

**NoWAL Research Group
Committee Meeting Blog – 18th July 2019**

On 18th July, the NoWAL Research Group reconvened, the first meeting since the new Chair and Vice Chair took on their roles.

The Group wish to thank Mary Pickstone for her contributions and hard work as the previous chair of the group.

Although we have a new Chair (Lucy May) and Vice Chair (Judith Carr) this is a self-organising group and so there will be a less formal approach to how we organise ourselves. Well, in the sense that we are moving away from formal minutes and have started this blog about our meetings. A new approach, let's see how it goes.

The group met on the morning of 18th July at Sydney Jones Library, University of Liverpool, serenaded by the obligatory graduation jazz band in Abercromby Square.

After introductions and a brief discussion of what we are all working on in our roles, it was clear that we had really good mix of people in the group representing 7 of the NoWAL members, in varying roles, covering research data management, open access and scholarly communications and research study skills.

Our first task was to look at the terms of reference and after feedback from Nicky it was decided to reduce the term for the roles of chair and vice chair from 3 years to 2 years. This has now been done. The purpose of the group will remain the same.

The main task of this meeting was to set up terms of reference, decide on priorities and themes for the coming year and what support and training to organise for this.

As a group, we had a number of themes to consider ranging from digital preservation to 'Diversity – what can we do more of?' After some discussion and a vote, the consensus was to concentrate on two themes – Preparing for REF and Encouraging and facilitating open research.

We are planning on organising 2 days in the next academic year to support these themes:

- Preparing for REF – November 2018
- Encouraging and facilitating open research - June 2019

We welcome colleagues to come forward to volunteer suggestions of who to invite or even better to contribute themselves. Short 5 minute sessions, facilitating discussion groups, presentations, we want to hear from you, so we can share our experiences! One thing the whole group agreed on was that we all liked time to facilitate roundtable discussions to share experiences as well as more formal training.

A hot topic of discussion was diversity, but it was decided this was a library wide topic and the group would suggest it as one for the main NoWAL board to consider. A theme for the next conference perhaps?

Under the 'umbrella' of the Research Group, a smaller self-organising community of practice for RDM has emerged. The Group wish to support such communities, connecting and bringing together

colleagues from our member institutions and encourage groups on other topics, such as OA, to get together. At our next annual meeting, we would like to invite these groups to report on their activities during the year and raise any suggestions of training that the Group can support in the future.

So, watch out for news about our first event in November. If anyone has any suggestions, ideas, topics of discussion that fit under either theme please contact either Lucy or Judith. Anyone wanting to know who to contact re communities of practice or to set up one themselves, again please contact Lucy or Judith (lucinda.may@manchester.ac.uk / j.c.carr@liverpool.ac.uk)

Group members present:

Lucy May – Chair – University of Manchester

Judith Carr – Vice Chair – University of Liverpool

Nicky Freeman – NoWAL Operations Officer

Helen Bell – Edge Hill University

Katy Donnelly – Manchester Metropolitan University

Anne Keddie - Bolton University

Hardy Schwamm – Lancaster University

Katherine Stephan – Liverpool John Moores University

Jacqueline Vigilanti - Manchester Metropolitan University

Claire Wilson - Manchester Metropolitan University