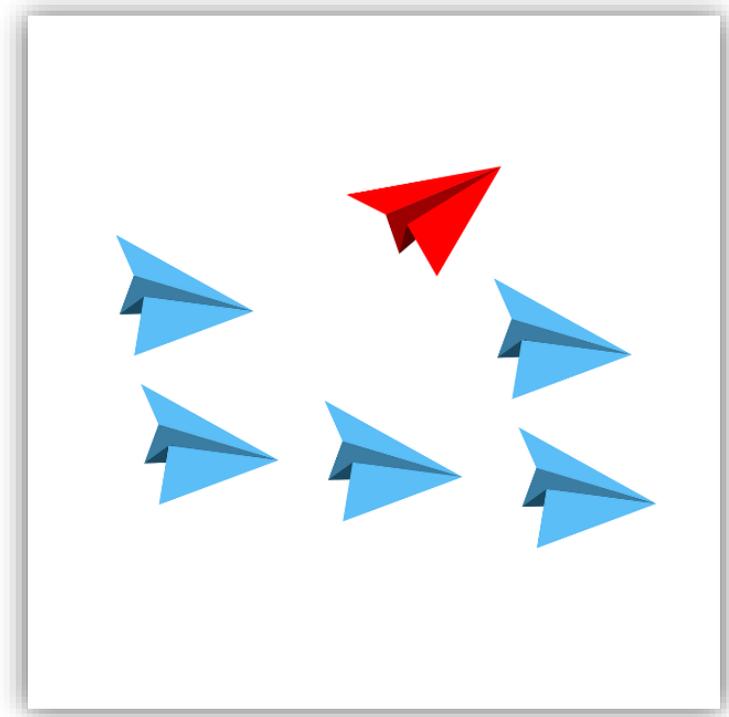


The Mercian Collaboration Conference 2023

*Putting change into action: development, diversity,
and drive.*



September 7th.

Hosted by the University of Birmingham.



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Please take the time during the day to visit our sponsors' stands.

Welcome

Emma Walton – Mercian Collaboration Chair, Loughborough University.

I am delighted to welcome you to this year's Mercian Collaboration conference, our first conference to take place in person for a number of years. Our conference provides an excellent opportunity to get together from across our region to highlight the fantastic work you are all doing, to discuss the important topics that face us all in our work and to meet each other. The theme reflects the fact that our sector and the wider HE. environment is experiencing great change from within and without and indicates our desire to both lead and participate in that change. The positive changes we are part of have an impact on our communities and this conference celebrates that fact. Thanks to the conference team and to all of those who have supported the organising of this event. I was Chair of the original conference group and know the dedication and hard work it takes and so it is an absolute pleasure to be writing this as Chair of the Mercian Collaboration and seeing the conference flourish.

Laura Newman, Mercian Collaboration Conference Group Chair.

This year we have an amazing range of sessions from a variety of Collaboration members, with the competition for sessions very strong and some wonderful examples of good practice. We are delighted to welcome Ben Davies from Chimp Management as our keynote speaker this year. Ben will be discussing the famous Chimp Paradox Model and how this can help us to manage change and wellbeing in both our personal and professional lives. We offer thanks to the University of Birmingham for generously hosting. Thanks also to all of you for attending and – of course – to our sponsors, whose contributions enable us to hold the event without the need for additional costs to delegates. We hope you enjoy your time with us at the conference.

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Programme

9.30 - 9.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Arrival, tea, and coffee. <u>Assembly Room Lounge</u></p>
9.45 - 9.55	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome <u>Assembly Room</u> Sue Ackermann, Vice Chair ,Mercian Collaboration Steering Group</p>
9.55-10.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Platinum Sponsor Presentation. <u>Assembly Room</u> Browns Books</p>
10.00 - 10.50	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Speaker Embracing Change to Create Opportunity – through the lens of The Chimp Model. <u>Assembly Room</u> Ben Davies from Chimp Management</p>
10:55 – 11:25	<p style="text-align: center;">Breakout Sessions 1 (either A or B or C.)</p> <p>A. <u>Assembly Room</u> How to make weird things accessible. Lara Skelly, Loughborough University</p> <p>B <u>Board Room</u> Using customer service apprentice roles as a means of widening staff diversity in academic library and customer services. Karen Stevens & Tarandeep Rai, De Montfort University</p> <p>C <u>Stuart Hall</u> Student Life and the Library: a holistic UX approach. Claire Browne & Kate Spencer-Bennett, University of Birmingham</p> <p>Or Networking in <u>Winifred Hackett Room</u></p>

	Break and networking
12.05 – 12.55	<p style="text-align: center;">Breakout Sessions 2 (either A, B or C.)</p> <p>A. <u>Board Room</u> Are Systems Librarians an endangered species? Lessons learned from implementing a new library platform. Georgina Dimmock & Fiona Watkins, University of Northampton</p> <p>B. <u>Assembly Room</u> Feeling seen - students filling gaps in decolonisation. Sarah Akhtaruzzaman, University of Warwick</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Seconded! A personal account of career development through the power of secondments. Matt Hunt, Birmingham City University</p> <p>C. <u>Stuart Hall</u> Re-Discovery: launching five core systems within nine months - innovation or insanity? Matt Cox & Adam Robinson, University of Derby</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Inclusive recruitment - trying new approaches. Chris Addleton, University of Nottingham</p> <p>Or Networking in <u>Winifred Hackett Room</u></p>
13:00 -13:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Breakout Sessions 3 (either A, B or C.)</p> <p>A. <u>Assembly Room</u> Bringing our users with us: keeping UX at the heart of discovery platform development. Emma Brown & Laura Percival, Birmingham City University</p> <p>B. <u>Board Room</u> It's all about the money: My experience of managing the library budgets in the LMS.</p>

	<p>Natalie Baker-Fosker, Newman University</p> <p>C. <u>Stuart Hall</u> Menopause - what it is, how does it affect the workplace and how to create an environment where every woman can thrive! Jane Dashwood, University of Warwick</p> <p>Or Networking in <u>Winifred Hackett Room</u></p>
13:30 –14.15	<p>Lunch <u>Assembly Room Lounge</u></p>
14:15 –15:05	<p style="text-align: center;">Breakout Sessions 4 (either A, B, C or D)</p> <p>A. <u>Assembly Room</u> How to write a business case. Anna O'Neill, University of Warwick</p> <p>AND</p> <p>It's time to try TikTok. Lizzy Cross, Newman University</p> <p>B <u>Stuart Hall</u> Supporting our staff's wellbeing: buttons, books and wine! Ann Stairmand-Jackson & Mercedes Malloy, BCU</p> <p>C <u>Board Room</u> Thinking differently about recruitment. Kate Marshall, Nottingham Trent University</p> <p>D. <u>Benjamin Zephaniah Room</u> Develop@Derby: Derby's developmental Skills Hub: capitalising on collaboration and cooperation! Michelle Bennett & Naomi Bowers-Joseph, University of Derby</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Let's talk about SEG! Jess Mercuriadi, University of Warwick</p>

15:05 – 15:35	Break/networking
15:35 –16:05	<p style="text-align: center;">Round table discussion <u>Assembly Room</u></p> <p><u>Chaired by:</u> Jo-Anne Watts, Mercian Collaboration Steering Group Member and University Librarian, University of Wolverhampton.</p> <p><u>Members:</u> Helen Curtis, Director of Learning Resources and University Librarian at Oxford Brookes University; Ruth Houghton, Head of Education, Research and Skills at Cranfield University; Tamasine Ashcroft, Head of Library Engagement at the University of Birmingham and Elizabeth Pardoe, Postgraduate Student in Art History and Curating from the University of Birmingham.</p>
16:05 -16:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Closure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sue Ackermann, Mercian Collaboration Steering Group Vice-Chair.</p>

An online link to the virtual map for the Exchange rooms can be found:
<https://conferences.bham.ac.uk/the-exchange-360-virtual-tour/>

Full details of all the sessions and speakers are available on the Mercian Collaboration Conference website: <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/conference-2023>

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About the Mercian Collaboration

The Mercian Collaboration is a regional professional network of 23 academic library members based in the English Midlands. The Collaboration provides a space for its members to work together to explore training and development, and to seek efficiencies on behalf of our institutions and the wider community. Members draw on their own and each other's good practice and ideas, as well as their awareness of relevant ideas and developments from outside the Collaboration.

A Board composed of member library directors acts as the governing body, with developmental and strategic oversight devolved to an elected Steering Group drawn from this Board.

Keep Up to Date with the Mercian Collaboration

To keep up to date with the latest news and events from the Mercian Collaboration, visit our website (merciancollaboration.org.uk), follow us on twitter (@MercianCollab) or join the exclusive to Mercian members Jiscmail distribution list: – mercian-collaboration@jiscmail.com.

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Mercian Collaboration Special Interest Groups

The Collaboration operates several special interest groups (SIGs), which largely have been instigated by demand from within the membership and guided by the Directors Board's insight. Each of the SIGs benefit from representation drawn from across the member organisations, along with support from a Steering Group sponsor. Each group considers the challenges within the individual thematic areas they address in differing ways, although typically these include hosting events and activities along with facilitating communications and exchanges of insight. <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/activities-groups>

To learn more about each of the SIGs, contact their chair or your local representative. For information on SIGs in general, or to discuss potential future groups, contact the Mercian Development Officer.

Conference Group (CG): Responsible for the planning, delivery, and review of the annual Collaboration Conference. Chaired by Laura Newman (L.Newman@lboro.ac.uk), group membership is normally for two years, with people sponsored by their Directors for membership. A call for new group members usually goes out in November each year, following the conference, as other established members stand down.

The Deputies & Senior Staff Group (D&SSG): As the name suggests, the group is a forum for staff with senior operational and strategic responsibilities within the Collaboration member libraries but who are not the Director (institutional library lead). The intent is to facilitate group members to: exchange experience, participate in horizon scanning, and obtain support for strategic planning and insights into the operationalisation of national agenda items.

Marketing and Communications Group (MarCommsG): This SIG has a particular interest in the marketing, promotion, and reputational enhancement of academic libraries. The current operational leads for the group are Claire Brown (Birmingham), Emma Halford-Busby (Nottingham), Joe Carey (Wolverhampton) and Susan O'Sullivan (BCU). Group membership is open to all staff working in member libraries with an interest in marketing, promotion, advocacy or communications in any capacity.

Mercian Disability Forum (MDF): This SIG brings together library practitioners with an interest in or role relating to supporting accessibility or students with disabilities within higher education. The subgroup is currently co-chaired by Deborah Munro (d.munro@aston.ac.uk) and Manda Laine (manda.laine@open.ac.uk). For more information on this as well as other activities, membership, and future events, please contact the Group's Committee members.

Staff Development Group (MSDG): As a Mercian Collaboration special interest group the SDG has a remit to organise development and training events for library staff within member institutions, aims to:

Provide opportunities for all levels of staff to share knowledge, exchange ideas, experiences, and good practice.

Host a number of staff development events throughout the year, such as learning exchanges, workshops and library tours.

Develop both strategic and operational approaches to the delivery of staff development.

Advise the Library Directors of the Mercian Collaboration on staff development issues.

The SDG has representatives from each of the Mercian Collaboration libraries and is currently chaired by Ann-Marie Lee (Ann-Marie.Lee@bcu.ac.uk) to whom enquiries should be directed.

For Further Enquiries or Information:

For all general enquiries related to the Collaboration, please contact our General Enquiries email. (mercianlibrariescollaboration@gmail.com) Alternatively contact your respective Library Director, from the membership organisations.



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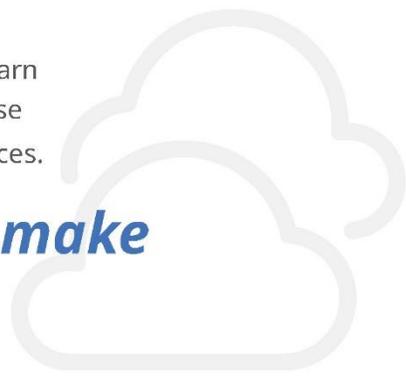


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