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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Author(s): Halfpenny, G.

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BOOK REVIEW

The local museum - notes for amateur curators  
by Area Museum Service for South Eastern England  
A4, 72pp.  
£5 (inc. p.& p.) ISBN 0 904752 02 X

This booklet is similar in outline to AIM GUIDELINES No.2 Setting up and Running a New Museum but with extra information and updatings since the first edition of that publication in November 1980.

Nine main sections outline Thinking and planning; Museum management; Collecting and documenting; The enemies and how to defeat them (security of collections); Conservation; Displays; Reserve collections; Exhibitions and events and finally The visitor.

The few criticisms I have relate to sub-section 5.3 Pests as several of the scientific names under the insect illustrations are incorrect (largely typing errors) and I feel that scale bars by the drawings would be better than magnification values. Some biology curators may also question the statement on page 30 that booklice ... "are a symptom of bad conditions rather than an active threat.". They may take longer than some other pests to damage collections but given the chance, damage them they will!

The use of chemicals such as Vapona and Paradichlorobenzene are mentioned and a note to take care is included. A reprint would I am sure benefit from the information in J. Lee's Pesticides in Museums article in BCG Newsletter Vol.3 Part 10.

Following initial apprehension on reviewing this publication aimed at the "amateur" curator within the pages of our "professional" newsletter, particularly as there are relatively few references to the natural sciences, I was pleased to find it well structured, informative, professionally sound and worthy of the attention of any curator.

G. Halfpenny