



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## **About us**

[Libraries Unlimited](#) is a staff and community owned charity. Our services include 54 public libraries and 4 mobile libraries in communities across [Devon](#) and [Torbay](#); [FabLab Devon](#) and our [Business and IP Centre](#). We believe in the unlimited potential of library services to make a positive difference to people's lives and communities through a shared love of reading, inspiring spaces and a wide range of high-quality information, resources, support and events.

[Evolve](#) is an imaginative programme of events and artworks within Devon's libraries, delivered by us, in partnership with artists and communities and funded by Arts Council England.

Your library card is a key that unlocks a world of opportunities, knowledge, imagination and experiences, and a wealth of people to help you navigate it. Explore the latest offering within your local library, and discover a world of technology, adventure, storytelling and creativity.

Evolve brings to life your much-loved stories, historical tales and events and some of our favourite literature through animation, digital screenings, touch-activated technology, virtual reality and integrated artworks.

## **Context**

In mid-2021 Libraries Unlimited will be launching a new interactive artwork entitled 'Unlocking the Cage' to tour across our Devon Libraries. Unlocking the Cage is an augmented and mixed reality experience based upon Kim Sherwood's original essay 'Unlocking the Cage: Women in and Behind the Exeter Library Rare and Early Printed Books Special'.

"There are over eight hundred books in the Rare and Early Printed Books Special Collection at Exeter Library. These books are sealed away in the basement, in a room known as the Cage. Women wrote eight of them" - Kim Sherwood.

The content for this experience draws on the writings and research of Kim Sherwood and is specifically focused on several women writers who feature in the Rare and Early Printed Books Special Collection at Exeter Library. The collection is dominated by male authors. With over eight hundred books, the collection includes just eight books written by women, reflecting our male-dominated literary canon. However, just as the canon is both subjective and skewed, this is not a true representation of the role of women writers in our literary history. 'Unlocking the Cage' seeks to highlight the women writers in the collection, who are some of the most important poets, translators, critics, and novelists of the eighteenth century, a time of great change for women intellectuals. The project also seeks to highlight the women who donated to the collection, many of whom were writers themselves.

The experience uses a combination of sound, music and 3D animations which are presented as a series of seven AR 'portraits'. A printed book containing approximately 15 pages of images and short texts is used as the trigger source for the AR portraits. When 'spawned', each portrait augments and merges with the world around the audience, bringing to life Kim's research and writing. The portraits are experienced via a companion application. When viewed through a screen, the printed book's text and illustrations trigger music, soundscapes and 3D animations to emerge from the pages of the book.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## **What are we looking for?**

To accompany the launch of this installation we are looking for an independent female, or female identifying, curator to curate and programme a bold collection of pre-recorded online performances, workshops and talks around the theme of 'Extraordinary Women'. These can be events around the specific content in the artwork, or more generally around the theme.

Given the nature of this time, we are imagining that the vast majority of this programming will be digital, but we are open to a blended programme.

We are interested in programming that explores the themes of activism, empowerment & celebration with both a local, national and international slant.

As part of this engagement we would like you to engage with one of the staff team members at Exeter Library (who are also booking some literary events around this theme) to both ensure a coherency in programming and also as an opportunity for them to engage with an independent curator.

## **Output and deliverables**

We do not have a fixed view of how many events & workshops will need to be programmed but will expect them to be of excellent quality and relevance.

We would like all events to represent a diversity of voices while monopolising on the potentially very popular theme. In some ways we see this wraparound programme as a way of bringing a larger audience to the artwork, as well as using the idea of a library as education space to explore some of the wider themes of the work.

We would like all events to be prepared and delivered (in pre-recorded format) by 21st March 2020.

## **Fees:**

Fee for curator - £2000

Budget for programme - £3000

If you are interested in this post please send CV and covering letter explaining why you would be excited to explore this opportunity as well as your approach to:

[evolve@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:evolve@librariesunlimited.org.uk) by 5pm 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.