Online Education: Teaching in a Time of Change

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Locked down but not locked out – Opening up learning at The National Archives during the global pandemic.

• Author(s) Name:

Andrew Payne

• University or Company Affiliation:

The National Archives of the United Kingdom

• Abstract (300 words):

Over recent years The National Archives Education Service has hugely expanded both its reach and range of activity, teaching 15,000 students a year via onsite and online workshops and running creative response programmes using the collection to inspire students to make films, produce drama and write graphic novels. In March 2020 all of this activity came to an abrupt halt with the closures of our building to the public in response to the global pandemic. Since then no students have entered the archives building at Kew, but we have continued to reach and teach more students than ever before and to continue to inspire creative projects as well as curriculum-based learning. Through a combination of innovative reworking of established methods and the application of technology to enable both live and pre-recorded sessions we have risen to the challenge of lockdown learning. The response has been phenomenal as teachers, students, carers and colleagues have worked together to produce our most exciting year of activity to date. In this presentation Andrew Payne, Head of Education and Outreach, will provide an overview of the challenge that was presented, the response that was made and
outcomes that have been achieved and the lasting impact that it will have on our services.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Andrew Payne is Head of Education and Outreach at The National Archives in the UK where he leads the development and delivery of services for teachers, students, families and community groups. He is a graduate in Medieval and Modern History from the University of Liverpool, where he also trained as a History and ICT teacher and completed his Masters in Business Administration. He has taught History and Politics at secondary (high school) level, been an educational software developer and teacher trainer before joining The National Archives in 2006. He was made a Fellow of the Historical Association in 2013 for services to History Education and is a co-founder of the annual International Winter School for Archives training programme in using archival collections for education and community health projects. He has always been a strong advocate for the power of technology to open up access to archival collections for audiences of all ages and abilities. His team have won multiple international awards for their digital learning resources including two British Education and Teaching Technology (BETT) Awards, a Focal International Award and the MEDEA Award and Jury Special Prize for exceptional innovation.