

**BIC LIBRARY SUPPLIERS (GOVERNMENT TASKFORCE) LIAISON GROUP MEETING – Minutes****Location:** 1 Horseguards Road, London SW1A 2HQ**Date and time:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018, 2pm**Minutes taken by:** Alaina-Marie Bassett**Present**

Alaina-Marie Bassett, BIC  
 Catherine Cooke, Westminster Libraries  
 Mick Fortune, Consultant (Chair)  
 Jacob Fredrickson, British Library  
 Eric Green, BDS  
 Andrew Hall, OCLC  
 Isobel Hunter, Libraries Connected  
 Neil Johnson, Insight Media Internet Ltd  
 Ayub Khan, Libraries Connected  
 Charlotte Lane, DCMS  
 Ian Manson, Infor  
 Barbara Pacut, SirsiDynix

Heather Sherman, Dawson Books  
 Karina Urquhart, BIC  
 Liz White, British Library  
 Anthony Whitford, Capita (delegate)  
 Darren Ratcliffe, Bibliotheca  
 Neil Wishart, SOLUS

**Apologies**

James Breakell, D-Tech International  
 Colin Carter, Innovative  
 Kate Hayman, Civica  
 John Kelly, Axiell  
 Karen Reece, Capita

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Group was welcomed to the meeting and the apologies were delivered. Heather Sherman of Dawson Books was welcomed to the Group as a new member. The Group was reminded about BIC's Competition Law Policy – please click on the following link for more information regarding this policy: <http://www.bic.org.uk/149/BIC-Competition-Law-Policy/>

**2. Review of minutes and follow-up on actions from the previous meeting – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

**3. Matters arising not otherwise itemised**

The Group did not have anything to report under this item.

**4. Governance of this Liaison Group**

KU confirmed that the Terms of Reference document for this Liaison Group was signed off by the BIC Libraries Committee during its most recent meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

**5. The British Library (BL)'s Single Digital Presence (SDP) project**

LW provided a presentation on the BL's SDP project – which is funded by both the Arts Council England (ACE) and Carnegie UK – during the meeting, noting that the project is half way through its research period at this time. The BL is leading a consultation for the Public Libraries Sector to produce a Recommendations Paper on the feasibility and impact of an SDP. LW noted that the purpose of the project is to increase the usage of libraries across the UK, identify inefficiencies and look at the solutions in place in other regions and the impacts. This project will take into account relevant, existing research as well as the BL's own research.

LW noted that the funding for this project does not extend to the creation of any prototype solutions, i.e. it includes researching, consultations and the production of the Recommendations Paper only. She suggested that, providing the Recommendations Paper is well received, a further 6-months of funding may be put forward by ACE and Carnegie UK.

- Ongoing research

The Group was informed that JF began working on the SDP project in February 2018, investigating national libraries in different regions to ascertain what a SDP in public libraries specifically might look like, its feasibility, its pros and cons, whether digital products can amplify the use / worth of libraries, etc. He noted that, in other regions, the number of physical visits to public libraries is higher than that of the UK. LW noted that meetings will be held in September / October 2018 to identify libraries' requirements for a SDP.

➤ **ACTION:** LW to arrange meetings with the members of this Liaison Group ASAP in order to collate information for the SDP project.

➤ **ACTION:** LW to liaise with KU if help in setting up the forthcoming meetings / circulating information about forthcoming workshops is required.

- The Government's Libraries TaskForce

CL informed the Group that the Libraries TaskForce will remain active until 2020. She noted that a report on the top-rated libraries in the UK plus an accompanying blog will be published by DCMS imminently; this report will rate libraries by district rather than by county. She noted that the report includes a section regarding the unreliable nature of some data, i.e. if a library is closed – even if that is for building work / refurbishment – the footfall will decrease. She confirmed however that the report will provide invaluable insight into current library trends.

*Post-Meeting Update: This report, which was published on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018, can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/analysing-data-cipfa-statistics-and-the-future-of-englands-libraries>. The link was circulated to this Group by CL on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018.*

*See DCMS's blog, here: <https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/08/17/analysing-the-cipfa-data>*

**6. New models for Library Management System (LMS) procurement**

MF confirmed that, on behalf of BIC and Libraries Connected, he has submitted a tender document for LMS procurement project. A simple funding model was chosen for this project which can be altered in future if the funding model proves to be insufficient. MF noted that the tender document will be circulated widely in due course once feedback on it has been obtained. It was noted that the governance of this project will lie with BIC and the Libraries TaskForce. Agreement regarding funding the costs for BIC in this regard is yet to be finalised between KU and CL. MF confirmed that the Steering Group meetings will be held quarterly to oversee the progress being made and to direct the project's output. AK suggested that a library representative from within Libraries Connected should be elected to participate in the governance of the procurement project.

➤ **ACTION:** AK and IH to agree which library representative should be elected.

➤ **ACTION:** MF to chair the Steering Group, once BIC funding has been agreed.

CL confirmed that LMS suppliers will not own the intellectual property (IP) following this project. AK noted that future updates / maintenance work and its funding will need to be considered by the

Steering Group in due course. KU and AK agreed that any documents produced for this project should be maintained by both BIC and Libraries Connected collaboratively so they remain unanimous. MF confirmed that the Steering Group will also address what LMS suppliers can / should respond to library authorities in relation to their tenders. KU noted that the IP position should be clearly documented ahead of the project starting.

#### 7. Developing a common platform to expose library holdings on the internet

IM commented that a common platform to expose library holdings could facilitate the BL's SDP project. CL noted that proprietary platforms (which she reported are inexpensive) are available already so this Group should identify why libraries are not using them. AK suggested that libraries may not be aware that LMS suppliers can provide this functionality at present. LW and JF confirmed that the BL is keeping a watching brief on this topic as part of the SDP project and its relation to linked data; organisations will be given the opportunity to discuss the technical feasibility of a common platform to expose library holdings at the BL's forthcoming meetings (see Item 5, above) in September / October 2018.

BP noted that libraries require an online presence to remain relevant in today's society. MF agreed. He suggested however, as it is being addressed by the BL's SDP project, that this topic should be removed from this Group's agenda to avoid a duplication of efforts. The Group agreed that the development of a common platform will be a long-term endeavour, as such AK suggested that (in the meantime) libraries should be encouraged to speak with their LMS suppliers regarding online solutions and use cases could be produced to promote the existence of the functionality / platforms already available. CL informed the Group that DCMS has a blog available on this topic. CC commented that any further documents produced on this topic should be aimed at libraries, informing them how to make their holdings easily available on the internet. AK confirmed that this topic is a priority for Libraries Connected as libraries want to provide quality customer journeys.

- **ACTION:** AK to consider having a presentation on this topic at the next Libraries Connected conference.
- **ACTION:** LW to ensure that this topic is addressed and recommended as a priority in the British Library's SDP project report.

#### 8. Establishing a single, eBook delivery platform

AK reported that Libraries Connected's Digital Leads have suggested that, despite the continual improvement of eBook suppliers' services, multiple sign-ons are still an issue for libraries; a single platform is required to make the discovery process seamless for library patrons. CC noted that libraries often use 2 differing platforms as a minimum, i.e. one for eBooks and one for audiobooks, as such they are reliant on their chosen suppliers and whether they will allow the digital files to be opened via a different platform. It was noted that, in the US, Amazon allows libraries to rent eBooks however this practice isn't permitted in the UK as yet. EG commented that the majority of libraries choose a supplier based on its service / the way its platform handles. He noted that, until there is a single eBook delivery platform, this will remain an ongoing issue but suggested that the production of a standard to aid interoperability would be of use.

HS reported that this issue is exacerbated in academic libraries because publishers have now begun to develop their own eBook platforms in addition to those of library suppliers. JF confirmed that the BL is researching international developments in this area which may, in turn, be of use to the UK as well.

The Group agreed that this topic is very relevant to the BL's SDP project. LW noted that the BL's Recommendations Paper will require buy-in from industry leaders to be able to deliver the required platform. She noted that the second phase of the BL's project (for which funding has not been obtained as yet) will be to assess the feasibility of the BL's recommendations and how they could be achieved.

- **ACTION:** LW to ensure that this topic is addressed by the British Library's SDP project report.
- **ACTION:** AMB to add a watching brief on this topic to the agenda of the BIC Libraries Committee.

#### 9. Libraries Core Dataset (LCD) / Public Lending Rights (PLR)

NW reported that the BIC Library Communication Framework (LCF) Technical Panel has now reviewed and approved the requests proposed by SOLUS for its extension to LCF. He noted that a pilot of the extension was carried out recently and that information about libraries' implementations will be made available in due course. CL noted that it would be beneficial if the pilot organisations would be willing to publish information about their implementations and their PLR data to encourage other organisations to engage also. She reported however that few organisations have published their data to date. NW explained that the SOLUS app is effectively a catalogue / content management system which libraries will be able to request a login for, once it is made live. CL noted that the app takes into account only 1 of the 10 parts of the LCD. She suggested that, once the app is in use by more libraries, it will help to identify library presence in the UK.

- **ACTION:** AK and CL to liaise regarding this topic to agree how Libraries Connected can promote the LCD and/or PLR data in due course.

#### 10. A.O.B.

KU noted that the majority of the items being addressed by this Group are under the auspices of the BL with the exception of new models for LMS procurement and the LCD. It was agreed that this Group should be disbanded with a view to its members applying to join the BIC Libraries Committee ASAP; KU noted that representatives of the Libraries TaskForce will be permitted to attend the BIC Libraries Committee meetings as guests. It was agreed that the BL should be invited to provide updates on the SDP project during the Committee meetings also.

- ❖ **DECISION:** This Group has now been disbanded.
- **ACTION:** ALL to consider joining the BIC Libraries Committee to remain informed about the BL's SDP project, new models for LMS procurement and the LCD.  
*Post-Meeting Update: The BIC Libraries Committee application form was circulated to this Group on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 for its attention.*
- **ACTION:** AK to encourage Janet Wood to apply to join the BIC Libraries Committee ASAP.

#### 11. Date of next meeting

None.