



Mercian Collaboration Development Officer

Update report to Steering Group, 3rd Feb 2021

Since the December Steering Group meeting,ⁱ the Officer's focus has continued on Collaboration activities including: subgroup support, activity coordination, communication management and issue resolution. Preparation, support and actions from various meetings continue to account for a large portion of the Officer's schedule.

Communications

Frequent conversations with chairs/officers of the Conference, Metadata and Staff Development Group have also been emphasised, along with discussions with comparator regional group representatives. Interactions with SCONUL staff have continued to clarify matters of mutual concern, notably relating to finance matters (Collaboration and personal). Additionally, in the continued absence of the post holder, the Officer has continued to act as *de facto* Treasurer, monitoring expenditure and resolving related issues in cooperation with SCONUL Accounts.ⁱⁱ

Governance

The collation and drafting of the Collaboration's annual report for 2020 has been a recurrent activity, notably chasing subgroups for contributions. The self-nominations for Steering Group (21-23) have been managed over this period. A proposed membership statement, in the wake of SCONUL developments, was also developed. The Officer has continued to draft news reports for the website, along with providing minuting support for subgroups, as capacity permits.

Marketing

The website continues to be frequently updated with content largely relating to events, meetings and group membership. The now regular Collaboration newsletter continues to be shared on a monthly basis via the *mercian-collaboration* general membership discussion list. This list, following a reminder to directors, has modestly grown in membership.

Meetings & Events

As normal while effort to attend all relevant meetings was made, due to their timing and available resource not all could be joined. Meetings and events attended on behalf of the Collaboration included:

- 01/12/20 Virtual Networking eventⁱⁱⁱ
- 16/12/20 MSDG Customer Service event
- 13/1/21 Conference Group meeting
- 21/1/21 Northern Collaboration Conference Team^{iv}
- 21/1/21 Virtual Networking event^v
- 21/1/21 Regional Consortia Colloquium^{vi}
- 21/1/21 LIEM (Libraries & Information East Midlands)^{vii}

The Officer has continued to organise, co-host and obtain feedback for the virtual networking series of online events, with events in Dec (1/12/20) and Jan (21/1/21) held. Reports for these are either available or forthcoming on the news pages. These events continue to be well received by the membership.



Salary & Contractual Arrangements

Despite positive discussions at the Board (Oct '20) and again subsequently at Steering Group (1/Dec/20) no perceptible progress has been noted from the Chair.

ⁱ This period covers 8 employed days (weeks).

ⁱⁱ An additional responsibility since late April '20

ⁱⁱⁱ News report live: <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/final-virtual-networking-year-brings-reflections-staff-learning-journeys>

^{iv} Report on online conference practicalities sent to Chair/Officers of our Conference Group

^v Event report in preparation

^{vi} Meeting chaired by the Officer

^{vii} Interest expressed over where LIEM could provide events of interest to Collaboration members. However, these are on a charged-for basis, so may be of limited interest to members currently. Continued liaison planned with LIEM to continue exploring areas of mutual interest.