

Resources and opportunities in public engagement

Author: Dee-Ann Johnson, The University of Manchester. (Updated 9 March 2012)

Here are some resources and opportunities available to you to help and support your public engagement activity. For a more detailed list with associated web links please visit the public engagement section of the Vitae website:

<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/publicengagement>

The advice and ideas in these resources can be transferred from one discipline area to another so try not to limit yourself to those within your own research area.

Guides & Online Resources:

(ARHC) Raising the profile of your research thorough the media

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/News/Documents/mediaguide.pdf>

(BBSRC) Communicating with the public: guidance notes

<http://www.communicatingastronomy.org/repository/guides/cwtp.pdf>

(BBSRC) Raising the Media Profile of Your Research

http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Publications/media_profile.pdf

(BBSRC) Guide to presenting at Public Exhibitions

http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Exhibitions/presenting_science.pdf

(BIS) A Vision for Science and Society – consultation on developing a new strategy for the UK (online) and outcome reports

<http://interactive.bis.gov.uk/scienceandsociety/site/>

(British Science Association) People and Science (Magazine published quarterly)

<http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/news/reportsandpublications/magazine/index.htm>

(EPSRC) Partnerships for Public Engagement (PPE) Good Practice Guide

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/pe/ppe/Pages/goodpractice.aspx>

(EPSRC) Pioneer (Magazine published quarterly – Find out how research is making a difference)

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/pubs/mags/pioneer/Pages/default.aspx>

(ESRC) Society Now (Published 3 times year – social science research can contribute to better policymaking and, ultimately, a better society.) (Spring 2009 edition of In Focus Supplement featured a PE special)

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/society-now/>

(ESRC) Working with the Media: A guide to best practice

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/tools-and-resources/impact-toolkit/tools/media/campaign/working-with-media.aspx>

(ESRC) Impact Toolkit (online)

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/tools-and-resources/impact-toolkit/index.aspx>

(European Commission) A guide to successful communications and Communicating Science: A Scientist's Survival Kit

http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/science-communication/index_en.htm

(DTI) Going Public: an introduction to communicating science, engineering & technology

(Michael Kenwood) (pdf only online)

http://www.communicatingastronomy.org/repository/guides/g_public.pdf

(LSE) The Impact of Social Sciences blog is for people interested in maximising the impact of academic work in the social sciences and other disciplines.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/>

(NERC) Engaging the Public with Your Research

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/guidance/comyourideas.asp>

(NERC) Planet Earth (Magazine aimed at non-specialists with an interest in environmental science)

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/planetearth/>

(NSERC) Communicating Science to the Public: a handbook for researchers (pdf only online)

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/doc/CommSci_eng.pdf

(RCUK) Dialogue with the Public: Practical Guidelines

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/scisoc/dialogue.pdf>

(RCUK) Public Engagement with Research Strategy

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/per/Pages/PERStrategy.aspx>

(RCUK) Engaging Young People with Cutting Edge Research: a guide for researchers and teachers

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/per/Pages/PERStrategy.aspx>

(RCUK) What's in it for me? The benefits of public engagement for researchers

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/scisoc/RCUKBenefitsofPE.pdf>

(RCUK) Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research and NCCPE Stakeholder Briefings

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/per/Pages/Concordat.aspx>

(Science Media Centre) Top Tips for Media Work: A guide for scientists

<http://www.sciencemediacentre.org/pages/publications/>

(Sciencewise) The Road Ahead: Public Dialogue on Science and Technology

<http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/the-road-ahead/>

(Sense about Science) There Goes the Science Bit... Standing up for Science and Standing up for Science 2 – the nuts and bolts

<http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/>

(SciDevNet) Practical guides to science communication

<http://www.scidev.net/en/science-communication/practical-guides/>

(Royal Society) Scientists and the Media

<http://www.communicatingastronomy.org/repository/guides/document-105.pdf>

(Royal Society) Factors affecting science communication: a survey of scientists and engineers

<http://royalsociety.org/Factors-Affecting-Science-Communication/>

(Wellcome Trust) Why Work with the Media?

http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/stellent/groups/corporatesite/@policy_communications/documents/web_document/wtx053692.pdf

(Wellcome Trust) Engaging Science: Thoughts, Analysis and Actions

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Publications/Books/WTX032706.htm>

(Higher Education Academy Physical Sciences Centre, the Institute of Physics and the Royal Society of Chemistry Outreach): A guide to working with schools and colleges

http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/ps/documents/practice_guides/practice_guides/ps0079_outreach_a_guide_to_working_with_schools_and_colleges_nov_2004.pdf

(Higher Education Academy: Engineering Outreach – A Guide to Working With Schools

<http://www.engsc.ac.uk/downloads/guides/outreach.pdf>

Institute of Physics: A Guide to Good Practice in Public Engagement with Physics

http://www.iop.org/activity/outreach/resources/page_39570.html

NHS National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Community Engagement

<http://www.nice.org.uk/PH009>

Eloquent Science blog

<http://eloquentscience.com/category/blog/>

Psci-com Bibliographic Database

<http://psci-com.ac.uk/>

Association of British Writers

<http://www.absw.org.uk/>

Communicate Toolkit (BNHM, collection of resources for environmental and conservation professionals)

<http://toolkit.communicatenow.org/?q=home>

Dialogue Academy

<http://www.dialogueacademy.org.uk/>

The Collective Memory - a place to share learning from sci-comms activities.

<http://collectivememory.britishtscienceassociation.org/>

Social Media and Science- an introduction to Social Media for the sci-comms community and give an idea of what's out there.

<http://scicomms.wikidot.com>

(Research Information Network) Social Media A Guide For Researchers

<http://www.rin.ac.uk/our-work/communicating-and-disseminating-research/social-media-guide-researchers>

Vidiowiki - a community of researchers from around the world talking about their work and why it's interesting, in 3 minutes or less at a time.

<http://www.vidiowiki.com/>

Communicate Conference - for environmental communicators and a helpful toolkit of presentations and resources presented at this conference.

<http://www.bnhc.org.uk/home/communicate.html>

SciTalk: Connecting writers and scientists

<http://www.scitalk.org.uk/>

Vitae Public Engagement Blog and Engaging Researcher booklet

<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/374241/Public-engagement.html>

Public Attitudes to Science (PAS) 2011

<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2764/Public-attitudes-to-science-2011.aspx>

Good Practice Examples – Online (podcasts & blogs)

Science based podcasts - The British Council lists the best science based podcasts; many of them originally setup up by researchers or academics.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/talkingscience-av-web-resources-podcasts.htm>

Jodcast – A podcast about astronomy including the latest news, what you can see in the night sky, interviews with astronomers. Created by the University of Manchester's Jodrell Bank

<http://www.jodcast.net/>

The Barometer – A podcast about interesting stuff from the World of atmospheric science and climate". From The University of Manchester Centre for Atmospheric Science.

<http://thebarometer.podbean.com/>

RadioLab - Stories about science, philosophy and human experience

<http://www.radiolab.org/series/podcasts/>

Answer Me This

<http://answermethis.wordpress.com/>

The Naked Scientists

<http://www.thenakedscientists.com/>

Alice Bell, Imperial College London, Blog

<http://alicerosebell.wordpress.com/> (and take a look at the post

<http://doctoralicebell.blogspot.com/2010/07/blogs-science-communication-student.html>)

Geek Pop – Musicians from around the globe in a gleeful celebration of geek culture.

<http://geekpop.podbean.com/>

Cancer Research UK Blog

<http://scienceblog.cancerresearchuk.org/>

Ed Yong – award winning science writer

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/notrocketscience/>

(ESRC) Social Science for Schools

<http://www.socialscienceforschools.org.uk/>

LSE Impact of Social Sciences

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/>

SciCast - Discover your film-making talent, share your science knowledge, entertain the world

<http://scicast.org.uk/>

Pulse Project – podcasting, university lectures and science education

<http://www.pulse-project.org/>

Public Engagement Evaluation Resources:

Manchester Beacon Evaluation Guide (2011)

<http://beaconmirror2.ohdev.co.uk/files/manchester-beacon-pe-evaluation-guide.pdf>

Practical Guidelines: Evaluation (2011) is for projects intended to engage general audiences in the social, ethical and political issues raised by the science, technology and engineering research. (RCUK, NCCPE, BIS)

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/policy/Pages/Evaluation.aspx>

Making a Difference: A guide to evaluating public participation in central government (INVOLVE)

<http://www.involve.org.uk/evaluation-guide/index.shtml>

UCL Evaluating Your Public Events

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-engagement/research/toolkits/Event_Evaluation

Ingenious evaluation toolkit. This online toolkit contains resources for grant holders to evaluate their Ingenious projects and share good practice.

http://www.raeng.org.uk/societygov/public_engagement/ingenious/evaluation.htm

Does it work? Better evaluation: better STEM (2009). The National STEM Centre has developed guidance for organisations undertaking first evaluations

<http://www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/stem-programme/evaluation>

The Science Communication Unit at the University of West England have published a series of evaluations on their website.

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/sciencecommunicationunit/presentationsandpublications.aspx>

Organisations & Networks:

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/fundingOpportunities/Pages/BrowseOpportunities.aspx>

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) (includes *School Regional Champions* is a grant scheme for creative public engagement with schools.)

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/society/>

Bright Club (London, Manchester, Wales, York, Edinburgh)

<http://www.brightclub.org/>

British Council (Talking Science)

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/talkingscience.htm>

British Interactive Group

<http://www.big.uk.com/>

British Science Association

<http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/>

Connecting Science

www.connectingscience.org/

Connection Factory

<http://www.connectionfactory.org.uk/>

Crescent Network (Greater Manchester)

<http://crescent-network.ning.com/>

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/>

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

FutureMorph – careers and role models across STEM

<http://www.futuremorph.org/>

Hidden Science Map

<http://www.hiddensciencemap.org/>

Institute of Physics

<http://www.iop.org/activity/outreach/index.html>

Manchester Geek Girls - a not-for-profit group, running the dinners, tea parties, and working with other groups and organisations in Manchester such as MadLab, Arcspace, the Manchester Science Festival and the Manchester Digital Development Agency (MDDA).

<http://www.manchestergirlgeeks.com/about/>

Maths Busking - aims to show the public the surprising and fascinating side of mathematics through the medium of street performance.

<http://www.mathsbusking.com/>

Medical Research Council (MRC)

<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Sciencesociety/index.htm>

National Association of Science Writers (Communicating Science News)

www.nasw.org/resource/pios/csn/index.htm

National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) including toolkits and engagement guides

<http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/>

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/using/>

Office of Science and Innovation, Science and Society Unit

www.dius.gov.uk/science/science_and_society

PeopleandParticipation.net

<http://www.peopleandparticipation.net/display/Involve/Home>

Sense about Science (and Voice of Young Scientists)

<http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/>

Science: So What – so everything (archive)

<http://tna.europarchive.org/20100630051843/http://sciencesowhat.direct.gov.uk/>

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET) & STEMNetworking

<http://www.stemnet.org.uk/>

<http://networking.stemnet.org.uk/>

Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine Public Relations Association (STEMPRA)

<http://www.stempira.org.uk/>

Sciencewise Expert Resource Centre for Public Dialogue In Science and Innovation

<http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/>

Society of Chemical Industry - Catalyst Science Club

<http://www.catalyst.org.uk/index.htm>

The STEM Directories

<http://www.stemdirectories.org.uk/>

Research Council UK Public Engagement Unit

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/sis/default.htm>

Royal Academy for Engineering Society & Government (includes *Ingenious* is a grant scheme for creative public engagement with engineering projects.)

<http://raeng.org.uk/societygov/default.htm>

The Royal Society (includes Partnership Grants which helps schools to run exciting and innovative projects in partnership with a professional scientist or engineer)

<http://royalsociety.org/>

Royal Society of Arts

<http://www.thersa.org>

Wellcome Trust

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Public-engagement/index.htm>

Note: *A number of professional bodies offer outreach programmes and funding for researchers to participate in public engagement activities. We've listed just a few of them here, but encourage you to check out other opportunities with professional bodies in your research discipline.*

Beacons for Public Engagement

The Beacons are university-based collaborative centres that are working to support, recognise, reward and build capacity for public engagement. The Beacon websites provide a wealth of local advice opportunities, events, training, funding and more...

Manchester Beacon for Public Engagement

<http://www.manchesterbeacon.org/>

Edinburgh Beltane

<http://www.edinburghbeltane.net/>

Beacon North East

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/beacon/>

CUE East

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/ssf/cue-east>

Engaging Wales (Beacon for Wales)

<http://www.engagingwales.org/>

UCL Public Engagement Unit

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-engagement/>

Events / Opportunities:

Cafe Scientifique

<http://www.cafescientifique.org/>

Junior Café Scientifique

<http://www.juniorcafesci.org.uk/>

I'm a Scientist (Get me out of here)

<http://imascientist.org.uk/>

Lab in a Lorry (Scotland)

<http://www.labinalorry.org/>

Media Fellowships (British Science Association)

<http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/scienceinsociety/MediaFellowships/>

National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) & Crucible

<http://www.nesta.org.uk/crucible/>

New Outlooks in Science & Engineering (NOISEmakers)

<http://www.noisemakers.org.uk/>

Nuffield Bursaries

<http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/science-bursaries-schools-and-colleges>

SciBars*

<http://www.scibar.info/> and <http://www.knutsford-scibar.co.uk/>

STEM Ambassadors

<http://www.stemnet.org.uk/content/ambassadors/whoareambassadors>

National HE STEM Programme

<http://www.hestem.ac.uk/>

Royal Society Pairing Scheme

<http://royalsociety.org/>

The Big Draw, Campaign for Drawing

<http://www.campaignfordrawing.org/>

Widening Participation, Volunteering & Community Engagement*

Note: *Many UK universities offer these schemes and opportunities. They may have an outreach or public engagement unit.

Festivals: just some of...

Bangor Science Festival

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/bangorsciencefestival>

Brighton Science Festival

<http://www.brightonscience.com/>

British Science Festival

<http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/BritishScienceFestival/index.htm>

Cambridge Festival of Ideas

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/whatson/ideafestival/>

Cambridge Science Festival

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/sciencefestival/>

Cheltenham Science Festival

<http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science>

Dundee Science Festival

<http://www.dundeesciencefestival.org/>

Edinburgh International Science Festival

<http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/>

Festival of British Archaeology

<http://festival.britarch.ac.uk/>

Festival of Nature

<http://www.bnhc.org.uk/home/festival.html>

Festival of Social Science (ESRC)

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/index.aspx>

Highland Science Festival

<http://www.highlandsciencefestival.com/>

Leeds Festival of Science

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ace/access/festivalofscience.htm>

London Science Festival

<http://www.londonsciencefestival.com/>

Manchester Histories Festival

<http://www.manchesterhistoriesfestival.org.uk/>

Manchester Science Festival

<http://www.manchestersciencefestival.com/>

National Science and Engineering Week (British Science Association)
<http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/nsew/>

Newcastle Science Festival
<http://www.newcastlesciencefest.co.uk/>

Oxfordshire Science Festival
<http://www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.co.uk/>

Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition
<http://royalsociety.org/Summer-Science/>

The Big Bang
<http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/>

Pestival
<http://pestival.org/>

TechFest (North Scotland)
<http://www.techfestsetpoint.org.uk/tis/>

Wrexham Science Festival
<http://www.wrexhamsf.com/>

York Festival of Science & Technology
<http://www.yorkfestivals.com/metadot/index.pl?iid=2749&isa=Category>

Competitions:

Junk the Jargon (The University of Manchester & Queen Mary University)
<http://sites.google.com/site/junkthejargon/>

Famelab
<http://famelab.org/>

SET for BRITAIN – Scientific Poster Competition
<http://www.SETforBRITAIN.org.uk>

Graduate Junction Online Poster Competition
<http://www.graduatejunction.net/posters>