

**NAME: Karen Latimer**

**POSITION:** Medical & Healthcare Librarian, Queen's University Belfast



**CONTACT DETAILS:**

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**BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE:**

Karen Latimer started her career by working as a library building consultant on an extension and renovation project at the University of Houston where she also worked with a community group on the design for their new public library. For much of her career she was Architecture & Planning Librarian at Queen's University, Belfast before moving into library management. She is Chairman of the Steering Group of Designing Libraries, an initiative by the UK Museums, Libraries and Archives Council to improve the quality of public library design in England, and is Chair of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Library Buildings & Equipment Section. She has published numerous papers on various aspects of librarianship and architectural conservation. Most recently she edited the *IFLA Library Building Guidelines* published by Saur, 2007 and *Modern Ulster Architecture* published by the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society in 2006.

Karen is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (UK) and Chairman of Hearth Housing Association & Revolving Fund, a building preservation trust which restores historic buildings mainly for social housing or for sale. She is an honorary member of the Royal Society of Ulster Architects and was awarded an OBE in 2007 for services to architectural heritage in Northern Ireland.

**FAVOURITE LIBRARY BUILDINGS:**

British Library at St Pancras (Colin St John Wilson)  
Trinity College Dublin (Deane & Woodward)  
Trinity College Cambridge (Christopher Wren)  
Utrecht University Library (Wiel Arets)  
Amsterdam Public Library (Jo Coenen)  
Stockholm Public Library (Gunnar Asplund)  
Carnegie Libraries

**FAVOURITE QUOTATION ABOUT LIBRARY DESIGN:**

We need physical libraries and the books they contain because culture is far more complex than acquisition and assembly of facts. It is about thought and sensation Davey, P. (2001). Arts and the public realm. *Architectural Review*, 220(1225), 38-39.