



Introduction

GLAM Racket is a bold new partnership between public galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM) and community radio. We take the energy of library-led cultural life and broadcast it outwards, reaching people who can't always access us physically or digitally; giving events and activities a second life; amplifying local history, archives and contemporary collecting; and giving our communities the chance to make a joyful racket.

The key partners are Resonance FM, a community radio broadcaster, and London Libraries, the London region of Libraries Connected and includes all 32 boroughs and the City of London.

Following the endorsement and financial commitment of £100 per year for 3 years for match funding from the 33 London Libraries Heads of Service, GLAM Racket was invited to the London Libraries Conference 2025 to share the project more widely.

GLAM Racket staffed a stall during the conference and led a workshop where the project was introduced, and its opportunities and challenges were discussed. Attending the workshop, Edward Jewell, President of Libraries Connected, said that GLAM Racket is "fantastic."

Below is a summary of the discussions, followed by information presented at the workshop and to the heads of the London Libraries.

See the appendices for the GLAM Racket Presentation, the prompts/questions used in the workshop, and the Camden Libraries presentation by Abul Kashim, Digital, Learning, and Programme Manager.



Barbara Mukoda on Flute

CALL OUT FOR PILOT SHOWS

For more information or to get involved and help create some radio shows to showcase your GLAM services and communities, visit glamracket.org or telephone **0203 974 1106**.

Peter Baxter
Producer/Project Manager
GLAM Racket



Summary of Discussion from the GLAM Racket Workshop and Stall at the London Libraries Conference 2025

In the workshop, participants listened to a series of podcast and audio excerpts from Lewisham, Westminster, City of London, and independent broadcaster Kate Thompson. Time ran out to listen to Camden and Brent examples but they were discussed. Each example demonstrated a different way in which library-led GLAM services and partners utilise audio to share stories, spotlight events, and celebrate community voices.

After each clip, participants took part in short activities, reflecting on how similar approaches could work in their own libraries — from creating introductions and inviting “guest voices” to amplifying partnerships, capturing staff stories, recording local memories, and collaborating with artists. The workshop generated practical ideas for future library-led audio projects.

What landed well:

- Amplification, not extra work: Strong appetite to capture what already happens in libraries GLAM services and give it a second life via radio/podcasts rather than inventing new events.
- Right partner: Resonance FM viewed as a good fit (editorial freedom, FM reach for digitally excluded; complements podcasts).
- Diverse content ideas: From author events and youth voices to hyper-local history, “sound of the building,” market-stall interviews, refurb stories, and prison-library work.
- Confidence & skills: Staff and partners gain presenting/interview skills; young people build voice and confidence.
- Advocacy value: Staff stories and hidden histories can shift public perception of libraries and evidence value to funders.

Concerns and Constraints

- Capacity: Staff time and coordination; attendance at live events is variable, recording alleviates this but editing/admin still needed.
- Permissions: Clear, lightweight consent is essential (esp. local authority standards, safeguarding, music/testimony/copyright).
- Kit and acoustics: Need simple setups for busy spaces (phones can work; small recorders/wireless mics help).
- Administration: A lead/admin authority is needed for funding applications and logistics; heads of service asked GLAM Racket to keep match funding low.

Opportunities

- Pilot sites: Several services expressed interest, incl. those refurbishing spaces to include podcast/record booths.
- Archive alignment: Strong link to archives/local history; potential to re-use legacy recordings (e.g., oral histories), and document building histories.
- Partnerships: Artists/poets/musicians, schools, public historians, and community radio—plus notable local figures for reach.

- Accessibility: FM + on-demand podcast gives multi-channel access; useful for home-library users, prisons, and those with limited digital access.

Workflows

- Record what already happens (events, groups, outreach) with phone/portable recorder.
- One-page checklist: mic placement, room noise, intro/outro, file naming.
- Consent at point of capture via short email template (in perpetuity usage for broadcast/archive).
- Central ingest, upload link/portal; basic QC; light edit (levels, trims).
- Weekly radio highlights (3 x 15–20 min borough slots) + archive/podcast extras.
- Attribution pack back to boroughs (audio file + suggested social copy).

Potential Start

- Share the one-page recording checklist and consent email template.
- Agree a loan-kit list (phone tripod, clip-on mic, handheld recorder, 2x wireless lavs).
- Set up a shared upload folder + naming convention.
- Identify 3–5 pilot boroughs with 1–2 “record-ready” activities each.
- Draft a thematic calendar (youth, local history, refurb diaries, staff stories).
- Publish a simple style guide (intros, durations, rights notes).

Funding and Governance notes surfaced

- NLHF funding application to be submitted (heritage focus, archives/museums tie-in); match funding notionally £100 per authority/year for 3 years (≈£10k total).
- Longer-term: pursue ACE for experimental strands once core workflow is proven.
- Need an administrative lead authority or partner to hold the ACE grant and manage central services.

Success indicators

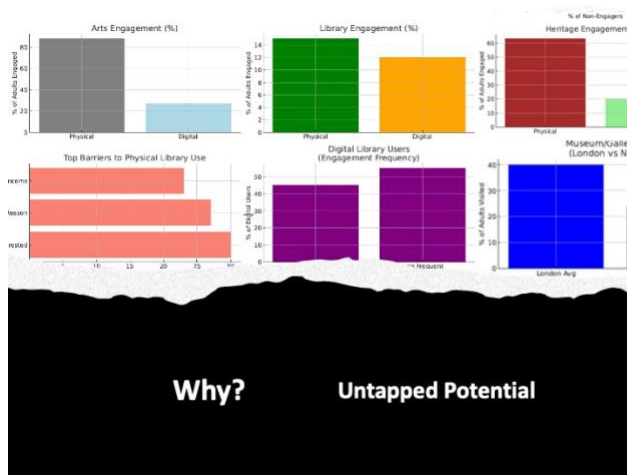
- Boroughs contributing audio and segments aired.
- Unique voices represented (youth, community, staff).
- Growth in on-demand listens and FM mentions.
- Reuse in archives and local studies collections.
- Staff confidence uplift (self-report).
- Examples influencing service design or partnerships.

APPENDICES

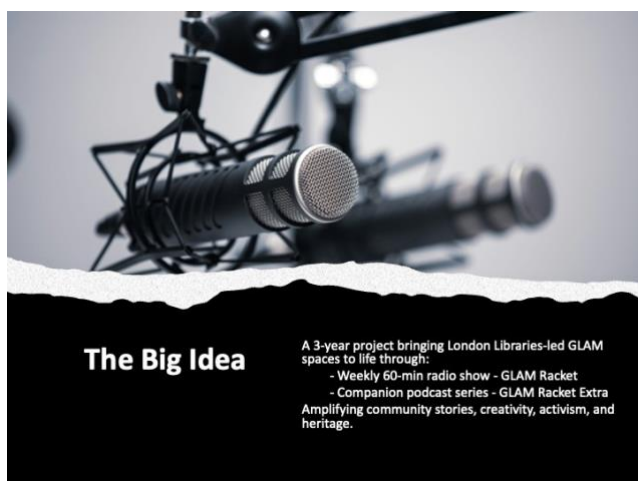
APPENDIX 1: GLAM Racket Presentation (slides not used in workshop)



Amplify GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums) through radio + podcasts



- High physical engagement with culture (80–90%)
- Low digital engagement (27%) = growth area
- Libraries already act as cultural venues
- Reconnect younger/digitally active audiences
- Main barrier: awareness/interest (not access) → GLAM Racket addresses this



- Weekly radio show + companion podcast series
- Authentic, not polished PR — celebrates real voices
- 3-year project: 9 months dev, 2 years broadcast, 3 months evaluation
- Each episode: 3 boroughs, 15–20 mins each
- All 32 boroughs + City featured multiple times



- 3,500+ cultural broadcasts; 375k+ listeners
- Community-focused, inclusive, experimental
- More editorial freedom vs BBC London
- Strong accessibility ethos
- Fits with Universal Offers and local voices



- 60-min weekly radio show (fixed schedule)
- GLAM Racket Extra podcast for extended content
- Podcasts can sit on local authority sites



- Expands reach beyond in-person events
- Engages younger, older, housebound, and under-served groups
- Complements physical events with digital presence
- Builds inclusivity & accessibility
- Authentic grassroots culture, not PR spin
- Diverse, experimental spirit of libraries
- Supports grassroots + non-commercial cultural expression

APPENDIX 2: Prompts/questions used in the workshop (one after each audio clip):

Lewisham – Library Words

- If you were to create a short introduction for your own library service, what is the one thing you'd want your community to hear first?

Westminster – Under The Covers

- Who could be your “guest voice”? A local author, a community member, or even a young reader? What could they share that might surprise or inspire your listeners?

Camden – Let's Talk Camden Libraries

- Think about one existing event or partnership at your library. How could a broadcast amplify it, giving it a life beyond the building or the day of the event?

Kate Thompson – Independent Library Stories

- What untold stories exist within your own staff or volunteers? How might hearing those voices change the way people see the role of the library?

Brent – Becoming Brent

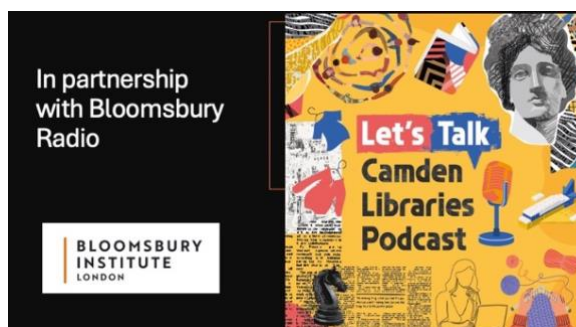
- Are there voices or memories in your community — past or present — that could be shared in a similar way? What local stories deserve to be heard more widely?

City of London – ColCast

- If you could invite an artist, poet, or musician to collaborate with your library, what kind of audio feature could they help create?

APPENDIX 3: Camden Libraries Podcast Example

Presented by Abul.Kashim@camden.gov.uk



- Camden Libraries began a **monthly podcast** through a partnership with the Bloomsbury Festival.
- Each episode features **library staff and local partners** in conversation, highlighting library activities and community work.
- Outcomes:
 - Raised awareness of what libraries offer among **local residents**.
 - Built **confidence in staff** to speak publicly and promote their work.
 - Strengthened **partnerships** with community organisations.
- Podcast topics have included:
 - Windrush and Black History Month**
 - Summer Reading Challenge**
 - Storytelling events**
 - Library refurbishments and new facilities**
- Audience reach has grown — one episode reached up to **15,000 listeners**.
- Future ambition: create **dedicated podcast spaces** in refurbished libraries (e.g. Kilburn, Queen's Crescent), enabling staff and partners to record and host podcasts in-house.
- Sees strong potential for connecting Camden's podcast work with the **GLAM Racket** project.