Collaborative Dialogues and Autonomous Practice

110 2# †a LCC Special Collections Librarians.
245 10 †a Practice : †b Special Collections and Decolonisation, / †c Monica-carmela Sajeva and Ruth Collingwood.
260 ## †a [London] : †b LCC Special Collections Librarians, †c [2018].
300 ## †a [14] p. : †b ill. (chiefly col.) ; †c 21 cm.
500 ## †a Originally presented as the zine exhibition catalogue for the Decolonising the Arts Curriculum zine LCC exhibition 4th – 31st Oct 2018.
500 ## †a Originally presented as the Contextual Review for the PGCert Self-initiated Project unit – What is the pedagogical role of librarians within the Decolonisation movement at UAL.
500 ## †a Edition one: Print run 30; Edition two: Print run 600+; Extended edition: print run: 5.
502 ## †a PGCert in Academic Practice †b University of the Arts London †c London.
504 ## †a Bibliography, extended edition: p. [15 -16].
508 ## †a Editorial design, Richard Marston
520 ## †a ‘LCC Library’s Printing Historical Collection charts the history and art of the Western book, reflecting its physical, technical and aesthetic development from the 15th to 21st centuries. The foundations of the collection were laid in the 1960s. The collection is therefore historical and can be problematic in that representation of certain voices is higher in printing history and mainstream published works; namely, the voice of the white, middle-class, European male. Just as ‘colonial perceptions and mindsets are embedded into the fabric of our institutional structures’ (Hansika Jethnani, 2018, Decolonising the Arts Curriculum zine) so they are embedded within our library collections. LCC special collection librarians seek to challenge these dominant voices, to recognise the multiple, systemic barriers and multiple forms of prejudice faced by those who sit outside of the dominant culture and the ways in which their voices have been erased or silenced in printing and publishing history. Decolonising collections is one part of a broader critical practice with which we aim to ensure collection development is as diverse and inclusive as possible. We are diversifying our
collections to be inclusive of BAME voices, culturally diverse voices, international voices, women’s voices, LGBTQ+ voices, working class voices... ” [extract taken from the publication]

520 # a  ‘This exhibition has been co-curated by UAL Associate Lecturer Rahul Patel, LCC special collection librarians Ruth Collingwood and Monica-carmela Sajeva, and LCC Academic staff Mo-Ling Chui, Karl Foster and Maureen Salmon. Content from the zine is displayed alongside items from academic staff members’ own personal collections and LCC library special collections’ [extract taken from the colophon].

650 # a Decolonisation

650 # a Professional Practice

700 10 # a Sajeva, Monica-carmela

700 10 # a Collingwood, Ruth

Practice: Special Collections and Decolonisation found its way into print through several urgent actions at UAL: the Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) elective unit 'Inclusive learning and teaching in higher education' (ILTHE) and UAL’s decolonisation movement.

The Decolonising the Arts Curriculum zine exhibition at LCC in October 2018 required a response from the Special Collections librarians while the PCert ILTHE elective unit provided the literature to create a contextual framework for our pedagogical practice as special collection librarians.

Practice was only ever intended as a short run of 30 copies for the LCC PV of the Decolonising the Arts Curriculum zine exhibition. To date there has been over 600 copies printed and it has been cited in various contexts by the UAL library service both nationally and internationally.

Aside from its successful take up by the institution it serves as a testament to librarianship’s commitment to the values of democracy and critical activism.