



Mercian Copyright Group

Terms of Reference

The Mercian Copyright Group (MCG) is a network of library staff with a responsibility for Copyright guidance and advocacy at their institutions. Copyright and related issues, are complex even for the specialists in the field, and being able to share knowledge and develop best practice is a crucial part of supporting teaching and research active colleagues, and especially in developing fields. Previously known as the *East Midlands Copyright Group* and the *Midlands Copyright Group*, the group has as of November 2017 been adopted by the Mercian Collaboration as one of their special interest groups, for an initial trial period of a year, an arrangement which will be reviewed by the MCG Chair and Mercian Directors.

The Group aims to transition into a formal Group structure, supported by the Collaboration, and to expand activity and increase engagement across all Mercian member organisations. It also aims to act as a regional community of best practice, sharing effective techniques and methods, and offering new opportunities to work collectively across the 'Midlands Engine' and Mercian membership region. The Committee reports and is responsible to the Mercian Directors, via the Mercian Collaboration's Steering Group and Group Sponsor (Dave Parkes, DMU).

Group Remit

The Group will continue to meet to discuss various issues pertinent to their area of interest. Examples of these topics are broadly:

- copyright education/ training activities;
- licensing of e-resources;
- text and data mining and sourcing permissions for this;
- transnational education; and
- institutional repository content issues, such as third party copyright and theses digitization.

All of which are mission critical to the business of all universities – areas where ensuring staff are well informed and knowledgeable is vital. The topics covered by the group in discussion will be fluid, proposed by group members and will be based on current institutional priorities.

What will the group do?

The Group will:

- Enable members to **exchange** experiences, knowledge, shared problems etc. with other practitioners working within the Mercian area in a safe, supportive, and friendly environment.

- Conduct and commission **research** into best practice in copyright and related areas of knowledge and expertise.
- Enable **resources** to be created and shared (potentially via the Mercian website). These could include training for end users as well as peer resources and could **reduce** duplication, freeing up staff time.
- Investigate what **comparator** Institutions and networks are doing in this arena and engage with **national** and **international** consultation and discussion as appropriate.
- Investigate options for working at scale (training materials etc.) as well as looking for potential **funding opportunities** to help build such collaborative resources.
- Contribute to the Staff Development Group's **buddy** system both as more experienced practitioners as well as a support to those new to this area.

Who will be involved?

- There will be a core group of three officers who will **co-ordinate** the management of the Group and ensure the long term sustainability of the group, these officers will remain in post for a period of two years. It is also proposed that there are staggered terms of office of the co-ordination group members to enable different views to be heard and reduce reliance on a small number of individuals.
- It is proposed that this group will expand to include membership from all Mercian Institutions. This is essential to ensure **inclusivity** and Directors would be invited to nominate a representative from their Institution, where one does not currently exist.
- It is recognised that Membership may consist of staff **beyond the Library community**, depending on their role and level of interest in the issues covered by our remit.

Governance

- One member of the Mercian Steering Group to act as **sponsor**.
- Co-ordination group, including:
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Secretary
- Annual evaluative report on group's activities to ensure **accountability**.
- Initial review of the Group after one year of formal operation to ensure the aims of the group are being met and that the formal group structure suits the group and the Mercian Collaboration.
- Primary communication is to be via the maercian-copyright@jiscmail.ac.uk list. Membership of the list is open to any Mercian Collaboration member with an interest in copyright.

Next steps

- Meetings of the group are proposed to be held on a termly basis and dates for this will be set via the list and communicated to the Mercian Collaboration Development Officer.
- The Group are all members of the LIS-COPYSEEK mailing list which serves as a forum for issues and practical questions. A central place to host documents and other resources is to be discussed.
- Explore potential links with groups for similar interests in other collaborations and/or organisations, for example, Copyright Group (North West Academic Libraries), Sharing Repository Services Group (Northern Collaboration) and LACA.