

Rights Retention, your new co-chairs, and plans for the next year

The ALN Research Support Group hosted an open virtual Town Hall meeting for group members on Wednesday 15th June 2022. Members of the group could 'drop-in' to attend without having to pre-register and there was good attendance from across the ALN institutions. The meeting was hosted and chaired by Judith Carr and Katherine Stephan, who have co-chaired the Research Support Group since Northern Collaboration and NoWAL joined to become Academic Libraries North.

Rights Retention

The first half of the meeting included a presentation from [Gavin Boyce](#), Head of Faculty and Research Partnership at the University of Sheffield, on the topic of Rights Retention. Gavin [shared the work](#) that they have done at Sheffield so far.

Rights Retention aims to enable sufficient rights to be retained by the author or institution over their research publications, to ensure that they can be made immediately Open Access. Several funders are now aligning their policies related to Rights Retention with Plan S, and this is also driving institutions to consider implementing their own Rights Retention or copyright policies in order to make more of their research outputs open access as soon as possible.

The event was very timely and the discussion and debate about Rights Retention Strategies has continued over the last few weeks through Sally Rumsey's presentation at the [JISC Digital Research Community](#) and a subsequent discussion on the [UKCORR mailing list](#).

Research Group Co-Chairs

Judith and Katherine had previously announced via the group mailing list that they would both be stepping down as co-chairs for the Research Support Group, and expressions of interest had been sought for others to take over. In the second part of the Town Hall meeting the group's two new co-chairs were introduced: Ellie Clement from Leeds Beckett University and Eleanor Warren from The University of Manchester (that's us!)

The rest of the meeting provided an opportunity for members to voice their ideas and suggestions for the forthcoming year of the group, in terms of topics they would like to learn about or discuss at events, and what they want from the group. Loads of really good suggestions were made, and the meeting chat was used to tally interest for each one.

Some of the ideas for event topics were as follows:

- Recruitment in Libraries, specifically in research support teams
- FAIR data principles
- Research Culture
- Post-REF plans
- Persistent Identifiers and policy
- Non-traditional OA deals, including transition to OA books and how to finance this

We will be using some of these ideas to plan and deliver a few events over the next year, potentially with some more informal 'coffee morning' style meetings, to create a space for members to meet and talk about any pressing issues, and to network and build our community together.

Please get in touch with us directly or use the [mailing list](#) or [Teams space](#) to let us know how you would like the Research Support Group to be shaped, any ideas of topics or events you'd like to see, and how the group can be a useful community to you. Please also use these communication channels to reach out to fellow members of the group at any time.

Tips for switching between SCONUL and your own institutional Teams sites

Several people have commented that its hard switching between SCONUL ALN Teams (where ALN hangs out) and your own institutional Teams site on the Teams app. We recommend opening Teams in your browser (from <https://teams.microsoft.com>) for any Team site access outside your home institution and using the Teams app for your home institution.

This blog post has been written by Ellie Clement and Eleanor Warren – new co-chairs of the Research Support Group.