College	Senior Lecturer in Professional Development	1991 - 1995
NFER Enterprises Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Foundation for Educational Research)	Training Manager	1990 - 1991
National Foundation for Educational Research	Senior Research Officer	1985 - 1990
Westminster College of Further Education	Lecturer II (BTEC and A-levels) and Senior Lecturer co-ordinating Social Studies	1979 - 1985
Loreto Grammar School (11 to 18)	Teacher of History and Politics and Head of General Studies	1972 - 1976 1977 - 1979

### 3 RESEARCH

*My research work on Information Skills Development (outlined below) continues to be drawn upon by practitioners in schools and colleges in the UK and overseas. This research is evolving to meet the challenges of the new information technologies: my current thinking is being distilled in **New Tools for Learning**, a handbook for teachers and school librarians commissioned by the British Library Research and Innovation Centre. I drew upon this work in writing two distance learning modules (study guides and supporting resources) for the current national programme of ICT Training for School Librarians. These modules have already been followed by over 800 school librarians across the UK and have been adopted by the International Schools in Hong Kong.*

**The benefits of library use in schools** (2002): national desk-based research review prepared for the School Libraries Committee of the Department of Education and Skills. This research examined available national and international evidence about the contribution of school libraries to teaching and learning.

**Reader development through an e-learning approach** (2002 – ongoing) I am working with the Reading Agency to develop materials available on a dedicated website ([www.theirreadingfutures.org](http://www.theirreadingfutures.org)) for library staff working with children and young people. The materials are designed to support professional development.

**Best Value and Better Performance in Libraries** (1999 - 2000): National project funded by the Library and Information Commission. We explored current approaches to evaluating services, focussing on qualitative dimensions of evaluation. The outcomes of this work, in the form of guidance notes, are available on the project website ([www.informat.org](http://www.informat.org)).

**Schools Library Services: Survival and Growth** (March 1999 - March 2000): Project funded by the Library and Information Commission. We examined the strategies adopted by Schools Library Services over the past three to five years to ensure their continued existence and explored the options open to them in the current financial and political environment. The Project outcomes fed into Schools Library Service Development Planning and Local Authority policy formation. The Project used a variety of methods including consultation with key figures; Schools Library Service Managers working collaboratively as part of the Project Team; case studies; a formative invitation seminar; and a questionnaire survey which provided quantitative data.

**The Effective College Library** (1995 - 1999): Project funded jointly by the British Library Research and Development Department and the Further Education Development Agency. Phase 1 of the Project combined a questionnaire to all Further Education College Libraries with a number of selective case studies; several models of Library resource provision were developed. Phase 2 supported and evaluated a number of key library initiatives designed to enhance the teaching and learning process within FE colleges.

**The Effective School Library** (1991 - 1993): Project funded by British Library R & D Department, prompted by Schools Library Services' concern to pinpoint the contribution of school libraries to teaching and learning. This work has been influential in shaping approaches to the development of school libraries in the UK: it has been taken up by the Library Association through its Continuing Professional Development Programme and by BBC Education in its *Teaching Today* Series. The work has also attracted interest in Scandinavia and has been adopted in Portugal through the Government-sponsored School Library Development Programme launched in 1997.

**Information Skills in Further Education** (1989 - 1991): Project funded by British Library R & D Department. I led this project as Senior Research Officer at the NFER, co-ordinating the work of a small team of researchers.

**Developing Information Skills in Schools** (1985 - 1989): This was a Development Project funded by British Library R & D Department. I was National Liaison Officer, based at the NFER, co-ordinating the Project programme across the United Kingdom.

## 4 RECENT TEACHING and TRAINING

My career as a teacher and trainer has involved working in a variety of contexts:

**a In-service training courses for Librarians** - these courses range from short one to three day events to three-month distance learning modules. They have been run for the main professional bodies in the UK (i.e. The Schools Library Association and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals – formerly the Library Association), local authorities and the National Health Service. Topics covered include teaching skills, making the school library more effective, evaluating libraries, managing change and learning about learning.

**b Academic courses for librarians** - I was Course Tutor on the MA (Ed) Pathway for Education Librarians offered at Canterbury Christ Church University College (1995 to 2000). I wrote this pathway and deliver most of the modules. I recruited three cohorts to this course from librarians in universities, colleges and schools. A group of successful graduates from this course now functions as the School Library Action Research Group under my guidance.

**c Developing the teaching of other professionals** - I have written, contributed to, and delivered courses designed to support and validate the teaching and professional development activities undertaken by university lecturers, senior hospital consultants, teachers, police trainers, nurses and other educators within their own institutions

**d** I was recently appointed as an **External Ph. D Examiner** by Robert Gordon University.

**e Teaching and lecturing** - between 1972 and 1985 I taught history, politics and business studies in secondary schools and further education institutions.

## 6 PUBLICATIONS

### Books, reports and chapters

Markless, S. (ed.) (1986) *Learning Skills 11-16* Lewes: East Sussex County Council.

Markless, S. and Lincoln, P. (eds.) (1986) *Tools for learning: information skills and learning to learn in secondary schools* British Library R & D Report 5892. London: British Library.

Markless, S. and Streatfield, D.R. (1990) *Report on the Information Skills in Schools project* British Library R & D Report 5995. London: British Library Board.

Markless, S. *et al.* (1992) *Cultivating information skills in further education: eleven case studies* LIR 86. London: British Library.

Morrison, M. and Markless, S. (1992) *Enhancing information skills in further education: some strategies* Research Paper 99. London: British Library.

Streatfield, D.R. and Markless, S. (1994) *Invisible learning? The contribution of school libraries to teaching and learning* LIR 98. London: British Library.

Markless, S. and Streatfield, D.R. (1995) *From poor house to power house* Teaching Today Series. London: BBC Education.

Markless, S. and Streatfield, D.R. (1997) 'Expensive and expendable? The role of FE college libraries in resource-based learning' in Hayes, D. (ed.) *Debating education: issues for the new millennium* Canterbury: Christ Church College.

Streatfield, D.R. and Markless, S. (1997) *The effective college library* British library R and I Report 21 Bristol: Further Education Development Agency.

Markless, S. and Streatfield, D. R. (2000) *The really effective college library* Library and Information Commission Research Report 51 Twickenham, Middx.: Information Management Associates for the LIC 2000 ISBN 0-9538432-2-X

Markless, S. and Streatfield, D. R. (2000) *Schools library services: from survival to growth?* LIC Research report 49 Twickenham, Middx.: IMA for the LIC 2000 ISBN 0-9538432-3-8

Streatfield, D. R., Markless, S. and others (2000) *Best Value and better performance in libraries* LIC Research Report 52 Twickenham, Middx.: IMA for the LIC 2000 ISBN 0-9538432-1-1

Streatfield, D.R. and Markless, S. (2002) *Review of the benefits of library use in schools: briefing paper prepared for the Department of Education and Skills* London: Re:source

Streatfield, D.R. and Markless, S. (2002) *Critical evaluation of the Library and Information Commission Value and Impact Programme: report for Re:source*

Markless, S. and Streatfield, D.R. (forthcoming) *New tools for learning: information skills and library use in schools* [prepared with a BL RIC grant].

## 7 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

- 1986 (September) *The role of the library in delivering information skills.* University of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1986 (September) *Developing information skills in schools.* Two papers. *Reading to Learn* Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1988 (December) *Teaching information skills: strategies for teachers.* Course at Institute of Teacher Training, Penang, Malaysia.
- 1989 (September) *Critical thinking skills in the UK context.* Lecture: Educational Testing Service, Princeton, USA
- 1990 (February) *Learning how to learn in the primary school.* A series of lectures and workshops: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Ministry of Education
- 1992 (November) *Information skills in the primary curriculum.* Course for the Ministry of Education, Malacca, Malaysia.
- 1994 (September) *The effective school library.* University of Tampere, Finland.
- 1994 (September) *Information skills, flexible learning and the college library.* Polytechnic of Oulu, Finland.
- 1995 (October) *The role of the librarian in school.* Keynote lecture: International Baccalaureate Conference, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1995 (November) *Invisible learning: information skills development and the library.* . Keynote paper: *New approaches to learning* Conference, Abo Academy, Turku, Finland
- 1996 (November) *Information skills and the new roles of the librarian.* Conference for Information Professionals in Academic Libraries, Swedish Business School, Helsinki, Finland
- 1996 (November) *Teaching information skills collaboratively.* Course for librarians and teachers from Sweden and Finland, Helsinki, Finland

- 1996 (December) *Librarians: new roles, new skills.* Course for academic librarians: University of Oporto, Portugal
- 1998 (July) *The Effective School Library.* Workshop for primary and secondary school teachers and librarians: University of Oporto, Portugal. Part of a major national development programme for school libraries
- 1999 (July) *User education: from instruction to learning?* Irish National and University Libraries Conference, Dublin
- 2001 (April) *Teaching information skills through IC* Workshop for School Librarians, Hong Kong
- 2002 (August) *Learning about learning rather than about teaching* Invited paper, International Federation of Library Associations Conference, Glasgow.