26th January 2017

Notes on conversation with

**Chris McCabe**

**Poetry Librarian**

The Poetry Library

Level 5

Royal Festival Hall

London SE1 8XX

T: 02079210940

[@wetblackbough](https://twitter.com/WetBlackBough)

[www.poetrylibrary.org.uk](http://www.poetrylibrary.org.uk/)

**Background:**

Poetry Library set up by ACE in 1953

Moved to South Bank in 1988

35% of contact is currently outside London

Collect 300 items a month (mostly contemporary poetry)

Free membership and lending service

Shortly to be renamed NATIONAL Poetry Library

Will start collecting and locating archives of contemporary poets

**What do they have?**

Larkin’s library card

LARKIN wrote introduction to a catalogue (will find correspondence)

Photos of Larkin with Jonathan Barker, the former Librarian, arm round each other, smiling (one librarian to another)

Chris will investigate what else they have….

**Potential interview for AV?**

Chris articulate and erudite on librarianship

Greeks created libraries to create order from chaos

It feels radical to be a custodian of culture

**Next Step:**

Meet at opening of Larkinworld exhibition in London on 2nd Feb and talk more