SCURL and ALTCoOLSIG background and engagement with groups

This is a supporting document for Greg Walters CMALT 3-year review 2021. Purpose is to provide background information about groups and demonstrate my output and contributions.

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# Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL) background and activity

## Background of Copyright and Legal Issues group

On November 12th, 2018, The Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL) business committee approved the formation of a Copyright Group, after a recommendation paper had been submitted by a member of staff from Edinburgh University earlier in the year.

The groups remit includes effective advocacy and mutual support by providing a forum for discussion of copyright issues affecting SCURL member institutions. To facilitate a forum for discussion, the copyright and legal issues group decided to deliver an inaugural one-day Copyright event which took place on 11/03/2019. Since then, we delivered three more events during 2020 - 2021 in an online format, due to the pandemic and lockdown measures in place.

The group is small and is currently comprised of a member of staff (usually from Library and copyright background), from The University of Edinburgh, Strathclyde, and Caledonian. Our core members from 19 Scottish Universities & 6 Cultural Heritage institutions. However, due to the events going online, we expanded our audience to include members from the LIsCopyseek community (a Jisc private mailing list with 400 + subscribers comprising of UK and international copyright experts) and ALT CoOLSIG. This has been most welcome, as the range of attendees and expertise present, really add to the diversity of questions and comments during the online sessions. Our events comprise of industry expert speaking about a range of copyright and other issues ranging from exploring various licences, i.e., [CLA](https://www.cla.co.uk/), along with exploring areas such as [Plan S](https://www.coalition-s.org/) and [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/).

My role going forward in SCURL  
Since November 2018 I’ve been a co-chair (I will be chair during 2022), and going forward, I’m intending to have one or two additional informal online events during the year, to focus on a singular issue or subject. An example of this, is the focused session I intend to facilitate around Fair Dealing, to coincide with the national UK event of the same name, which commences the last week in February. I think these focussed sessions will complement our regular online events which have multiple speakers and subjects, as they will give attendees the opportunity to have in depth discussions and knowledge exchange. I’m looking forward to being part of this group going forward, as I feel it provides a valuable forum of discussion for not just Scotland, but the UK as a whole.

**N.B, the following pages in this section cover my contributions to the delivery of our previous online events in a descriptive fashion.**

## Delivery and development of National Online event for SCURL Copyright Group – June 18th 2020, 10am – 12:30pm

Normally the SCURL Copyright group would deliver two face-to-face events throughout the calendar year to attendees from the twenty-five institutions who are members. Due to this year’s (2020) circumstances, the planned face to face event due to be held in May, had to be cancelled. In response to this, on the **29th of April** I suggested to the other Copyright group committee members (via email), we offer a ‘virtual conference’ as an alternative using the video conferencing platform Zoom.

I arranged a Zoom meeting with the other committee members (Gillian Daly (NLS), Deborah Ferns (Strathclyde) and Eugen Stoica (Edinburgh University), for the **6th of May** to discuss the programme, potential theme, and speakers.

The outcome of the meeting was:

* We agreed the theme should focus on the application and best practice of Copyright Literacy and institutional licences in relation to the pandemic.
* The speakers would be Chris Morrison (Kent)/Jane Secker (University London), Thomas Margoni, Bartolomeo Meletti (both UofG) and James Bennett (CLA)
* I would arrange a follow up Zoom meeting with the Copyright group members, to test the functionality of screen sharing using Zoom (**I delivered this on June 4th**)

Based on the outcomes of the meeting, I contacted all of the speakers, to invite them to speak at our event and produced a Doodle poll for them to let us know what date(s) they were available on. The date that proved most popular amongst speakers was the **18th of June 2020.**

Prior to the date of event, I did the following to help ensure it ran smoothly,

* I delivered one to one meeting’s (via Zoom), with speakers and chair (Jeanette Castle) to go over the functionality of using Zoom, their presentation(s) and the ‘flow’ of the online event.
* Worked with Gillian Daly, to produce text for use in both the web presence and Eventbrite booking page
* I developed users guides on how to use and log into Zoom for both [participants](https://edshare.gla.ac.uk/id/document/3234) and speakers
* I produced adverts for use on [SCURLs Twitter account](https://twitter.com/SCURLScottish/status/1273219272333025281)

On the day of the event (June 18th), I delivered the SCURL online Copyright event via Zoom, between 10am -12:30pm **to an audience of 70 members and welcome external guests**. I introduced the chair and speakers, along with facilitating the screen share so speakers could deliver their presentations and kept the flow of conversation going by delivering questions submitted via the chat box and my own comments as well.

[Click here to view recording of session](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jy-pH6YUVGk&ab_channel=SCURL)

## Delivery and development of National Online event for SCURL Copyright Group – December 23rd, 2020, 10am – 12:30pm

To follow on from the success of the groups last virtual Copyright Conference, I suggested we deliver a session during the autumn of 2020 via email on **13/08/2020**. I organised a Zoom meeting for **20/08/2020**, so the Copyright group could discuss the programme and speakers. Our meeting determined which speakers we would approach and after an online poll was conducted between the group’s members, a date of **3rd of December** was set.

I led on facilitating the online conference via Zoom, produced the user guides, presentation slides. My colleagues approached and liaised with our speakers and promoted the event via LisCopyseek and other relevant groups.

On the 3rd of December 2020, I delivered the Copyright groups second virtual conference to an audience of **95 SCURL members and welcome guests from other UK institutions** and bodies using Zoom. I was also responsible for creating and editing the recording of the event, which was distributed online to attendees and the HE community via email.

[Click here to view recording of session](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNqI-moPnZo&ab_channel=SCURL)

## Delivery and development of National Online event for SCURL Copyright Group – June 17th, 2021, 10am – 12:30pm

With format and platform (Zoom), established, this online event was simply a case of going through our previous processes of discussing our potential speakers and contacting them when we had identified possible relevant areas that could be discussed.

As with previous sessions, I facilitated the session using Zoom and promoted the event through our usual platforms of mailing lists and social media.

The third online SCURL copyright event, was delivered to an audience of **38 SCURL members and welcome guests from other UK institutions** and bodies using Zoom. The immediate output of this session was different, as the Zoom recording and password weren’t emailed to attendees and HE community via email, instead it was directly uploaded to SCURL’s then newly created YouTube channel. Gillian and I discussed at the start of 2021 about creating a YouTube channel to create a permanent online archive of SCURL events recordings.

[Click here to view recording of session](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeUrxoSevqk&ab_channel=SCURL)

# Association for Learning Technology Copyright and Online Special Interest Group (CoOLSOG)

CoOLSIG was created by Jane Secker and Chris Morrison, who envisaged the group during 2020 in response to the sector wide pivot to online learning and teaching due to the global pandemic. This shift, saw a heightened copyright risk, as more materials from lecturers, students, and researchers were being distributed online. Aside from these challenges, there was (and still is to an extent), a degree of uncertainty around how and if existing UK copyright exceptions and Fair Dealing framework would be adequate to enable online access to materials that would previously been suitable to show in their entirety in a classroom environment, i.e., a commercial DVD film. To provide support in this and other areas of copyright uncertainty, along with creating a community of practice, Chris, and Jane’s [CoOLSIG group](https://www.alt.ac.uk/groups/special-interest-groups/copyright-and-online-learning-sig) was launched during December 2020. The group is comprised of UK and international copyright practitioners from universities, who share the same ethos as Jane and Chris.

I have been the communications and marketing officer since the group was launched during December 2020, and have enjoyed the experience immensely, as it has provided me the opportunity to contribute to a very worthwhile group in the following ways:

* Speaking at [OERx 21](https://oer21.oerconf.org/#gref) discussing 4 key questions relating to exploring the relationship between open practices and copyright literacy. My reflective blog post, can be viewed [here](https://copyrightliteracy.org/2021/05/07/open-practices-copyright-literacy-and-online-teaching/).
* Writing multiple [blog entries](https://altc.alt.ac.uk/blog/category/groups/coolsig/) around events and committee members
* Manage ALT’s [social media presence](https://twitter.com/ALTCoOLSIG)
* Design logo for group, to be used in social media and merchandise
* Aggregating our collective works, research, best practice into quarterly newsletters, which are sent out every quarter to registered memebrs

Whilst the above outputs may not initially seem to be relevant, I would argue that they are CPD related as by actively engaged in presenting or writing a reflective piece(s) around CoOLSIG, I am learning more about copyright or other related areas such as OER or controlled digital lending. This is knowledge that can be transferred to my professional practice and wider community, therefore benefitting others.

Similar to SCURL, I am enjoying being part of CoOLSIG, as I see opportunities to actively engage in events like the upcoming Fair Dealing week during [February 2022,](https://www.fairuseweek.org/) which will enable me to develop my knowledge around this legal framework, by allowing my peers and I to explore this area further. I’m anticipating this group will be greatly beneficial to the HE community in general to offer support for copyright in an online context, and I look forward to being part of it going forward.