sherif User Group Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 9 April 2024

In Attendance:

Adam Robinson [AR] - Chair, Sarah Mann [SM], Elaine Mulholland [EM], Nicola Tricker [NT]

Apologies:

Jane Cooke

		Action Points
1	**Review of student prize**	
	This meeting was to look at the student prize to see how we might encourage more submissions this year. Sherif does not typically talk directly to students, so how can we reach this audience? Committee members with the responsibility to contact the course directors, to whom we direct our invitations to submit, report that course directors do not always respond to email contact. We infer that this is owing to heavy workloads and competing demands. Applications for the sherif prize require mediation by course directors, so direct contact with students will still require work from course directors to submit the application. It may be that a web form (rather than an email) might simplify the process for course directors. It would be helpful to contact course directors to find out what would make the process easier for them; we can also take this opportunity to remind course directors of the benefits for their students and institution of submitting entries for the prize, including: • good publicity for the institution and the course • good experience and AGM attendance for the winning student We also considered the criteria for the prize, and discussed the possibility of broadening and updating them so that more dissertations could qualify. Finally we discussed whether there are other organizations who could assist in promoting the prize. From the discussions the following actions were decided: • Whole committee: to review the current criteria and suggest changes to make the prize more relevant and engaging for LIS students (SM to circulate the text).	SM/whole committee

• EM to contact course director at University of Ulster to request feedback on current process.	EM	
• Using feedback from University of Ulster to inform the communications, MW to approach course directors to ask how we can make the process easier for them to engage with and to rehearse the benefits of involvement with the sherif prize.	MW	
• Explore creation of web form to facilitate submissions.	MW/AT	
• EM to send contacts at other organizations to AR. AR to contact.	EM/AR	