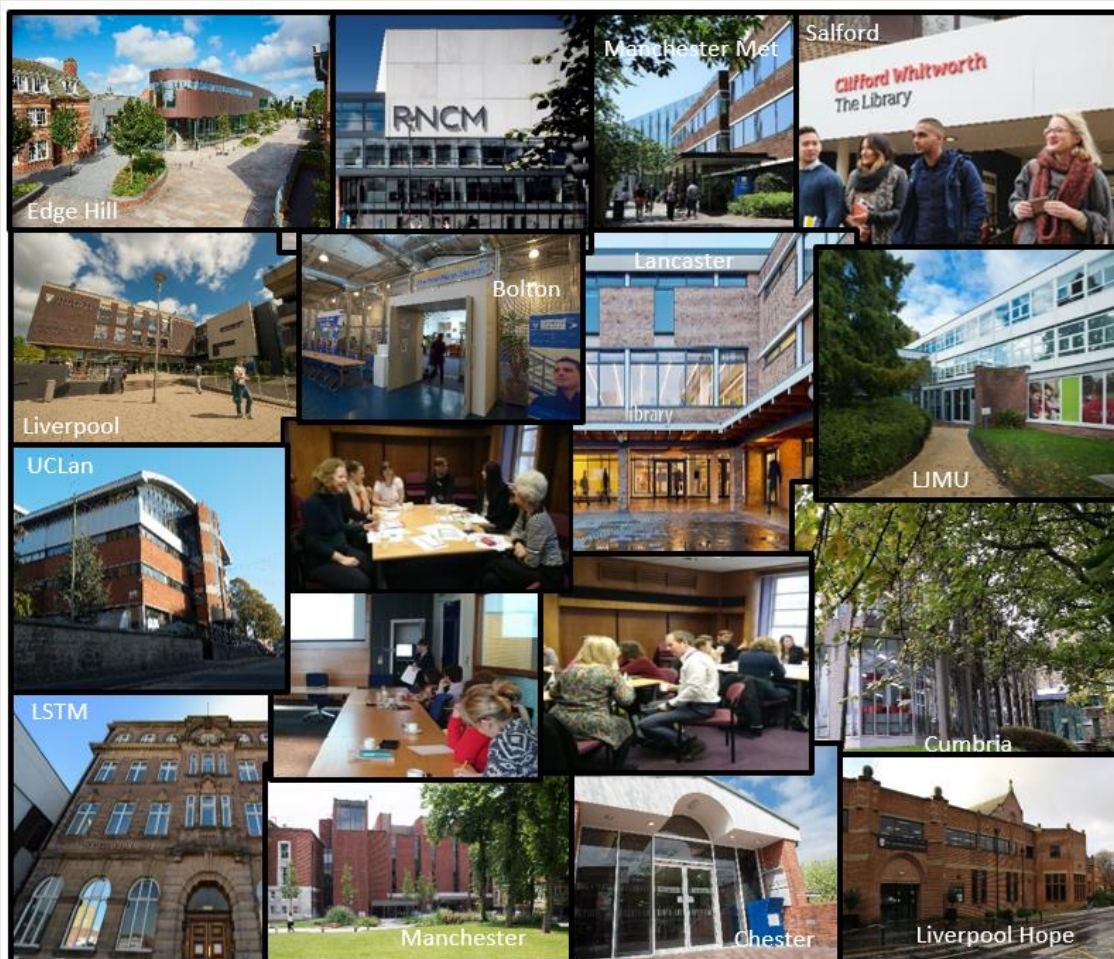


NoWAL Annual Review 2016



1. What is NoWAL?

NoWAL Fact:
**14 members across
the North West,
stretching from the
University of
Cumbria in the north
of the region to
Manchester
Metropolitan
University's Crewe
campus in the south**

NoWAL is a network of academic libraries in the North West of England, with an outstanding reputation for knowledge exchange, staff development and training; benefitting our members by providing access to specialist skills and shared services across the HE sector.

NoWAL serves all the UK Universities and Colleges of Higher Education libraries in Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. The consortium's mission is to inspire excellence in the learning and research services of member libraries; to drive the North West academic library agenda and be a regional voice for SCONUL; to celebrate success through collaboration, innovation, influence and partnership.

The NoWAL members are:

- Edge Hill University
- Liverpool Hope University
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Royal Northern College of Music
- University of Bolton
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Chester
- University of Cumbria
- University of Lancaster
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Salford



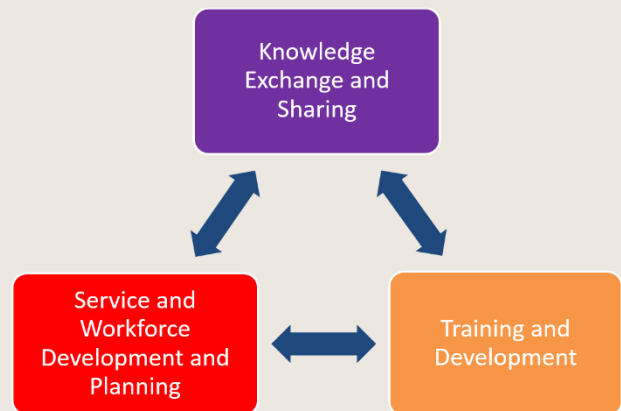
2. NoWAL Chair's Introduction



Welcome to the first NoWAL Annual Review with the aim of showcasing the activities of NoWAL during the year and highlighting the plans for the forthcoming year.

A key achievement in 2016 has been the development of a new operational plan based around three themes:

- **Knowledge Exchange and Sharing**
 - o led by Sandra Bracegirdle
- **Service Workforce Development & Planning**
 - o led by Susan Murray
- **Training and Development**
 - o led by Heather Thrift



I am very grateful to the work of the many NoWAL members who contributed to the development of the plan and would like to thank the NoWAL Board, Nicky Freeman (NoWAL Operations Officer), and the newly formed Senior Staff group for their input.

The NoWAL Board meetings have discussed a number of topics relevant to the sector over the last year such as ebooks, procurement, disaster recovery and planning. Our next meeting in February 2017 will focus on strategic workforce planning.

Over the last year NoWAL has completed its transformation from a limited company and charity to developing a working partnership with **SCONUL**. This has enabled us to move away from some complex governance requirements to a more agile system and I would like to thank all those involved in this transfer at both NoWAL and SCONUL.



NoWAL continues to achieve much through its **Training and Development programme** led by Heather Thrift, with a wide variety of events run across the year. We hope to see many NoWAL staff at the upcoming NoWAL Conference, on 20th July 2017 at the University of Lancaster's George Fox building. The conference title, *Library Evolution: developing academic libraries for the future* sounds interesting.



Regina O'Brien of Salford continues to successfully lead the **Procurement Group** and, along with Colette Capewell from Edge Hill, oversees NoWAL's engagement in the national tendering process for monographs and serials. Take a look at the Procurement Group's report in section 6 for a summary of activity over the year.

This year saw the establishment of a **Senior Staff Group** with members from all NoWAL institutions. The inaugural meeting was hosted at the University of Manchester, chaired by Michelle Sharples. There was very positive feedback from the attendees who welcomed this opportunity to network and share experience.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who contribute their time and energy to making NoWAL a success, in particular the members of the **NoWAL Operations Group** - Susan Murray, Julie Hitchen, Heather Thrift, Ruth Jenkins, David Clay, and Margaret Weaver supported by the excellent work of Nicky Freeman (Operations Officer).

Best wishes,

Sandra Bracegirdle
Chair of NoWAL

NoWAL Fact:
Our Twitter
account now
has over 300
followers

3. Introducing the NoWAL Operations Group



Chair - Sandra Bracegirdle

Head of Content, Collections and Discovery, University of Manchester

Vice-Chair - Susan Murray

Director of Library & Learning Spaces, Liverpool Hope University

Treasurer - Julie Hitchen

College Librarian, University of Central Lancashire

CPD Lead - Heather Thrift

Director of Library Services, Liverpool John Moores University

Procurement Lead - David Clay

University Librarian, University of Salford

Northern Collaboration Link – Ruth Jenkins

Head of Library Services, Manchester Metropolitan University

Previous Chair - Margaret Weaver

Director of Library & Student Services, University of Cumbria

NoWAL Operations Officer - Nicky Freeman



NoWAL Fact:

Officers
serve a 3
year term



4. Review of the NoWAL Training & Development Programme November 2015 to December 2016

NoWAL Fact:

**381 staff
attended 21
sessions**

The NoWAL Training & Development Group is made up of a representative from each of the 14 NoWAL member libraries. The Group meets at least once a year and plans the programme for the forthcoming academic session and each NoWAL member commits to hosting a minimum of one event per year.

Between November 2015 and December 2016, 381 staff attended 21 sessions, including 3 visits, making an average of 18 people attending each session. There was a broad range of events on offer from reviewing reading lists to assessing library approaches to equality & diversity.



The T&D team have been working to ensure that all our events are engaging, include an element of interaction and provide attendees with something constructive and purposeful to take away with them. This will be developed further in next year's programme, when we will also look to provide events in alternative formats, such as online or by webinar, where the content and purpose are appropriate.



February 1, 2017

@nowallibs

Feedback from NoWAL events

Feedback from NoWAL events is overwhelmingly positive, with the most frequent comments relating to the opportunities the events have afforded attendees to network with people performing similar roles in other NoWAL libraries. We have also received constructive ideas on how to make the events more interactive and engaging, which has helped in the planning for future programmes.



NoWAL Training Needs Survey 2016

The survey ran during March and April 2016 and aimed to establish members' requirements of the Training & Development programme within NoWAL. 216 responses were received, the results of which were reviewed at a CPD planning meeting in May 2016. The responses provided food for thought, with feedback for example, calling for more support for those on part time hours, with non-traditional work commitments, etc.



5. Special Interest Groups

5.1 Academic Librarians' Group

Chairs: Julie Brand and Julie Hitchen (UCLan)

The group was established in January 2014 and currently has around 49 members. Meetings have discussed the use of technology and apps in teaching, ebook models, triage services and library refurbishments. A TeachMeet is being held in March 2017 at UCLan, with a theme to explore online learning in information literacy.

**NoWAL
Fact:**
NoWAL has
6 SIGs

5.2 Copyright Group

Outgoing Chair: Andrew Taylor (Hope)

A copyright event was held in September 2016 at the University of Liverpool. Presentations included an introduction to Copyright and Digitisation, a demonstration of the CLA Digital Content Store, a showcasing of the University of Manchester's online copyright resources for teaching, and a presentation on Open Access and Copyright. There was also an opportunity for questions, discussions, and shared experiences. The next task for the group is to redefine the terms of reference and appoint a new chair.



5.3 Research Group

Chair: Mary Pickstone (Manchester Met)



The group held 2 half day events in 2015-16 with a great turnout at both and lots of positive feedback and comment. The first looked into how 'REF-ready' members felt and the second looked at research support, with a series of presentations, roundtable discussions and workshops. The discussion list continues to be active, announcing events and sharing help and advice relating to research support issues.

5.4 Special Collections Group

Chair: Julia Martin (LSTM)

The group emerged from a well-attended event in June 2016 at Liverpool Hope University, focusing on engagement and how to use the collections interactively within the teaching and learning process. There were talks from various members as well as a tour of the Hope archives and special collections. Activity on the list has included members circulating details of their collections, team members and responsibilities as well as a useful discussion around the purpose of the group. An event is planned for June 2017 at Liverpool John Moores University.



NoWAL Fact:

NoWAL is a
working
partner of
SCONUL



In addition to the 4 groups reported above, NoWAL also has a Project Management Group and a User Experience Group, both of which were created during the year in review and are very much in their infancy. As such there is no progress to report this year. Both groups will be reviewed in 2017.

6. NoWAL Procurement Group

Chair: Regina O'Brien (Salford)

Over the past year, NoWAL has contributed to a national ebook accessibility audit and produced a report which highlighted a range of issues on the current framework agreement. An e-books sub-group was set up to give suppliers feedback on current and best practice.



The group held a successful event at the University of Chester in February 2016, on the subject 'PDA (Patron Driven Acquisition) vs EBA (Evidence Based Acquisition)', which included presentations and a general discussion about acquisition models, publisher & aggregator purchasing developments.

NoWAL Monographs

The current Joint Consortia Agreement for Books, Standing Orders, E-Books and Related Material has been extended on the same terms to 31st July 2017. A tender strategy and a high-level e-book requirements document have been developed for the new inter-regional framework to be awarded from 1st August 2017.

NoWAL Fact:

We spent
£5,826,246 on
books in 2015-
2016

NoWAL Fact:

We spent
£6,372,406 on
serials in 2015-
2016

NoWAL Serials

A new serials framework agreement has been awarded, running from 1st May 2016 to 30th April 2018, with two 12-month extension options. Representatives from the NoWAL Procurement Group were part of the evaluation team. A serials review meeting in June 2016 gave an overview of the new agreement to NoWAL members and provided an opportunity for questions.

7. Looking Forward to 2017

7.1 NoWAL Conference

The conference, entitled **Library Evolution: developing academic libraries for the future**, is to be held on Thursday 20th July at the beautiful campus of the University of Lancaster in the George Fox Building – a venue ideally suited to a conference of our size.



Our innovative conference will explore the future for academic libraries and how further evolution in technology and knowledge will affect higher education and libraries. It will consider how we continue to support library users and meet their evolving teaching, learning and research needs.

The conference will broadly address the following themes:

- **Service Development/Space Development**
- **Innovation/Communication**
- **Value and Benefits**
- **Collaboration/Partnerships**

NoWAL Fact:
We hold a
conference
biennially in
July



7.2 NoWAL Plan 2016-2019

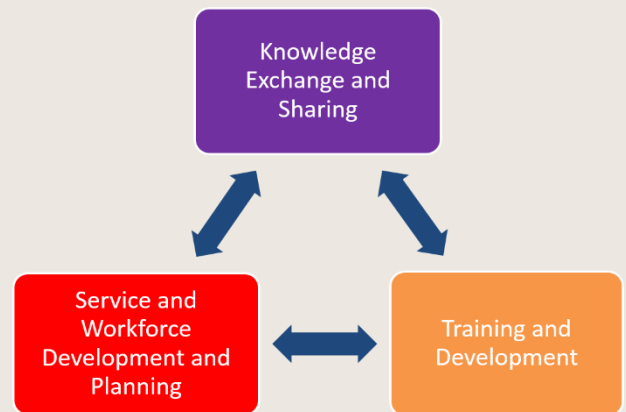
Building on the successes and achievements of the previous operational plan, the NoWAL Board met in February 2016 at the University of Lancaster, and discussed the priorities for NoWAL activity over the following three years.

NoWAL is looking to build on its mission:

- to inspire excellence in the learning and research services of member libraries;
- to drive the North West academic library agenda and be a regional voice for SCONUL;
- to celebrate success through collaboration, innovation, influence and partnership.

The plan has three strategic themes, each led by a member of the Operations Group.

Each of the themes has a set of strategic objectives attached, with timescales, actions and outcomes assigned.



It is hoped that members of NoWAL will play a part in the accomplishment of individual objectives and ultimately towards the achievement of the Plan as a whole.

For more information on the NoWAL Plan 2016-19 and the Conference 2017, to see how you can get involved in either, take a look at the [NoWAL website](#).

