



# Academic Librarians Group (ALG)

## Minutes

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 22 November 2022 (10:30am – 12 noon)	
<b>Chair(s)</b>	Tracy Breheny (Salford) Jenny Warren (Chester)	
<b>Attendees</b>	Fariba Bannerman	Edge Hill University
	Kirsty Carver	University of Huddersfield
	Paul Catherall	University of Liverpool
	Jonathan Mark Child	University of Central Lancashire
	Jenny Cook	Northumbria University
	Dave Curtis	University of York
	Alison Derbyshire	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
	Sonia Edwards	Edge Hill University
	Lisa Eveson	Teeside University
	Maree Green	University of Salford
	Jessica Haigh	Leeds Beckett University
	Lisa Hawksworth	University of Liverpool
	Zoe Johnson	University of Huddersfield
	Julie McClements	University of Central Lancashire
	Linda Moses-Allison	University of Cumbria
	Sheila Murphy	Edge Hill University
	Michelle O'Connell	Edge Hill University
	Claire Stewart	University of Cumbria
	Geoff Thomason	Royal Northern College of Music
	Ruili Zhang	University of Manchester

## **1. Welcome**

### **1.1. Introductions and welcome.**

### **1.2. Review of the minutes from the May 2022 meeting.**

Minutes agreed as an accurate representation of the previous meeting.

## **2. Reports and Good News Stories**

[Reports circulated and read prior to meeting](#)

## **3. Academic Libraries North update**

### **3.1 ALN Update (report shared on behalf of Nicky Freeman)**

#### **Staff Development**

The first wave of events in this year's programme have been released -

<https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/events>. We're trying as usual to have a programme that appeals to staff at all levels across member libraries and there are loads more in the planning stages. If anyone has any ideas for inclusion in the programme, they can either go to their ALN Staff Development rep or directly to me – [nicky.freeman@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:nicky.freeman@sconul.ac.uk).

#### **Mentoring Scheme launch**

On 8<sup>th</sup> November, we launched our pilot Mentoring Scheme -

<https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/mentoring>. The scheme is aimed at all staff below senior leadership levels, no matter your role and responsibilities. You can apply to be a mentor or a mentee. We are looking for mentors who can attend two half day training sessions in January (12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) – you can complete your details on the mentor application form available at the link above.

## #ALN23

We're starting to plan for the conference next year. It will be taking place towards the end of June (dates to be confirmed as soon as possible) and we are hoping to deliver one day of online presentations followed by a day of face-to-face networking and workshopping. The second day is likely to be in Leeds, but we'll also confirm that as soon as we can. Please look out for the call for papers in the new year – we'll make sure to promote it to you all so you can contribute and attend.

### **EDI Innovation Fund**

We recently closed our pilot appeal for bids for the EDI Innovation Fund. We're currently assessing the submissions and will be awarding the successful bids at the beginning of December. If this is successful, we are hoping to be able to repeat the process next year. We'll keep you all posted on the work of the winning projects which we are hoping will have some really positive outcomes.

### **3.2 Community of Practice report to ALN Board.**

The report submitted to the ALN Board [ALN Groups Report to Board October 2022 \(access via Teams site\)](#) summarising the activities of the group from the past 6 months, and plans for the next 6 months was shared.

### **3.3 EDI event: 9 Feb 2023**

On 9 February 2023 the Academic Librarian's Community of Practice will be hosting an online TeachMeet type event focusing on practical aspects of developing equality, diversity and inclusion activities and tools.

Following previous meeting of the CoP the group chairs felt there was interest and opportunity to learn more about activities in the area of in our member libraries. A call for speakers and further information will be shared shortly as part of the ALN programme of events.

#### **4. Academic Librarians Group Co-Chair**

The position of chairing the Community of Practice is open for expressions of interest.

Expressions should be submitted by **Friday 3rd Feb 2023 at 4pm** by emailing

[academiclibrariesnorth@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:academiclibrariesnorth@sconul.ac.uk). JW and TB are happy to answer any informal questions in the meantime. Details and plans for the handover will be circulated by ALN shortly.

#### **5. Equality, diversity and inclusivity**

Members shared recent EDI-related resources, events and experiences, and updated the group on EDI developments at their institutions. Comments, discussion and resource-sharing were added to the [ALG EDI Padlet](#).

A Human Library at Huddersfield is in the early days of planning. Current concerns are around ethical considerations. The team are looking around at other institutions best practice.

Liverpool mentioned their experience of positive recruitment at the university, and resulting practical issues for library provision - procedures in place but not yet implemented, e.g. looking at equality impact assessment, staffing guideline and workflow.

#### **6. Welcome week**

##### **Leeds Beckett**

- Set up a 4-week pre-arrival VLE module, included 2 webinars a week introducing students to UK HE practice – primarily aimed at international students (first language not English, IELTS for international students is equivalent to a GCSE). Previously these students would seek out support late on (at point of failure). Engagement with the library following this has been positive, able to offer embedded support earlier.

- Online sessions allow for students to meet others within webinars before arriving at university.
- No in-person inductions conducted anymore. All students do self-directed pre-arrival module.
- L4 students have been very focused on the learning skills they need – described as being more ‘switched on’ than previous cohorts.

### **Salford**

- In-person sessions in new location to those used previously, more visible.
- QR code challenges have been popular.
- Announced the sessions taking place via tannoy as well as students pre-booked on to sessions.
- Glossary of terms for HE on [international student page](#).

### **Teesside**

- Online module aimed at incoming health students (UG and PG) to support their research and academic writing skills, often found to be a weak area. Series of online workshops over 6 weeks. They are now looking at launching this more widely across the institution.
- “Succeed at Tees” programmes: induction now included as part of wider programme. Also supports late arrivals e.g. in weeks 4, 6 and 7 to accommodate international students who often arrive later in the term.
- Provide all new students an iPad. These are issued in the library which brings them in to the facilities early on.

### **RNCM**

- International welcome week for international students no longer takes place at RNCM. This is considered to have negatively impacted their engagement with the library.
- Gamifying inductions now that students are back in person.

A discussion was held over how learners/students have changed with impact of their previous learning before entering HE (impact of COVID) and mental wellbeing.

- Students seem more familiar and confident in using online tools - more than we would expect

- L4 students didn't do GCSEs this year, some students haven't done in person written exams.
- Students unfamiliar with general behaviour expectations and respect within lectures, to learn in large physical groups.
- More dependence on lecture capture – student first port of call, revision and support tool.
- Need for us to be 'technically robust'.
- Greater number of international students. Challenges of students coming from an educational culture in which attitudes to copyright and plagiarism are very different to UK HE.
- Students have become very adept at operating online, but returning students (who been online for few years due to Covid) find it hard to adapt to operating in a physical environment. Some have never been around the physical library until now.
- Online exam support, mental health and wellbeing are key issues for the younger generation. Mention of looking at developing resources to help with these issues, and the transition to university.
- Keyword searching approaches have changed, perhaps with the [use of TikTok](#) and other platforms. Students more familiar with keyword searching as a result. Information Literacy support needs to adapt.
- Possibility for the CoP to collectively survey the differences in learning styles for students joining university and the pressures they face.

## **7. Supporting retention and Personal Academic Tutors**

Edge Hill colleagues shared how they were looking to identify priorities for supporting academics with university KPIs around retention. Identified increased load on PATs for seeing students, timescales etc. They planned to review existing materials to collate into a "PAT package". The team no longer attend in person sessions with groups of PATs and are looking for new ways to regain input and discussion to support academic staff.

Discussion around opportunities for supporting academic tutors and the need for the offer to be clear, using the opportunity to rebrand and market this information, pulling information together in an accessible way. Suggestion of a project to map academic support for students onto issues academics may encounter at the times they might arise.

Discussion on challenges – information overload, hidden communications in overwhelm of emails, keeping track of relevant content within infrastructures e.g. intranet

## **7. Any other business**

### **Capturing feedback for training sessions.**

Discussion around general practice for gaining feedback from student groups.

Generally, members shared that they use forms to gain feedback with some standard set questions, but is an area many are keen to review at their own institutions. The use of QR codes to direct the students towards and gain feedback easily and quickly was highly recommend.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

May 2023 (TBC).

## **9. Summary and close**