Mercian Disability Forum - 9th Jan

University of Nottingham

Notes

(See accompanying Power Point for context)

Slide 3

Welcome to new members of the group

Group overview (those in attendance):

- Kathryn Devine – Academic Liaison at Worcester
- Carol Keddie – Library Disability Team – DMU
- Geri Huzar – part of job role relates to accessibility – OU
- Julie Adams – Online content, digital skills, accessible content, e resources, Digitisation Team – Staffs
- Clare Williams – Information Assistant with an interest in accessibility – Wolverhampton
- Laura Waller – remit around accessibility – Warwick
- Janice Morris – accessibility is only a small part of role – Bishop Grossetest, Lincoln
- Gaz Johnson – Mercian Collaboration Development Officer
- Beck Maguire – Librarian, Accessibility Support - Nottingham

Slide 4

Conference

Carol gave an overview of the workshop she ran with Vicki McGarvey. This was based around value statements

- **Carol to email Vicki for write up from session**

- **Session overview included in documentation**

Brief discussion around Strategic Plan and the need for a confirmed strategic direction for the collaboration

Beck noted that the MDF Report was drafted and has since sent this to Gaz. The report outlines the MDF activities across the year

Group Chair – Beck to step down as Chair. **Laura Waller** was unanimously voted in (thanks Laura) and will take this role for a maximum of two years

Slide 5

Event overview

- Event flier attached for info

- Evaluation feedback attached

Feedback from the group

DMU – colleagues enjoyed the tour and the opportunity to talk to other people – they found it interesting

General feeling that the keynote could have focussed more on the practical information – they were 'preaching to the converted'

The Ebook session needed more guidance

- **Beck to include the link to the results of the Ebook Audit: https://www.learningapps.co.uk/moodle/xertetoolkits/play.php ?template_id=1856**

Improvements for future events

Include a section around 'What actions are you taking forward'

- Maybe have a session to discuss a conference or event which you've attended and then actively made a change because of something you learned/heard

- Contact people at a later date to see what they've actioned

- Blog/news on what people have done

Clare has used some of the information given in Laura's presentation re Read and Write – it's been really helpful

Future ideas

- NoWal conference – 'Exploring & supporting diversity in academic libraries' https://www.nowal.ac.uk/nowal-conference-2019

- **Action for all** – have a look at the link and let Laura know of any ideas/interest in presenting etc

- Free apps

- Tools for studying more effectively

    - Study Smart, Studying Smarter using Digital Technologies (Julie)

    - Julie – Digital Wellbeing App – building these things into the bigger picture

    - Beck mentioned a student project at Nottingham around using productivity tools to study more effectively

Slide 6

RNIB – power point presentation attached

Huw from Sage has two new ventures:

Text Box – image description

Search Box – publisher look up

- Huw is going to the OU to talk through the products

    - **Geri to share**

Help videos available on RNIB website

Possible grant for iPads for 11-25 year olds which might be worth investigating

Better synthetic voices can be bought via app – Capti (?)

Ben Watson – power point presentation attached

Sensus Access

- Difficult to promote

- Are people using something else?

- Are materials generally accessible?

- Jaws OCR seemed to work much better than Sensus Access

- Possibility of contacting Ben Watson for usage stats

- Julie – Staffs are going for Sensus Access mainly because they've had requests for Word and not PDF

- DMU have it, **Carol to ask Jina re usage**

  - 'Make it accessible' campaign and also mentioned in teaching sessions

Topics

Topic 1 - Jackie Chelin – creating a framework in line with public libraries

- General feeling that this wouldn't map across to academic libraries or be particularly helpful

- However, if changed to meet the needs of HE rather than public, it may be of use, give some backing to those institutions with limited current provision

Topic 3 – AT

Usual issue of lack of ownership

Hannah Hickman

Different demographic

- carers, people with jobs etc

- Tools to support study – planning time, organisation and so on

- E.g. Parent commuting, use audio to save time reading

Slide 9

Very different understanding and knowledge of this throughout the group

Laura:

- Working group set up

- IT lead

- Anything being produced now needs to comply

- Intranet not covered

Julie

Heard about it through mailing lists – UCISA – IT

Not aware of a working group as yet

Geri

Accessibility Group – Uni wide

Need a senior manager to take responsibility – funding implications

From a library perspective – Kirsty is auditing 'library' stuff – discovery tool, repository for example

Gaz

Gaz will follow up with other forums to see what they're doing

What comes under this?

Webinars held by JISC – can be accessed here (thanks Geri) - https://www.jisc.ac.uk/training/new-regulations-new-risks-online-briefing

Possibility of using automated tools for testing

Link to Digital Accessibility Regs forum: Digital accessibility regulations for education <DIGITALACCESSIBILITYREGULATIONS@JISCMAIL.AC.UK>

General consensus that this shouldn't be library led but that libraries will be impacted

Slide 10

Carol

Healthy DMU initiative

Wellbeing group – mainly for students but for staff as well

Julie

Headspace – funding available for e.g. books, jigsaws. Encourages relaxation

Workshops – art students – drawing/clay etc

Dogs – guide dogs – mostly positive but some people don't like it

Digital wellbeing

Transition funding originally
Students seem to like it and use the stuff – promoted around exam times

Vinyl Listening Club – basically get together and play music

Clare

Reading for pleasure room – smaller shelving, bean bags, deck chairs

Fiction collection

Don't have much for staff

People do use the room

Art students are creating murals to create a less institutional feel

Laura

Wellbeing Team – Advisors (2 FT in library)

Mindfulness – online and sessions

Sensory rooms (2 of these now as very popular)

Relaxation rooms on grid sites

Sensory Refresh session – using senses to create calm

Making braille bookmarks

Always tea and cake!

Seven accessible study rooms – bookable, dimmable lighting, space to lie down

In the sensory rooms there are: rocking chairs, bean bags, sensory objects, bubble tube, different lighting – colours, stars projector, weighted lap belts

Workshops – make your own stress ball, have some fun and a break! Things that students can take home

'Living well at Warwick'

Janice

Reading Nook

Wellbeing book list and film guide - https://libguides.bishopg.ac.uk/wellbeing (thanks Janice)

Bubble tubes around campus

Happy Hour – activities

Blankets

White board – fun questions

Geri

Big White Wall

October – wellbeing for staff – yoga, mindfulness etc

Awareness that more is needed ongoing

Kathryn

Madalene George is the Student Engagement Officer at Worcester

PAT dogs – they visit both campuses

Ask a Librarian on Tour – this is very popular. Going out of the library to speak to people

Study Happy - info on website

- Oasis in the Children's library

- Books on prescription

- (Public and academic library)

- Mental Health Nurses in training come and do stuff for staff and students

- PhDs – prevention of student suicide

Clare

Taking a break – discussion around the negative impact of 24/7

Suicide prevention training – 1 day

Samaritans come in and hand out leaflets/posters with their numbers

Beck

Journey mapping from Bristol, outlined at a Mental Health conference in December, was very useful – PPT from the conference included in attachments

Slide 11

Geri

Facebook/Twitter

Podcast – 25 mins which is a discussion re services

Accessibility is the next topic

These aren't scripted – 'Completely Shelfless'

Julie

Produced a guide – mainly for students with autism

- This is photos and text and shows different elements of the library – barriers, busy areas, lighting and so on

- It is on the website and is available publicly

They promote any events via social media

Janice

Anything like this comes from Student Advice

Treasure Hunt?

General discussion that Instagram and Facebook seem to be the most popular

People create Facebook events for Workshops etc

Kathryn

Worcester held an Autism Summer School which included a tour of the library

This lasted 'as long as it needed to' and students were told to ask anything

Facebook was used for feedback

Kathryn generally 'hung around' for the whole event and felt that this was really valuable as the attendees got used to seeing her and subsequently felt more confident asking questions. It also gave them other opportunities to ask questions rather than having to think of everything on the tour

Laura

Warwick have termly socials – lunch, activities

This gives students the opportunity to feedback about services in a different way

There is a new building so they're going to get students in to do a building task next

Slide 12

Kathryn asked if anyone had any experience of a student with no vision using SPSS, please feed back to the group if you have any!