sherif User Group Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 18 February 2025, 1–2pm

In Attendance:

Adam Robinson [AR] – chair, Jane Cooke [JC] – treasurer, Sarah Mann [SM] – notetaker, Elaine Mulholland [EM], Michelle Walker [MW]

		Action points
1	**Welcome and apologies**	
	AR welcomed attendees to the meeting. Sue Abbott and Nicola Tricker sent apologies.	
2	**Minutes and actions from the last meeting**	
	The website update action is carried forward to the next committee meeting.	SA
	MW has contacted the sherif student prize winner and will follow up after this meeting.	MW
	AR will report on sherif's financial position at the AGM as JC is unable to attend. JC will supply information to AR ahead of the AGM.	JC AR
	EM confirmed that no actions were required by the sherif constitution at this year's AGM.	
	AR will announce at the AGM his intention to step down as sherif chair later this year.	AR
	AR reported that he and EM had agreed with AGM speakers that this would be a closed session so no recording would be made. The speakers' slides will be shared after the meeting.	
	JC has initiated the payment to UKSG for the place at the UKSG conference but requires further information to complete the online payment. JC is taking this forward.	JC
	AR confirmed that sherif will pay for the successful applicant's travel costs. The delegate will be expected to pay for accommodation.	

3	**Matters arising**	
	All other actions and matters arising from the last meeting's minutes will be covered under separate agenda items.	
4	**AGM planning**	
	AR will prepare a chair's report for the AGM.	AR
5	**Website update**	
	This will be added to the agenda for the next committee meeting.	SM SA
6	**Future of student prize**	
	In 2024 we refreshed our approach to the promotion of the prize, but this did not result in additional engagement from librarianship and information science schools. The committee decided to pause the student prize; this does not prevent us from reviving it in the future.	
7	**Reports on liaison activity**	
	AR reported that he had participated in the Jisc learning content expert group meeting in January. The minutes of those meetings cannot be shared outside the group. JC reported that the Jisc publishing negotiation expert group (formerly the content expert group) had met the previous week in preparation for negotiation with the 'Big Five' publishers.	
8	**Reports on enhancement groups**	
	SM reported the following updates from enhancement group chairs. Kath Halfpenny, chair of the EBSCO enhancement group, reported that, as a result of the UKSG webinar on the sherif enhancement groups, she had made a useful connection with an EBSCO customer in another sector. The next meeting for the EBSCO enhancement group is scheduled for 7 March, and the focus for that meeting will be on the roll-out of the new EBSCO UI, due in summer 2025 for sherif members. Kath formally records her thanks to AR and EM for their support of the group's stance in seeking a postponement of the proposed January 2025 migration. The formal letter co-signed by AR really helped to achieve the postponement for sherif members. Kath would also like to thank the group	

members who provided valuable examples and feedback to demonstrate the difficulties the timing of a January migration would cause for institutions. This feedback presented a strong case for the postponement and played a significant role in achieving it.

There has been a change of membership in the EBSCO enhancement group: Dita Krauze of City University has now left the group and is replaced by Fiona Paterson, also of City University.

Kath has also let the committee know of her intention to step down as chair of the EBSCO enhancement group at the end of 2025, and she will share this decision with the group at the 7 March meeting.

Delyth Morris, chair of the Ovid enhancement group, has reported that the group is likely to be meeting as usual in the spring or summer.

Wendy Mears, chair of the Clarivate ProQuest ExLibris enhancement group, submitted a report to the sherif committee as follows (this report predated the recent Clarivate announcement about changes to purchase models). Wendy reported that the group had two online meetings in 2024, on 17 June and 2 December. At Clarivate, Jed Gilmore retired from his role and has passed the liaison baton to Lesley Thomas, VP Production Operations. The group lost two long-standing members, Gavin Brindley from Coventry and Sarah Davies from Nottingham, but welcomed two more, Geraldine O'Beirn from Queen's University Belfast and, very recently, Heather Da Vanzo from Liverpool John Moores. The group continues to invite as guests to the meeting a representative from any library raising an issue. This is very beneficial as that library can explain the context and answer questions and hear the answers first-hand. Direct follow-up conversations are easier and – judging from updates in subsequent meetings – resolution is improved. Online meetings continue to save time, money, and carbon. They facilitate wider representation from different departments within ProQuest and improve communications. Wendy records her gratitude to Clarivate colleagues for giving up their time to meet with us and accepting sherif as a critical friend; it is clear they value the contributions of this group to product development. Recent fruitful discussions at the December meeting concerned updates to the Ebook Central platform, and development plans for Clarivate's AI Research Assistant, which is being rolled out across key products. Wendy also extends her thanks to all the sherif members who make up the committee for their work in making this a success.

	Elizabeth McHugh, chair of the Scopus enhancement group, is beginning work to arrange this year's meeting. At this year's meetings the minutes of last year's meeting will be finalized and then the minutes will be available to sherif members via the website.	
	AR noted that we shall want to acknowledge Kath's work in due course.	AR
9	**Enhancement group chairs / sherif committee meeting**	
	SM to arrange a meeting with the group chairs for summer 2025.	SM
10	**UKSG conference**	
	The committee reviewed the draft criteria from the March 2024 meeting and agreed on this, without the inclusion of a limit on the number of applicants from any one institution.	
	MW will check the equivalence of word limit for written applications with the timing limit for video applications.	MW
	When that is finalized, we can begin promotion through the usual channels (AGM; website; mailing lists).	Committee
11	**Treasurer's update**	
	JC reported that there had been no significant activity since her last update to the committee.	
12	**Mailing lists**	
	MW reported that there were six new subscriptions to the mailing list. These all came soon after the UKSG webinar in January so it is likely that they were prompted by attendance at the webinar.	
13	**Date and place of next meeting**	
	SM to circulate a Google form to gather information on availability for the next meeting.	SM
14	**AOB**	
	There have been 131 registrations for the AGM so far.	
	There was a brief discussion about the possibility of promoting sherif events via GuildHE, and this will be picked up in the next committee meeting.	SM