

The Mercian Collaboration Conference 2022

Redefining Engagement: Connections, Collections
and Communities



On the afternoons of September 6th and
September 7th.
(Online.)

Hosted by Cranfield University



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Welcome to the 2022 Mercian Collaboration Conference hosted by Cranfield University

This year marks the sixth anniversary of Conference and the second year, that the conference has been wholly presented in an online form. A change that neatly reflects our theme for this year: - “Redefining Engagement: Connections, Collections and Communities.

It’s been a challenging time for all of us in libraries, as we grapple with new ways of engaging and supporting students, whilst we adjust to post-pandemic working practices. Yet we’ve all risen to the challenge in different ways and continue to provide support for our library communities. We wanted a conference that reflected our experiences; the good and the bad, and one that celebrates our achievements throughout. We have been fortunate to receive a bumper crop of quality submissions and we have a variety that once again showcases the strengths of our members.

We are delighted to welcome Ant Brewerton as our keynote speaker this year. Ant is going to be interweaving the conference themes of connections, collections, and communities to illustrate how you can redefine engagement with your stakeholder groups.

We are particularly grateful for the tremendous support that we have received from the Cranfield TV Studio Team in making this conference possible.

Thanks also to all of you for attending and – of course – to our sponsors, BibliU, whose contribution have enabled us to hold the event without the need for additional costs to delegates.

We hope you enjoy your time with us at the conference.

Deborah Munro (Mercian Conference Group Chair)

Programme

Tuesday 6th September (Day One) 12:00 – 16:00

12:00 – 12:10	Welcome to Conference Chris Porter- Mercian Chair	
12:10 - 12:15	Welcome to Cranfield Studio Tim Wales – Cranfield University Librarian	
12:15 – 13:00	Keynote Speaker How to be an Engaging Librarian. Ant Brewerton- Associate Director at Bodleian Libraires	
13:00 – 13:10	Keynote Q&A Facilitated by Toby Thompson Studio Director at Cranfield University	
13:10 – 13:20	Short Break	
13.20 – 13.25	Chris Porter to introduce upcoming breakout sessions	
	EDI Short Sessions 1A1, 1A2,1A3	Collections 1B
13:25 – 14:10 Parallel Sessions	Piloting carer passports for the Open University: another angle on EDI. Hilary Johnson Open University	Improving student outcomes with BibliU - a campus-wide case study from Coventry University.
EDI Short Sessions 1A1, 1A2 and 1A3	When two become one: redefining a role, creating new connections and integrating into a new community. Jodie Heap Staffordshire University	Dave Sherwood Bibliu and Coventry Uni.
Collections 1B	Innovations at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth: equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) informing Library Services. Michaela Hollywood	

	National University of Ireland, Maynooth	
14:10 – 14:20	Sessions Q&A	Session Q&A
14:20 – 14:35	Coffee break	
14:35 – 14:40	Welcome back and lead into sessions Chris Porter	
14:40 – 15:25 Parallel Sessions	Collections 2A1, 2A2, 2A3	Research 2B
Collections Short Talks: 2A1, 2A2 and 2A3 Research: 2B	Increasing collections engagement at UoB-how we are dusting off lower use electronic resources and increasing visibility and user engagement. Catherine Robertson and Michael Hart University of Birmingham	Empowering researchers: using personalised action plans to develop researcher engagement with metrics, PIDs and profiles. James Barnett and Vicky Wallace University of Birmingham
	Steady as she goes: establishing the Safepod service at University of Nottingham. Jane Grogan University of Nottingham	
	Archives Alive: bringing letters to life on social media. Claire Browne University of Birmingham	
15:25 – 15:40	Sessions Q&A	Sessions Q&A
15:40 – 15:50	Closing thoughts for the day Toby Thompson	
15:50 – 16:00	Catch up and Coffee	

Wednesday 7th September (Day Two) 12:30 - 16:30

Time	Session	Notes
12:30 – 12:40	Welcome Deborah Munro- Mercian conference Chair	
12:40 – 13:25 Parallel Sessions	Engagement Short Sessions 3A1, 3A2, 3A3	Research 3B
Engagement Short Sessions: 3A1, 3A2 and 3A3	Setting up an open research working group at the University of Wolverhampton. Stuart Bentley University of Wolverhampton	Realigning the Doctoral Training Programme at Loughborough University: determining learning preferences. Jen De Lillo and Nathan Rush Loughborough University
Research 3B	Library engagement through school-based committee meetings. Steve Bull University of Birmingham	
	A picture of health: visual engagement for the disengaged. Jo Dunn University of Worcester	
13:25 – 13:35	Sessions Q&A	Session Q&A
13:35 - 13:45	Break	
13:45 - 13:50	Welcome back and lead into sessions Deborah Munro	

13:50 – 14:35 Parallel Sessions	Engagement Session 4A1 and Short Session 4A2	Collections – Short Sessions 4B1, 4B2 and 4B3
Engagement: Sessions 4A1 and 4A2 Collections: Short Sessions 4B1, 4B2 and 4B3	Approaches to accessible and inclusive staff development: benefits for all. Mercian Staff Development Group and Mercian Disability Forum Task Force:	Good enough: our digital preservation story. Rachel MacGregor University of Warwick
	Redefining research skills teaching: connecting with students to research engagement and retention of online asynchronous teaching. Catherine Taylor Leicester University	A review of students' use of textbooks pre and post Covid-19 pandemic. Nicola Dennis, Kerstin Treder Aston University
		Developing inclusive collections. Tom Hicks & Jenni Jones University of Wolverhampton
14:35 – 14:45	Sessions Q&A	Sessions Q&A
14:45 – 14:55	Break	
14:55-15:00	Welcome back and lead into sessions Deborah Munro, Aston University	
15:00 – 15:30 Parallel Sessions Teaching and Learning short session, 5A1 and lightning talks 5A2 and 5A3 Research 5B1 and 5B2	Teaching and Learning Short Session 5A1, Lightning Talks 5A2, 5A3	Research Short Sessions 5B1, 5B2
	Student engaging students: the revival of the Library newsletter. Kate Courage, Sam Platts, Andy Calvert, Jade Millar and Harry Sun University of Warwick	Playing FAIR. Michelle Mayer, Karen Goodson Coventry University

	<p>Mario Kart, Knitting and Snakes Oh My! - The benefits of library engagement activities. Hayley Chevell Coventry University</p>	<p>Research Data Action Group at Warwick. Dr Ishwar Kapoor University of Warwick</p>
	<p>Working with academics to foster an understanding amongst art and design students that research is fundamental to studio practice. Gill Evans Coventry University</p>	
15:30 – 15:40	Parallel sessions Q&A	Parallel sessions Q&A
15:40 - 15:55	Break	
15:55 – 16:35	<p>Round Table discussion facilitated by Toby Thompson with Karyn Meaden-Pratt (Cranfield University), Chris Porter (Newman University), Tim Wales (Cranfield University), Matt Cunningham (Loughborough University) and Nina Globerson (Warwick University)</p>	
16:35-16:40	<p>Close of Conference Deborah Munro</p>	



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About the Mercian Collaboration

Founded as Midlands Libraries in 2014, the Mercian Collaboration comprises a membership-based network of SCONUL higher education libraries based in the UK midlands, sharing a vision of cooperative development and support. A Board comprised of member library directors acts as the governing body, with developmental and strategic oversight devolved to an elected Steering Group drawn from this Board.

Keep Up to Date with the Mercian Collaboration

To keep up to date with the latest news and events from the Mercian Collaboration, visit our website (merciancollaboration.org.uk), follow us on twitter ([@MercianCollab](https://twitter.com/MercianCollab)) or join the exclusive to Mercian members Jiscmail distribution list: – mercian-collaboration@jiscmail.com.

Mercian Collaboration Special Interest Groups

The Collaboration operates several special interest groups (SIGs), which largely have been instigated by demand from within the membership and guided by the Directors Board's insight. Each of the SIGs benefit from representation drawn from across the member organisations, along with support from a Steering Group sponsor. Each group considers the challenges within the individual thematic areas they address in differing ways, although typically these include hosting events and activities along with facilitating communications and exchanges of insight.

<https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/activities-groups> To learn more about each of the SIGs, contact their chair or your local representative. For information on SIGs in general, or to discuss potential future groups, contact the Mercian Development Officer.

Conference Group (CG): Responsible for the planning, delivery, and review of the annual Collaboration Conference. Chaired by **Deborah Munro** (d.munro@aston.ac.uk), group membership is normally for two years, with people sponsored by their Directors for membership. A call for new group members usually goes out in November each year, following the conference, as other established members stand down.

Copyright Group (MCG): The Mercian Copyright Group is a network of library staff with a responsibility for Copyright guidance and advocacy at their institutions. The

current operational leads for the group are: **Caroline Long** (Aston), **Guy Lavender** (OU), **Emma Sandsby** (BGU) & **Luke Fowler** (Wolverhampton). The group reports and is responsible to the Collaboration's Directors, via the Steering Group and Group Sponsor (**Chris Porter**). Group membership is open to all staff working in member libraries with an interest in copyright, licensing and rights management in any capacity.

The Deputies & Senior Staff Group (D&SSG): As the name suggests, the group is a forum for staff with senior operational and strategic responsibilities within the Collaboration member libraries but who are not the Director (institutional library lead). The intent is to facilitate group members to: exchange experience, participate in horizon scanning, and obtain support for strategic planning and insights into the operationalisation of national agenda items. Unlike most SIGs the D&SSG is not a representative group, but rather an inclusive forum to which all library staff of an appropriate seniority are automatically welcome to contribute and participate.

Marketing and Communications Group (MarCommsG): This SIG has a particular interest in the marketing, promotion, and reputational enhancement of academic libraries. The current (Mar '22 on) operational leads for the group are **Claire Brown** (Birmingham), **Emma Halford-Busby** (Nottingham), **Joe Carey** (Wolverhampton) and **Susan O'Sullivan** (BCU). The group reports and is responsible to the Collaboration's Directors, via the Steering Group and Group Sponsor (**Helen Curtis**). Group membership is open to all staff working in member libraries with an interest in marketing, promotion, advocacy or communications in any capacity.

Mercian Disability Forum (MDF): This SIG brings together library practitioners with an interest in or role relating to supporting accessibility or students with disabilities within higher education. The subgroup is currently chaired by **Simon Satchwell-Giles** (S.SatchwellGiles@staff.newman.ac.uk). For more information on this as well as other activities, membership, and future events, please contact the Group's Committee members.

Mercian Metadata Group (MMG): The members of the MMG have a particular interest in the creation and management of metadata. The interim joint-chairs are **Richard Birley** (BCU) and **William Peaden** (Aston), supported by Group Secretary **Sally Rimmer** (Derby) and **Masniza Sore** (Northampton University) as eForum moderator.

Staff Development Group (MSDG): As a Mercian Collaboration special interest group the SDG has a remit to organise development and training events for library staff within member institutions, aims to:

- Provide opportunities for all levels of staff to share knowledge, exchange ideas, experiences, and good practice.
- Host a number of staff development events throughout the year, such as learning exchanges, workshops and library tours.
- Develop both strategic and operational approaches to the delivery of staff development.
- Advise the Library Directors of the Mercian Collaboration on staff development issues.

The SDG has representatives from each of the Mercian Collaboration libraries and is currently chaired by **Ann-Marie Lee** (Ann-Marie.Lee@bcu.ac.uk) to whom enquiries should be directed.

For Further Enquiries or Information:

For all general enquiries related to the Collaboration, please contact our [General Enquiries email](#). Alternatively contact your respective [Library Director](#), from the membership organisations