
Media and Information Literacy Community of Practice for Scotland (MILCoP) minutes of open meeting, on Zoom, on Thursday 12 March 2026 at 2pm

Rather than a formal minute, this document précisés the presentations and discussions. Please see the relevant sections of the [video of the meeting](#) and slides (where available) for full details.

1 **Welcome, apologies and introductions**

This was an open meeting, so attendance and apologies were not recorded.

2 **Minutes of October 2026 meeting**

Approved as-is, [available on MILCOP website](#)

3 **Members' news**

See [video](#) (1:28 to 05:30) for full detail.

3.a **Inverclyde Libraries**

Andrew Girvan: we have obtained funding from the public library improvement fund for a media literacy project. This will provide sessions for staff and the public, and will have connections with active citizenship. We are currently recruiting for a 6-month post.

3.b **WikiMedia UK**

Sally Latham: WMUK now has me as education lead. We are working on a program for secondary schools, currently at pilot stage.

4 **CILIPS MIL news: Sean McNamara**

See [video](#) (5:50 to 08:50) for full detail.

- CILIPS is now running workshops with [Young Scot](#) and [the Ferret](#) on training for librarians about how young people can tackle mis- and disinformation issues. [See detail on CILIPS website](#).
- CILIPS has launched its preelection advocacy campaign: [Librarians are the answer](#), about how librarians are helping to meet societal challenges around, for example, IL and quality of information.
- CILIP continues to with Google on 'super-searchers', about IL skills.

5 **Information Literacy Handbook: Charting the discipline: Bill Johnstone**

See [video](#) (09:04 to 16:00) for full detail.

- This book is coming out in mid April – see the [Facet](#) and [ALA](#) flyers. It results from work by BJ, Shiela Webber, Christine Bruce with Karen Kaufmann and Clarence Maybee, some of whom formed the editorial advisory group
- The book shows how IL meets the definition of a discipline. It has seven sections (listed on the flyers), each with more than chapter. The book covers more than just the anglosphere, with material on Project IL, the UNESCO approach to MIL, ACRL contributions, critical IL, anti-racism and IL, etc.
- The content should suit both those who are new to IL and 'old hands', covering from Zurkowski to librarians to UNESCO, IL and human rights, civic responsibility, uneven development of IL around the world. Hence it should be good resource for those creating workshops.

6 **Feminist Librarianship: Kirsten MacQuarrie**

See [video](#) (16:15 to 27:45) and [slides](#) for full detail. See also [Facet flyer](#).

- KM is the editor of the first UK text on this theme, which can be seen as a culmination of the [Winspiration](#) programme since 2021. It builds on the CILIPS [#notourjob](#) work against sexual harassment in libraries, which had been found to be more prevalent than originally thought.
- The book includes work by more than 20 women writers, and a couple of male allies. For example, WMUK people contributed to the chapter *Ms Information: intentionally inclusive practices in a feminist library*. This aims to tackle sexism on the internet.
- Another chapter highlighted by KM was *Safe and Seen in the School Library: Attachment theory, feminist practice and giving girls what they need to thrive* which shows the importance of trained school librarians to safety and learning

- The book shows that cuts to school libraries are misogynistic, and that investment in libraries results in social value, while investment in banking reduces social value.
- One of KM's chapters is *Menstrual and Menopause Literacy*, about empowering women and girls and dismantling stigma. (Attendees were invited to add euphemisms for menstruation into the chat, in an exercise about [non-]stigmatising terminology.)
- GCU library has a lovely open welfare space where people can 'relax and renew' open space, which is home to an annual women's health fair. This was a welcome example of partnership working, and how libraries and librarians can be supportive, in this instance about menstruation and menopause.
- The 'policy paradox' shows that a culture shift is needed, and libraries can really help here. There is no one best way of influence things for the better.

7 **Young Scot news: Reid Aiton**

See [video](#) (28:00 to 35:35) for full detail.

YS is delivering the Ofcom-funded *informed voices* project, about misinformation, ML and democratic engagement. The current phase is on the forthcoming Scottish and Welsh elections, and a later phase will cover the UK general election. The project is administered by a consortium of Parent Zone, Voice Box and the Scottish Youth Parliament etc. The project is co-creating content around misinformation, and is aligned to Ofcom's eight pillars of challenging misinformation. The campaign will last from the start of April to the start of May.

7.a **Comments, Q&A**

- An attendee: Great to hear about this. I have just updated our student-facing guide to voting in the run up to Scottish Parliament elections, and will feed this in when it's launched.
 - RA: Young Scot is also building up [InfoWise](#), about developing ML, using this project funding.
- This work is unrelated to but may well complement the [Electoral Commission's work on deep fakes in elections](#). Spotting deep fakes is part of the habits people may 'stack'.

8 **Education Scotland news: George Milliken**

See [video](#) (36:00 to 43:30) for full detail.

- ES held an ML roundtable of stakeholders to share contacts and messages. This is, among other things, to help with ES's work to reduce educators' cognitive load around definitions of ML, misinformation, fake news etc.
- It is very likely that the guidance ES will issue will use the CILIP definition of IL, to make things clear for educators and others via use of the same terminology. ES is clear that IL is central, and so needs a definition that works across all topics. Hence ES's website will link to CILIPS, MILCOP, YS etc.
- The draft guidance will come out in June, and schools should be using the final version by August 2028. Meanwhile ES is 'all ears' for comments on this work. It is likely that it will incorporate the skills needed for the PISA MAIL competencies due to be taken by 15-year-olds in 2029.
- The CRAAP algorithm for checking information seemed to be popular at the workshop.
 - An attendee: SIFT provides some additional externality to source checking which is important in the health context.

9 **Media and Information Literacy Alliance news: Stéphane Goldstein via Bruce Ryan**

See [video](#) (43:35 to 45:40) for full detail.

- MILA held an event in January to define its ways forward.
- Recently, MILA held an online meeting to decide how it should react to the consultation on the new BBC charter, especially its MIL duties. (A draft was shared with MILCOP members.)

10 **Ofcom: Alison Preston via Sean McNamara**

See [video](#) (45:40 to 46:50) for full detail.

Here is the [link to become a Making Sense of Media network member](#): people can join our monthly 'lunch and learn' online sessions.

11 [CILIP Information Literacy Group news: Drew Feeney](#)

See [video](#) (46:50 to 56:50) and [slides](#) for full detail.

- As well as undertaking a PhD on digital literacies for older adults, Drew is the public libraries rep for [CILIP's information literacy group](#). ILG's recent and current work includes
 - CILIP Members' Fest event – *AI Literacy Across Library Sectors*, covering how AI is challenging and being handled in topics such as health literacy, institutional libraries, schools, further education and public libraries. I may be able to share recordings of this very popular event.
 - CILIP ILG is taking part in Google's 'Super Searchers' partnership, a nationwide programme on critical and information literacy, mostly for public and school libraries. Phase 1 was completed in 2025 and phase 2 is starting soon. CILIP is keen to widen the sources used in it, so ILG is creating additional material.
 - ILG has a watching brief over Arts Council England's *Addressing Misinformation in Public Libraries* work. Results from a survey on how libraries are tackling mis- and disinformation are due soon.
 - Libraries Unlimited and the Guardian Foundation have *News Literacy* workshops in Devon and Cornwall, funded by Ofcom.
 - [Journal of Information Literacy](#) is looking for new associate editors. It's an open access journal.
 - [LILAC conference 2026](#) will take place at Sheffield University (30 March to 1 April).

11.a [Q&A](#)

- An attendee: IFLA will take place in London in 2027 – is ILG involved?
- DF: yes – working groups being established. It's a massive opportunity to showcase UK IL work.

12 [Edinburgh Napier University news: Bruce Ryan](#)

See [video](#) (57:30 to 1:00:40) and [slide](#) for full detail.

- Edinburgh Napier is running an information science MSc – applicants are welcome.
- Members of the Information Science research group are undertaking a seed project to understand how teachers in Scotland are helping school students tackle mis- and disinformation issues. This is a sister-project to the [recent work on Scottish school librarians and mis- and disinformation](#).
- Edinburgh Napier is also hosting the [iConference](#) in late March to early April.

13 [VotesforSchools: Georgie Emory](#)

See [video](#) (1:10:00 to 1:16:45) and [slides](#) for full detail.

- VfS is a voting platform used by schools across the UK, currently mostly in England. It offers school students weekly yes/no votes, so that they can be 'informed, curious and heard'.
- VfS was founded in 2016, in the wake of Brexit, and receives around 55,000 votes per week. The questions generally touch on ML one way or another: examples include
 - Does ultra-processed food need more warnings on it?
 - Should a defection mean a by-election?
 - Do we view the term 'refugee' positively?
 - Should ending child poverty be a top priority for the UK Government?
 - Do you feel proud of living in the UK?
 - Should we stop paying for the BBC?
- Questions are supported by lessons (39 topics per year) that can be used across the curriculum, from age 5 to age 18. They are also used by further education providers, including prisons. They may subvert the prevailing narrative about young people, and the findings are based on very large response-numbers. VfS publishes reports on its findings.
 - They present impartial, trustable information that can help students form balanced opinions.
 - They are 'big' questions: the next one will be about Iran, following many requests from teachers.
- Possibly more relevant to MILCOP are questions such as
 - Is global politics relevant to you?
 - Should there be a social media ban for under-16s?
 - Would you trust advice from AI chatbots?
- VfS takes a long view on attitudes towards MIL. Its work maps to the devolved curricula. Because these are crowded, VfS uses a trojan horse approach by asking current affairs questions to

understand what students know and to help them develop MIL skills. VFS supports teachers work to recognised frameworks and the Scottish curriculum, e.g. [getting it right for every child](#), SGDs.

- To get involved or learn more, [email Georgie](#) or see the [VfS website](#).

13.a [Q&A](#)

- Students vote
 - Mostly by teachers voting on students' behalf (which avoids 'phones-in-schools' issues)
 - Somewhat via students' own devices.
- How teachers use the VfS resources varies. Forthcoming changes to the England curriculum may increase the importance of MIL in teaching, via teaching around critical thinking.
- An attendee: do you draw on Freire's pedagogical work on critical reflection, culture circles etc? Some of VfS's questions are reminiscent of that work.
 - Not as far as I am aware: resources are based on citizenship teachers' classroom experience., although it seems likely that VfS and Friere would mesh together: discussion is central to both. VfS's approach tries to include the stereotypical 'kid at the back of the class' who might otherwise not want to debate topics, and may help people from less fortunate socio-economic backgrounds.

14 [MILCoP advocacy potential: Bruce Ryan](#)

See [video](#) (1:17:20 to 1:33:10) and [slides](#) for full detail.

- I am very aware that most MILCOP members undertake their own advocacy about their contributions to MIL. Also it is likely that members already support other members' advocacy outside of these meetings via their own networks. However, I wonder whether MILCOP could collectively do more to advocate for MIL.
- I am **not** twisting anyone's arm about this, but I am opening a discussion by asking:
 - what are members' views on supporting each other's individual advocacies?
 - are the biennial meetings enough to do this?
 - can MILCOP work with other, potentially more activist organisations on any of this?
- An attendee: MILCOP has some history in this context – it has lobbied government ministers etc. It also had an annual conference which may have been funded by the government. It would be good to bring these back. The [event in Holyrood last year](#) was a step in the right direction. MILCOP could raise MIL etc during the run-up to the forthcoming election, or analyse manifestos.
- S McNamara: it may be that some members' day-jobs mean they can't say certain things, so MILCOP may need to balance what it does says. MILCOP also has its website, which could be better used to host discussion and/or share resources. CILIPS has already asked each party what it plans to do on mis-/disinformation, IL, roles for libraries. Findings should be published in the near future. Meanwhile MILCOP could develop work on how/where advocacy could be done.
 - B Ryan: I agree with making better use of the website. I can also set up a closed mailing list so members can easily share information and ideas with each other. On top of CILIPS asking the parties about MIL, I will ask individual candidates in the two Edinburgh constituencies. If other members ask their candidates, I can help compile findings. Members can talk with canvassers.
- An attendee: advocacy is important. It may well be that people think something is being done when in fact it isn't. So it would help if people take leads on actions/initiatives.
- An attendee: SLIC has its vision for libraries ([Securing the future of Scotland's libraries](#)) touching on misinformation, which is being promoted.
- An attendee: if MILCOP became an advocacy organisation, I would need my employer's permission to remain a member – and this is unlikely to be given, even though I see advocacy as important.
- An attendee: it is possible that MIL will get lost in the debates about so many other things. MILCOP would need to talk using the terms politicians understand, i.e. 'mis/disinformation' not IL.
- S McNamara: because of such concerns, we'll leave things as they are: sharing information that interests and enables members to support each other without committing them to any positions.

15 [Next meeting date](#)

October 22, 2 pm