



South Western Regional Library Services CIO

SWRLS CIO Plymouth
College of Art Tavistock
Place PLYMOUTH Devon,
PL4 8AT

coordinator1@swrls.org.uk

SWRLS AGM 26th November 2021

Trustees in attendance: Jackie Chelin (Chair), Merryn Kent (Treasurer), Donna Gundry (Secretary), Frances Tout.

Attendees: Janine Borne (Marjon), Colin Bray (Libraries Unlimited), Sophie Evans (Bristol Libraries) Jamie Darwen (UWE, Bristol), Christina Evans (Somerset), Steve Guner. Maria Harffy (Univ of Bath), Iain Harris (Libraries Unlimited), Laura Lay (FX Plus), Catherine Marley (Cornwall College), Kate Murray (Bristol Libraries), Lyn Taylor (ACE), Sim Taylor (Bicton College), John Vincent (The Network), Janet Westgarth (Bournemouth), Emily Wild (Bristol Libraries) Jon Wood (Somerset)

The meeting was held in Blackboard Collaborate

		Actions
1.	Apologies. Mike Hosking (Vice Chair) Not in attendance: Emma Wellard, Jolanta Peters, Helen Chaloner	
2.	Minutes & matters arising of the AGM held on 16 th November 2020 Agreed Proposed by Donna Gundry and seconded by Frances Tout.	
3.	Annual Report 2020-21 Jackie acknowledged the year that we have had with Covid -19 and it was noted that many libraries are still in a difficult financial position. Hidden Collections project has been put on hold, due to being unable to visit other organisations. Katherine did work, before she left SWRLS, in starting the joint catalogue portal.	

	<p>Fees were halved during the pandemic - there will be time to discuss this later on in the meeting.</p> <p>Kate Murray discussed the Word Online project that SWRLS had helped to fund. A partnership across the region, raising the profile of usually underrepresented writers. Originally came on the back of Black Lives Matter. There is a wrap up report which will be share with SWRLS. Next step would be to build on this and discussions are due to take place with Arts Council England. Very positive feedback.</p>	
4.	<p>Annual accounts 2020-21 and other financial issues</p> <p>Merryn - Reduction in travel and hospitality, and all training went online, so reserves have increased. The Coordinator post is the largest expenditure. Financially SWRLS is in a good position, at present.</p> <p>Going to create a budgetary plan, which will link to the strategic plan- with designated funds to be assigned to specific activities. This is encouraged by the charity commission. Training will be a priority area and we are open to suggestions from members.</p> <p>Merryn thanked Katherine, Caroline Morrison and Andrew Crocker, from Devon County Council for their hard work with the finances.</p>	Merryn Kent
5.	<p>To approve the Annual Report and Accounts (to follow)</p> <p>As members had not had much time to read the annual report, before the meeting, an email will be sent asking for feedback in the next week.</p>	Jackie Chelin
6.	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiners.</p> <p>Francis Clarke are the independent auditors - Merryn is happy to propose that they will continue. Kate Murray seconded this.</p>	
7.	<p>Any resolutions: resolutions need to be stated in full</p> <p>No resolutions</p>	
8.	<p>Appointment of Trustees:</p> <p>a. Honorary Secretary - Donna Gundry nominated - proposed by Jolanta Peters and seconded by Jackie Chelin</p> <p>b. Ordinary trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic, health and other libraries- -Jolanta Peters nominated - proposed by Donna Gundry and seconded by Frances Tout; - Sim Taylor nominated - proposed by Jackie Chelin and seconded by Donna Gundry. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public libraries - no nominations for the two vacancies. Kate Murray mentioned that there is a Libraries Connected (SW) meeting on the 17th December and will raise it there - Non-sector specific - Helen Chaloner nominated - proposed by Frances Tout and seconded by Donna Gundry. <p>No objections were received.</p> <p>Sim was welcomed to the board.</p>	Kate Murray
9.	<p>SWRLS awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal achievement (Iain Harris, Libraries Unlimited) Jackie introduced Iain and congratulated him on the work. Iain provided an outline of the project, and his work with vulnerable needing to overcome barriers, e.g. people with visible and invisible disabilities, individuals with addictions and new arrivals (including immigrants). - Initiative (Cornwall College libraries and learning centres) Jackie introduced the project, which was connected to support for users during lockdown, with Live chat being linked to the service to provide additional support. Messages were recorded, to provide information to tutors and provide additional support. One major element was that students didn't need to login to the systems to ask a question, removing a major barrier to delivery. Catherine Marley outlined the project and thanked her colleagues. [See end of minutes for a photo of some of the staff with their certificate.] 	
10.	<p>SWRLS strategic plan 2021-2024</p> <p>Jackie outlined the main areas of the report and highlighted that SWRLS has reserves that can be allocated to the actions and developments identified over the next few years.</p>	
11.	<p>Membership subscriptions (discussion)</p> <p>Jackie opened the floor to take people's opinions on what kind of subscription rates SWRLS should be considering charging for the coming year. Kate Murray thanked SWRLS for the reduction in cost for the last year and also commented on the reduction of Interlibrary loans and the struggle that public libraries have at the moment and are likely to have for the next financial year.</p> <p>Jackie to email after the meeting, regarding individuals' comments regarding the subscription model.</p>	Jackie Chelin

	Discussion moved on to the Inspiring Leadership course. Sim requested that, next time, this should be by application and Frances Tout mentioned that this should be open to only south west members before offering places at national level.	
10.	Any other business There were no items.	
11.	Date and venue of next AGM. November 2022- consideration will be given as to whether this will be a physical or hybrid event.	

SWRLS CIO Annual Conference 2021

Theme: Providing sanctuary

Libraries of Sanctuary + questions	John Vincent The Network - tackling social exclusion in libraries, museums, archives and galleries (www.seapn.org.uk)	https://www.swrls.org.uk/post/swrls-conference-presentations-november-2021
Universities of Sanctuary + questions	Jamie Darwen Equality Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Projects Lead (UWE, Bristol)	https://www.swrls.org.uk/post/swrls-conference-presentations-november-2021
General discussion about recent efforts to welcome refugees into our communities in the South West	These are some of the web sites shared by colleagues in the chat during the general discussion following the two presentations:	https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/asylumseekersandrefugees/ https://resetuk.org/about/where-we-work

		https://www.northdevonsunrise.org/
Networking - a chance to talk to other SWRLS members about their current activities and how they are rebuilding relationships with library users	Online break out rooms	
Feedback/plenary	All	

SWRLS Initiative winners 2021

Cornwall College libraries and resource centres

Sarah Evans and Tara Hillson

