



## Mercian Copyright SubGroup

### Minutes

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 10-11am

**Present:** Hazel Barham (Newman), Helen Bond (Newman), Emma Sansby (BGU), Caroline Long (Aston) Tania Rowlett (Leicester), Rob Melocha (Leicester), L. Guy Lavender (OU) Mandy Padden (Wolverhampton), Luke Fowler (Wolverhampton), Tony Simmonds (Nottingham), GJJ (Mercian Collaboration)

**Apologies:** Charlotte Greasley (Loughborough), Lisa Bird (Birmingham), Chris Porter (Sponsor)

#### 22/01 Introductions

GJJ welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introductions were made.

#### 22/02 Group Form & Function

GJJ gave an overview of the group in the past, where it had primarily been a forum for the exchange of experience in copyright and licensing related matters. The group had latterly considered plans to organise an event, although the onset of the pandemic had brought this avenue to an end. As there had been no meetings since 2019, Steering Group had been keen to explore if the group could be relaunched along similar lines with a new committee to take things forward.

There was a brief discussion in which the role of the group as a community of practice wherein a broad range of rights practitioners (e.g. digitisers, scholarly communications, copyright officers etc) could gather and exchange information, advice and support was highlighted. It was noted in particular that many people working in the copyright arena are often lone and/or part-time staffers, without direct local collaborators. As such, the Copyright Group provided an arena where they could gain invaluable knowledge and shared solutions to issues.

It was noted that Steering Group in 2019 had been keen for the group to produce outputs and organise training events, although there was agreement this was less immediately valued to those here today. GJJ concurred how the current iteration of Steering Group was primarily interested in re-establishing a copyright forum for the exchange of experience, and hence outputs and events were no longer envisaged as a current priority. However, it was agreed to revisit these potential activities in time as the group's membership and programme matured.

In this vein, it was agreed that the group retained a viable purpose, and that there was a general will to take it forward as a going concern.

**ACTION: GJJ to update membership mailing list with all new members**

#### 22/03 Committee Roles

GJJ noted that while he was able to run the back-office activities (minute taking, meeting arrangements and general facilitation), the group required a small group of members willing to nominally coordinate activities. He asked for volunteers, stressing the relatively low level of time commitment it was envisaged this would take. Luke, Caroline, Emma and Guy offered their services in this capacity, and were warmly welcomed as the new committee. For the time being these would operate in the same vein as the Marketing & Communications Group, with no specifically assigned committee roles. It was agreed the new committee would follow up with GJJ via email about organising the next group meeting.

## 22/04 Next Steps

GJJ thanked all for attending and participating in discussions. He added that Steering Group would be delighted by the progress, and would update them at their forthcoming meeting (27<sup>th</sup> May). In the meantime, GJJ would speak with the committee members about their availabilities, and suggested looking towards a summer meeting for the group to discuss matters of current concern. This was generally agreed.

**ACTION: GJJ to poll members on potential topics and meeting dates**

**ACTION: GJJ to coordinate with committee over dates and topics for summer meeting**

## 22/05 AOB

### *a. Membership*

Luke noted that one of the strengths of the prior group had been the contrast between those members working in different rights related areas, and also those in f/t vs p/t roles. He stressed the value from continuing and expanding the group's membership beyond a 'representative' model (e.g. one member per institution). It was agreed that this seemed a natural extension of how the group operated, and that efforts to recruit and promote the group to the wider membership would serve to help bolster and enrich membership.

**ACTION: GJJ to update information on group webpages to reflect membership ethos**

**ACTION: GJJ to update general mailing list to include any new members**

**ACTION: GJJ to promote the group and membership via Directors and newsletter**

**ACTION: ALL to encourage colleagues with interest in copyright related issues to sign up to the mailing list**

### *b. Terms of Reference*

Emma raised a question about the group's Terms of Reference.<sup>i</sup> GJJ noted that these were broad enough to encompass the group's proposed operations, and to satisfy Steering Group's interests. However, it was agreed a revisitation to the ToR once the group had been operating again for around a year might prove a useful point at which to take stock. The group could then consider if the ToR were still fit for purpose or in need of updating.

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<sup>i</sup> See: [https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ToR\\_MercianCopyrightGroup\\_Final-2018.pdf](https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ToR_MercianCopyrightGroup_Final-2018.pdf)