

## **Richard Temple (Senate House Library), University of London Research Library Services**

IALHI Conference, Rome, 6-8 September 2007

<http://www.ialhi.org/rome2007/sala.pdf> | <http://www.ialhi.org/>

The University of London Research Library Services (ULRLS), which comprises Senate House Library and the libraries of the School of Advanced Study, has spent the past 18 months developing an electronic catalogue for ULRLS archives and manuscripts. The catalogue, which was launched in June, complements the descriptions of printed books, periodicals and other publications on the libraries' Innopac catalogue and makes descriptions of more than 2,000 unique archive collections searchable online in one place for the first time. It is interesting to compare notes with other IALHI institutions which have used the ADLIB archive module. Our experience at Senate House Library, which includes inputting sixty-five catalogues to file level, has been a positive one.

The catalogue includes plenty of material of interest to labour historians. In particular, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies holds numerous collections relating to trades unions in Commonwealth countries in the twentieth century. The Institute of Commonwealth Studies' holdings also include the papers of the Marxist historian, C.L.R. James while the Institute of Germanic Studies holds archives of the Communist and historian, Yvonne Kapp. Among the holdings at Senate House Library are the papers of Al Richardson (1941-2003) and Jim Higgins (1930-2002).

This large archive includes Trotskyist journals and pamphlets, 1930s-2003, from many countries, including such diverse nations as the United States, Chile and Sri Lanka. In addition, there are a considerable number of minutes, circulars and discussion papers chronicling various Trotskyist movements in Britain. Senate House Library also holds some papers of John Burns (1858-1943), the trade unionist who became the first working-class Cabinet minister in Britain.

These complement the Burns library, an extensive collection which was transferred to Senate House Library from the Trades Union Congress Library.