

**NoWAL Academic Librarians’ Group, 14th November 2019, 11am – 1pm**

**Edge Hill University**

**Attendees:**

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| **Name** | **University** |
| Sheila Murphy | Edge Hill University |
| Olwen Pennington | Edge Hill University |
| Nicky Freeman | NoWAL Operations Officer |
| Jenny Warren | University of Chester |
| Jo Ashley | Cumbria |
| Andrea Evans | UCLan |
| Dawn Grundy | University of Bolton |
| Geoff Thomason | RNCM |
| Michelle O’Connell | Edge Hill University |
| Louise Speakman | Edge Hill University |

**Apologies:**

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| **Name** | **University** |
| Philippa Williams | Liverpool Hope |
| Alison Derbyshire | Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine |
| Beryl Stanley | University of Liverpool |
| Lisa Hawksworth | University of Liverpool |
| Lesley English | Lancaster University |

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|  | **Actions** |
| **Welcome and Apologies**  SM & OP welcomed to the group to the meeting. |  |
| **Minutes of the previous meeting**  Minutes of the May 15th, 2019 meeting were approved. |  |
| **Updates on community of practices**  Laura Riella provided an update on the Technology COP in absentia.  Nicky Freeman provided a general overview of the NoWAL COPs. They vary in how active they are and how frequently they meet.  The Academic Skills COP is very structured with agendas and dates of meetings set in advance. It is due to meet in Salford in December.  Copyright is chaired by Neil Sprunt of Manchester and is due to meet at Edge Hill, Ormskirk, in December.  The Content & Collections COP is chaired by Sandra Bracegirdle from University of Manchester and meets twice a year.  The Technology and Building & Space COPs do not meet as frequently. |  |
| **Conference updates**  Michelle O’Connell provided the highlights of the recent Relationship Management conference. Some themes were decolonising the curriculum (which included a talk on Decolonising the Curriculum from UEA), nudge approach (e.g. for engagement with reading lists) and using language of ownership to engage academics.  Links to [resources](https://www.zotero.org/groups/2282515/decolonisingcurriculum/) and the UEA [projec](https://decoloniseuni.com/)t were shared.  There will be positions on the RM Steering group coming up in the next few months if anyone is interested.  Nicky Freeman mentioned key sessions at the recent NoWAL conference. Links to the presentations are [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1entqtyYWlJgkIyeMUPQ13D7YOC9DQk9K). |  |
| **Good News Stories**  **EHU:** Two very successful Staff Development Fortnights held in June and September. Very heavily promoted and generated over 100 attendees across the four weeks.  A part-time archivist started in November which is generating a lot of positive interest in the archive.  Sessions using locked boxes were delivered to 15 medical school foundation students successfully.  **UCLan:** Used the ActionBound app for student inductions which was very successful. A print credit voucher was offered to all students successfully completing the ActionBound.  UCLAN were donated a collection of Korean books and DVDs from the Korean embassy. They have a special space in the library called Korean Corner, which is very popular and had a launch event which was mentioned on television.  The VALNOW group of North West librarians met recently. They meet annually at a different site and give the group a problem to solve.  UCLAN has a new building due in January 2021 which will be for support services.  **Bolton:** The library is creating a well-being area for students with a collection of well-being books. A NOWAL event is being held there shortly.  Dawn Grundy recently co-authored a [paper](http://ubir.bolton.ac.uk/2616/) for CILIP on the Bolton Health Information Partnership.  Students have earned 25,000 digital badges on LEAP online. The badges can comprise part of credit for bursaries and are mapped to graduate skills packages.  **Chester:** Good NSS scores.  The library team were recognised as making an outstanding contribution in the recent Chester University Learning & Teaching conference  A new VC has been appointed with a strong interest in libraries.  Chester has recently moved over to automatic renewals.  Chester set up a successful Study Happy event including games, colouring, crafting and jigsaws. The students are now starting to own it for themselves and set up more events through the year. Staff promote the events, but they are aimed at students.  **Cumbria:** Improvement in NSS scores very positive.  The library team has created videos for research support e.g. literature searching and RefWorks and meet researchers individually.  **RNCM:** Thanks to the archivist, RNCM received a £62,000 grant from the heritage lottery fund to celebrate the centenary of the Northern School of Music in 2020, one of the colleges federated to form the RNCM in 1972/3. Some projects include oral history interviews, a blog and a virtual exhibition.  Geoff Thomason presented a paper at the IAML Congress in Krakow on embedding information literacy skills in a conservatoire setting. E.g. by using locked boxes for 2nd year revision.  There is now a digital display in the library for promotional purposes.  There was an exhibition of archival Tchaikovsky resources. This was used in conjunction with a concert, with a talk and readings before and during the concert. |  |
| **Academic inductions**  There was a discussion about how library teams are handling inductions for new academic colleagues.  EHU meet with academics individually using a spreadsheet of data from HR.  Cumbria meets with new academics individually. The meeting is tailored to their interests.  At RNCM, many new academic staff are part-time, so an induction can present challenges. They have had successful “meet the team” events for other professional support departments such as Finance.  At Bolton, new staff are meant to get stamps from the key teams at the university. This is coordinated by HR. This can mean new hires don’t always see the most appropriate person – e.g. a manager, rather than their subject librarian. |  |
| **AOB**  This was the penultimate meeting for the current two Chairs. It was requested that members of the group give some thought to whether they would be prepared to take on the chair from June 2020. It involves convening two meetings per year and some years organising a TeachMeet.  It might be better suited to two people. |  |
| **Date and Location of Next Meeting**  21st May 2020, UCLan |  |