

## Notes from Mercian Conference Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> January De Montfort University

**In attendance:** Emma Walton (Chair), Carol Barker, Jen Brotherton, Matt Cunningham (SDG rep), Helen Curtis, Rob Davies, Anna Richards, Chloe Turner

**Apologies:** Liz Kennedy

### Membership

Rob now on conference group in place of Claire as she has since left Leicester Library. Claire was a Library Assistant and we must ensure now she is not on the group that ensure this group is catered for.

### Reports about venues

Reports from Chloe, Anna and Carol about Leicester venues

#### Leicester

- City Rooms: Pay for access to whole facilities. About 200. All inclusive. Price/delegate included food refreshments etc.
- Belmont Hotel: Similar price range and facilities - slightly more than city rooms
- Cheapest about 2.5k
- Devonshire Place: Cost 2385 for 90 delegates (plus 26quid booking feed)
- DMU: Free venue, up to 200 delegates. Won't be charged for venue - due to DMU staff membership of Mercian. Need to arrange our own insurance
- UoL: 30quid+Vat/welfare plus 100quid for each breakout room (2,880)

Helen, Liz and Jen about Nottingham venues

#### Nottingham

- Nottingham Uni Conference: 3102
- NTU: 3552

Agree: Tue 12th Sept, and use DMU space. Cost effective and seemed irresponsible given the costs of other venues and ur budget. Also only needing money for catering and speakers may allow us to look at promotional material and giveaways.

Action: All to share data on venues with GJJ for access. Thanks to all for investigations

### Theme selection

Group task to look at themes and title for conference. Some excellent ideas attached below but currently nothing has emerged as a front runner. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.



### Timeframe and meetings

A review of the timeframe discussion from the last meeting, on track this far.

Next meeting scheduled for **Feb 30<sup>th</sup>**. [Note: since the last meeting due to an unplanned absence from work this meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for **31<sup>st</sup> March**]

### Collated flip chart paper and purpose

#### Mercian Conference Themes

Purpose –

- 1) to generate a clear set of themes or areas that will allow Mercian Collaboration members to submit papers against them
- 2) to ensure that the themes maximise interest from a wide range of staff
- 3) to ensure that themes provide an opportunity to highlight the similarities and differences of Mercian member libraries

#### Areas and ideas from the meeting

##### External influences/drivers

- TEF
- REF
- DSA
- Brexit
- Student Journey
- Responding to change
- coping with change
- Skills for the future/Personal Development (career journeys)
- Future of academic libraries
  - space
  - collections

#### Conference Title

The conference title should reflect the themes but also provide the subject area for key note speakers.