

Media and Information Literacy Community of Practice for Scotland

Minutes of meeting, on Zoom, on Thursday 22 February 2024 at 2pm

[The Right Information: information skills for the 21st century](#)

Actions and decisions are *italic green highlighted*. *nem con* means no-one spoke or voted against

1 Welcome, apologies and introductions

1.a Present

Liz Adams, David Brazier, Stéphane Goldstein, Paul Gray, Leah Higgins, Bill Johnston, Kirsten MacQuarrie, Konstantina Martzoukou, Sean McNamara, Claire Roberts, Bruce Ryan

1.b Apologies

Drew Feeney, Jennifer Findlay, Catherine McLaren, Joy Mclean, Anne Noble, Hilary Weir, Alison Preston, Margaret Gair, Sarah Thomson, Christine Love-Rodgers, Sorina Mihai, Helen Beardsley

2 Formal confirmation of new name and of Chair and Secretary

The following were approved *nem con*:

- *Name: Media and Information Literacy Community of Practice*
- *Chair: Sean McNamara*
- *Secretary: Bruce Ryan*

3 Previous minutes

Minutes of November 2023 were approved as-is nem con

4 Update on [Embedding research-informed political and digital literacy in Scottish education](#)

- Huw Davies was absent, hence no update by him. It was noted that this project:
 - Is funded by [ESRC](#)
 - will investigate how young people encounter politics via social media, other influencers, etc
 - hence is linked to media literacy and misinformation
 - will have a direct link with [Education Scotland](#) (ES)
 - will create workshops aiming to influence on ES's digital literacy frameworks.
- There was strong interest from D Brazier and S Goldstein, the latter noting potential international implications.
- It was suggested that a webinar around the project would be beneficial.
 - *Action: S McNamara to put S Goldstein in contact with Huw Davies.*

5 Website development plan

- The current website is funded by SLIC. There was concern that SLIC may cease this, causing the website to disappear.
- It is based on an out-of-date [and deprecated] platform [[SquareSpace](#)], so a better platform is needed.
- B Ryan and S McNamara suggest copying the current material to a Wordpress instance (initially free), while maintaining the current website as-is.
 - When this is done, the domain-name would be transferred to the Wordpress instance, and the old website retired/deleted.
 - All MILCoP members would have the ability to post to the new version of the website.
- D Brazier's web design students might take on the transfer work, potentially for free.
 - *Action: B Ryan, S McNamara, D Brazier to meet to see how this could work.*

6 Future communications

- It was noted that while the MILCoP membership is quite large, often people are unable to attend. More active communications, perhaps monthly updates, might help. Options include:
 - GoogleGroups, which would enable any member to email all other members by emailing to name_of_group@googlegroups.com.
 - [MailChimp](#), which would enable those who have back-end access to email all members, and know who had opened the emails.
- Either way, it is not possible to know whether people take notice of the contents of emails.
- There is also a more frequent [Ofcom](#) mailing, focussing on media literacy but also covering information literacy, both in the UK and elsewhere.
- Any MILCoP mailing should not duplicate other mailings, perhaps simply being a roundup of relevant links, a signpost to the [MILA](#) and [CILIP ILG](#) newsletters etc.
- *Action: B Ryan, S McNamara to work on this.*

7 Suggestions for additional members of CoP

- It was noted that most MILCoP members are information literacy practitioners, so further media literacy practitioners, academics, media organisations such as [The Ferret](#) would be very welcome.
- Invitations to the next meeting will be sent to, for example, [Young Scot](#), Scottish [iSchools](#), [Common Weal](#), Scottish [Journal of Information Literacy](#) authors, etc.
- It was suggested that:
 - MILCoP focusses on live issues in such invitations, i.e. 'come to this meeting/event because it will cover XYZ'.
 - MILCoP undertakes joint campaigns or projects, to influence policy. Such work could include a focus on the [next Scottish Parliament election](#).

8 Update from [MILA](#) and [CILIP Information Literacy Group](#)

There was no discussion of the CILIP ILG *per se*. S Goldstein reported about MILA:

- MILA is now an English/Welsh charity, which gives it access to various funding calls.
- It is now working to implement its strategy, involving developing practical work and seeking funding.
- MILA's work will have three broad themes:
 - developing an evidence base, by bringing together researchers (following on from the [information Literacy Impact Framework](#) and [Information Literacy and Society](#) projects)
 - developing communities of practice, perhaps including training materials and toolkits
 - advocacy of IL and ML with policy-makers etc.
- Hence MILA does not have a fixed agenda, but will work with stakeholders to achieve useful outcomes. Such bodies include:
 - Ofcom, responsible for the UK-wide national media strategy and other matters stemming from the [Online Safety Act 2023](#). its draft strategy is due in Spring 2024.
 - [Department for Science, Innovation & Technology](#), which may be under-resourced.
 - [Internet matters](#), which develops practice for online safety.
 - [National Literacy Trust](#), which also develops IL and news literacy resources.
 - Bournemouth University, via MILA trustee [Julian McDougall](#), who is interested in deploying Theory of Change to understand the impact of innovations.
 - [Forum on Information Literacy](#), led by [Alison Hicks of UCL](#).
- MILA is considering undertaking an international study of IL in the context of employment rights. This would stem from [previous work](#) by [Dijana Šobota](#), and might include [Sonja Špiranec](#).
- It was suggested that MILA also engages with the Scottish TUC.

- MILA will also engage with the TUC, e.g. via [Union Learn](#) and other trade unions, and with any political party that will listen.

9 The BRIDGE event at the National Library of Scotland – update

- S Goldstein noted:
 - A description of this event is available on [this blog-post](#).
 - All project material is now published on the [Bridge website](#). This includes a training booklet in several languages, and video of a training webinar.
 - There will be a further presentation at [LILAC](#).

10 Other MILCoP updates

10.a Scottish Government

- Paul Gray noted that the SG library's gamified learning guide is attracting many views. The library is continuing to enhance its AI/search/chatbot guides, and engaging with the SG AI unit.

10.b Maddie is online

- K Marttzoukou will update the [website](#) over the next ~2 months. She is looking for funding to cover AI.

10.c CILIPS

- CILIPS is working on media literacy and misinformation training with [The Ferret](#). A funding bid is being drafted. The training would target public librarians.
- The [CILIPS 2024 conference](#) will be on 3-4 June, at the Apex Hotel in Dundee.

11 Advocacy

Discussion was around who to influence, and how. Suggestions included:

- advocacy of IL and ML skills
- engagement with policies, e.g. education, and with political parties that are/might be in power.
 - If these are undertaken, should MILCoP develop specific policy change-requests?
- developing an account of IL that is more simply searching and finding, so that IL is a socio-political/economic resource
 - in the past, SG favoured digital literacy rather than IL. Hence tackling 'pressure-point' issues and knowing who the targets are would be worthwhile.
- targeting the incoming culture minister
 - A meeting of CILIPS and the [Cabinet Secretary for Education](#) has been postponed.
- advocacy around IL education in primary and secondary education
- advocacy of outcomes of IL other than simply knowing more and getting higher grades.

Action: MILCoP to create a wider discussion of this topic.

12 Any other business

- It is 50 years since the [concept of IL was invented](#). Celebrations include the global MIL week in late October. Could MILCoP do something around this?
- CILIP ILG is holding an online roundtable on IL and AI. [Registration is via Eventbrite](#).
- Date of next meeting
 - *Action: S McNamara to create Doodle poll.*