The SCSSG has transitioned over the last year or so from a group which had a strong operational focus on project management (e.g. of LMS, KB+), to one which is more concerned with strategy, representing member views and partner engagement. It met six times over the course of the year and additionally convened a shared services symposium in May 2015.

The group has benefited greatly from the input of partner organisations (Jisc, RLUK and UCISA) and David Kay, representing Sero Consulting. The full membership is included in the Appendix.

The main areas of activity are summarised below.

1. National Monograph Strategy

The NMS Roadmap was published by Jisc on 30 September 2014. Due to the departure of Ben Showers shortly afterwards, progress on implementation of the NMS was slower than anticipated. However in recent months SCSSG has contributed to two pieces of work commissioned by Jisc, being undertaken by Sero Consulting. The Bibliographic Services Implications (BSI) study is outlining options for the future of COPAC and will complete at the end of July 2015; the wider Library Support Services (LSS) study will consider the most effective configuration of Jisc services to support the library community. SCSSG has advised on appropriate approaches to engagement as well as commenting on content.

Through SCSSG, SCONUL was represented at an RLUK Shared Print Workshop where the British Library outlined potential for shared storage facilities. Discussions with the British Library on such facilities for the cultural sector were then taken forward with the BL by the SCONUL Executive Director. The BL is currently investigating potential appetite, costs and options.

1. Research Data Management

Members of SCSSG contributed to the delayed RDM ‘roadmap’ alongside the ACSCSG (Academic Content and Scholarly Communications Strategy Group) and RLUK. *Directions for Research Data Management in UK Universities* was published by Jisc in March 2015.

RDM has been subsumed within the Jisc ‘Research at Risk’ project.

1. Shared Services symposium

This event was held on 8 May 2015; the morning comprised presentations from collaborative regional / mission groups on services offered or under development, whilst the afternoon provided the opportunity to consider the role SCONUL might play in assisting their broader dissemination. A productive day produced a number of ideas to be taken forward, including: leadership development in shared services; an analytic tool to assess the viability of up-scaling a local service; possible brokerage role with regards facilitating communications, bid writing, and development of licences.

1. National out-of-hours library enquiry service

Building on the work of the Northern Collaboration / OCLC partnership which has resulted in an out-of-hours library chat service for NC members, SCONUL has started to prepare information for Directors to test the appetite for a national service. OCLC are developing model options for SCONUL to consider. The governance arrangements for the proposed national service require consideration but it likely that SCSSG will have a role.

1. KB+

The KB+ Advisory Board was formed in 2014 to focus on KB+ development priorities, and it has representation from SCSSG. SCSSG’s direct involvement has therefore, by design, reduced over the last year, though the group has noted with pleasure the significant usage of the service by the community. Other technical developments, recommended by the eBooks Co-Design project and strongly supported by SCSSG are now underway. SCSSG’s interest in KB+ is now in the wider information management landscape in which KB+ operates, and the role of KB+ in the sector and its relationship with other Jisc services. In the future this brief will extend to consideration of KB+ with regard to the ‘national digital library’.

1. SCONUL Access scheme

SCSSG has continued to oversee the SCONUL Access scheme through regular input from the Access steering group. Revised membership criteria were approved by the SCONUL Executive Board. The criteria aim to tighten up membership and emphasise the reciprocity of the scheme.

A research proposal on the future of access has been drafted, but paused pending clarification of the future of Inspire.

1. New models for journal subscription agents

Initial discussion has taken place to try and scope the problem and identify routes for further work. The group is aware of some activity in this area by BUFDG, purchasing consortia and regional collaborations.

1. Overseas collaboration

* Diane Bruxwoort gave an informative presentation on collaboration in the USA.
* Fiona Parsons, Chair of the EMEA Regional Council, OCLC, provided input on OCLC
* John Tuck kept SCSSG informed of collaborative work undertaken by ABES (Agence Bibliographique de l’ Enseignement Superieur) in France and by LIBER, for instance, the LIBER Journees for Library Directors*.*
* Raja Muhammad Ibrahim (COMSAT Institute of Technology, Pakistan) – a guest of Robin Green - spoke about collaborative resource procurement.

1. Representation on projects and groups

SCONUL members of SCSSG have participated in the following groups and projects:

* Jisc Technology Forum.
* Jisc Co-Design project: From prospect to alumnus.
* Jisc Research at Risk.
* Jisc Spotlight on the Digital Discovery Expert Group.
* Jisc Stakeholder Forum.
* KB+ Advisory Board.
* RLUK Shared Print workshop.
* Jisc Digital Resources Forum.
* EThOS Advisory Board.
* Jisc OA Advisory Board.

1. Appendix: Membership

From SCONUL

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sue White (Chair) | Director of Computing and Library Services, University of Huddersfield |
| John Tuck (Vice Chair) | Director of Library Services, Royal Holloway, University of London |
| Debbi Boden-Angell (SCONUL Access Scheme) | Director of Information Learning Services, York St John University |
| Diane Bruxwoort | University Librarian and Director of Libraries, Special Collections and Museums at the University of Aberdeen |
| Robin Green | Librarian, University of Warwick |
| Mark Hughes | Head of Collections, Swansea University |
| Fiona Parsons | Director of Academic Support, University of Wolverhampton |
| Ann Rossiter (ex officio) | Executive Director, SCONUL |
| Margaret Weaver | Head of Library and Student Services, University of Cumbria |

From partner organisations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rachel Bruce | Deputy Chief Innovation Officer , Jisc |
| Liam Earney | Director of Jisc Collections |
| Mike Mertens | Deputy Director and Data Services Manager, RLUK |
| Gurdish Sandhu | Associate Director Information Strategy - IT Services, University of East London. Representing UCISA |

Observers

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| David Kay | Sero Consulting |

1. Throughout the year the group also had input from

* Lori Bailey - Head of Policy and Member Engagement, SCONUL.
* Neil Grindley - Head of Resource Discovery, Jisc.
* John Kaye – Senior Co-Design Manager, Jisc.