



Mercian Disability Forum

Minutes

Monday 1st April, Lanchester Library, Coventry University, Teaching Rooms 2

10:15 – 10:30 am Minutes of last meeting

All agreed minutes correct.

Individuals to follow up on outstanding actions and circulate to group via email.

10:30- 11:30 am SDG update for collaboration and future events

LW shared list of upcoming events:

Group identified possible areas for collaboration:

- Deconolising the curriculum/collections/diversifying reading lists

Possible area looking at inclusivity in broader terms. **LW to contact MDSG re events focus?**

- What do students returning from placement need to know?

Comments on how may be more relevant for 'going onto placements' rather than returning.

- Systematic review training (possible external session)

Worcester commented on how labour intensive this can be searching databases, especially with accessibility barriers. **KD to investigate further.**

- Inductions for new staff

Possible section on the accessibility of inductions and what provision/support could be made.

Induction a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of support available for all.

Northampton discussed support cards with 'This is me' which have been used for those on the autistic spectrum to give an overview of preferences/individual requirements and suggested it would be more inclusive if everyone could have the cards.

- Delivering info lit skills online/live engagement

OU event- GH to contact organisers to look at **possible collaboration.**

- Managing procurement contracts

Highly relatable to accessibility as could link to anything from eBooks to self-service machines.

- New eBook platforms/data driven acquisitions and collection management

E-book accessibility highly relevant.

- Playful learning (especially for inductions e.g. escape rooms)

'Playful games' could pose accessibility barriers. Investigate further. Possible action on how to include everyone?



11:30- 12:00 ATEC conference updates

CK and LW both attended. Various resource sheets shared with group. (To be scanned and circulated with the group.)

12:00- 12:30 Lunch

12:30- 13:15 WCAG2.1

Brief overview of slides provided by Nottingham. Not all members of group directly involved with WCAG guidelines.

Staffordshire: Purchased Blackboard ALLY which works as a plug in to VLE to assist with accessibility. Uses a red, amber, green system on content. Allows the student to use a drop down box and convert to alternative content such as audio, pdf, braille. Images need alternative text to be converted. Annual subscription.

RNIB Bookshare discussed regarding institutional use to set up students as independent users. Warwick looking at embedding in web pages. OU are currently trialling students using RNIB Bookshare independently and but don't have any information about the service on their website at the moment.

Action: next meeting to invite RNIB representative to discuss further.

OU- taking ownership of 7 million pages. OU web pages- problems with quidget for out of hours chat and screen readers.

Coventry- JISC accessibility snapshot taking place. Suggestion of free service of RoboBraille as alternative to Sensus Access. Worcester and OU embedding Sensus Access into module websites to improve usage.

Concerns over Springshare Libguides accessibility.

13:15 – 14:00: How do Libraries gain student feedback over the accessibility of our spaces and services?

Coventry: Wellbeing events: PAT dogs, crafts etc. Links with Disability Services. Due to GDPR cannot email out to students. Feedback forms advertised using Microsoft forms. 12 responses. 7 online and 5 via paper form which were left in student Hub and Library study room for students who registered with disability services .

OU: Student Panel used for feedback. Have used an 'opt-in' option for GDPR purposes. Low response rate.

Cranfield: Not student specific. Have used social media/surveys for all students.

Birmingham: Disability support champions across Library groups. Invite members of student guilds to meetings.



Wolverhampton: graffiti/feedback walls. Whiteboards for comments and to leave Library responses.

Keele: Scheduled monthly meetings between Library and visually impaired student's- low attendance. Used survey via google sheets. Concerns over accessibility of using stars 1 to 5.

Nottingham Trent: not disability specific feedback. Academic Librarians have looked into at course meetings- how accessible is our catalogue? Used a £10 voucher as a reward.

Staffordshire- Links with Disabled Students Group (SU) for communications. Regular meetings with University's central 'Disability Advice.' 'Question of the week' aimed at all students and 'you said we did' boards.

Aston: Not specific to students with disabilities- struggle to get feedback from students.

Birmingham City: A few years ago there were focus groups. All students- 'you said we did' boards.

DMU: 3 or 4 times a year general feedback. Trying to set up a focus group for D/deaf students. Disability team have a notice board within the Library. Within Libguides, LibCat feedback form used after 1:1 meetings/workshops.

Northampton: General student feedback- SU comments, graffiti walls. Working on wider UX customer journey maps project.

Worcester: Links with Community engagement, journey mapping. Link to Students groups on Facebook.

Warwick: attached powerpoint

14:00 AOB

What provision is in place within Libraries for physical spaces and wellbeing/mental health?

- Birmingham- Ground floor by reception- area with high back chairs, leaflets for further support.
- Wolverhampton main campus: wellbeing collection/reading for pleasure being developed moving away from books on prescription model. Also centrally guidance for supporting staff and students with mental health conditions.

[JISC monthly accessibility drop in online clinic](#) via adobe connect. 1st Wednesday of every month
12:30-1:30pm

14:30 Optional tour of Lanchester Library