



Mercian Collaboration Conference Meeting

Online Meeting Wednesday 25th November 2020

Minutes

Present: Claire Browne (chair), Damian Pugh (vice-chair), Deborah Munro, Matthew Cunningham, Laura Newman, Cheryl Coveney, Emma Walton (sponsor)

Apologies: Gaz Johnson, Alison Charlesworth, Charlie Hill, Christine Bradford

1. New Group Chair and Vice-chair

CB indicated that this would be her last meeting as the chair of the group, and will be stepping down from the group entirely at the end of the month.

DP will be taking over as chair, and DM as vice chair for the 2021 conference.

2. New Members

Two new members are currently confirmed:

- Ruth Houghton from Cranfield University
- Emily Forster from DMU

The director of Bishop Grosseteste library may be in touch with a further volunteer.

ACTION: CB will pass on DP contact details to the above and will pass on email addresses for GJ to update the webpages.

EW also noted that her term on the Mercian steering group will be coming to an end in during the coming year (potentially in March), and new members are actively being sought from among the member directors.

3. Close of 2020

There was a brief discussion about where to keep various documents that have previously been kept on Google drives. These are documents just for the group's info (e.g. day planners, feedback forms, paper submissions), and not for wider dissemination on the web (e.g. agendas and minutes). Also considerations of GDPR discussed.

ACTION: EW to discuss with GJ for recommendations

4. Moving into 2021: Jan Meeting

As noted, DP will take over as chair and so will be arranging the coming meeting in the new year.

Usually in the Jan meeting the group will select roles/areas of interest for the upcoming conference and formally decide on the theme.



Action: EW to check with Mercian steering group if they wish to keep the 2020 inclusion theme, or are open to change.

The group discussed the prospect of the 2021 conference being online, or in person. Was generally agreed that we should prepare for the conference to be online, or at least bi-modal. This was due to a) it being easier to pivot from online to in person than vice-versa, b) member libraries may not have budget capacity to send delegates and c) that there still may be those who are worried about travel.

It was acknowledged that the group would need to allow time to plan and test the tech involved.

CB noted that the conference and events team at Birmingham were offering support for online conferences and for hybrid events (at a cost), and the group could investigate if other institutions have a similar offer.

5. AOB.

EW and DP expressed their thanks to CB for chairing this year and for previous years on the group.

CB offered her thanks to the team (and past members) for making this an engaging, fun experience and for the opportunity as a whole to learn new skills. She wished them all the very best for the coming year.