



## Directors Board

### Tabled Reports

#### 1) Steering Group Minutes (Apr & July 21)

- [Minutes for Tue 20<sup>th</sup> April](#)
- [Minutes for Wed 21<sup>st</sup> July](#)

#### 2) Operational Groups Updates

Most details are as per the reports to Steering Group at the 21<sup>st</sup> July meeting (pages 4-5), above, with the following additional information.

##### a. SDG

The MSG met recently (1<sup>st</sup> October 2021) and minutes will be shortly available. The agenda for the meeting [can be found here](#).

##### b. Conference Group

The Conference was held 9-10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, with 135 delegates pre-registered to attend. Hosted on the MS Teams platform, graciously provided by BGU, dozens of delegates interacted over the two-half day events. Feedback has been distributed to all attending delegates, and a prize fund to incentivise return of forms set up in discussion with the Treasurer.

A wash-up meeting is to be held w/b 18<sup>th</sup> October, where the current group chair, Damian Pugh (Nottingham) will stand-down to be succeeded by Deborah Munro (Birmingham). A call for new members will be issued after this date as a number of other committee members have reached the end of their term of service.

Two evaluative documents on the conference are currently in preparation by the Officer: Analysis of delegates and their interaction, along with participant feedback. These reports will be made available for the Board's consultation as they are released.

#### 3) Special Interest Groups Updates

Most details are as per the reports to Steering Group at the 21<sup>st</sup> July meeting (pages 6-8), above, with the following additional information.

##### a. Copyright Group

No additional report or activity.

##### b. Deputies & Senior Staff Group

A meeting is planned for the autumn term (date TBC), to be chaired by Kirsty Kift (Coventry). The meeting will focus on issues around the changing working environment, as well as team cohesiveness in a post-pandemic age.

##### c. Marketing & Communication Group

No additional report or activity.

d. Mercian Disability Forum

Meeting planned for late November, with a number of new members joining the group in recent months. More representatives are welcome – contact Group Chair Simon Satchwell-Giles (Newman) or GJJ for more details. Discussions with SDG pending with respect to mutual activity support and event planning.

e. Mercian Metadata Group

Planned event on MarcEdit for November. Details on this will be forthcoming, but it will be an interactive session and a topic of considerable interest to group members.

#### 4) Unlocking our Sound Heritage Project

A request for feedback, as previously circulated via the mailing list (10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021):

Since 2018 the University of Leicester has been the Midlands Hub for the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage (UOSH) project. This project, led by the British Library with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aims to preserve many thousands of ‘at risk’ sound recordings from across the UK. The University Library would now like to explore options for establishing a centre of excellence for the Midlands. A [briefing note about the project is attached](#).

As part of this we will be undertaking interviews with partners and stakeholders during September 2021 to explore:

- The importance of audio archives and their impact.
- Demand and opportunities for a Centre of Audio Heritage Excellence for the Midlands.
- Current constraints and threats to achieving this.
- The Centre’s potential ambition, vision and scope.
- How operating, governance and resourcing models might work.

We will also be looking at examples of regional centres of excellence elsewhere and lessons learned from other organisations. The consultancy team is particularly keen to hear from staff within HE libraries with responsibilities for audio archives who have not already been involved in the UOSH project: please contact Sarah Wickham ([hello@sarahwickham.consulting](mailto:hello@sarahwickham.consulting)) if you would be willing to speak with them about this.

#### 5) Officer’s Update

[Available online](#).