

Research and Impact SIG

27 March 2013, 12:00-16:00

Meeting Room, English Heritage, The Axis, 10 Holliday Street, Birmingham B1 1TG

Minutes

Present: Birney, Lianne (IfA Staff); Miles, Daniel; Nicholson, Rebecca; Petts, David; Powers, Natasha;

1.	Apologies	Action
	Matt Edgeworth; James Morris; Amanda Forster; Caroline Sturdy Colls; Paul Everill (resigned from committee)	
2.	Minutes from last meeting	
	LB not present at last meeting, no other changes	
3.	Survey Feedback	
	<p>NP: A total of 54 responses were received. There were some issues with linking to the survey and ensuring that participants understood its aims and objectives as the twitter link went straight to the survey itself without much context; there is a need to add an official 'front end'.</p> <p>Would be helpful to improve the range of categories for people's background (UK/non-UK; Employed/unemployed; national organisation).</p> <p>Will circulate full break down of survey; the final results will form a topic for the conference. Should also include question 'where did you hear about the survey'?</p> <p>Decided to re-run the survey post-IFA conference (building on any suggestions coming out of the conference) – need to identify any missing audiences (FAME; ALGAO). Should send out survey via bajr.</p> <p>Discussion around impact</p> <p>A general discussion on defining, encouraging and evaluating impact ensued. Key topics addressed include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Questioning how widely understood the notion of Impact was? Different contexts / sectors use it in different ways? Is there a shared/agreed definition, if so, how wide is it? Perhaps best modelled as a 'venn diagram' with different types of impact: policy / research / economic/ planning etc- Who is doing "impact" activities- many sectors may not see their	

	<p>work as 'impact'; economic importance – working with developers etc as much as part of impact as working with community groups. Should the group be addressing policy / heritage management issues? How to we link into related areas and show we have impact eg tourism, development, student numbers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How is impact assessed? Challenges include capturing impact in the short- and long-term scale. Looking at methodologies for evaluation (much to be drawn from experience of museums). Can we capture/record negative impact. Need to have basepoint statistics from which to measure change. - What affects the extent and success of impact: scale of organisation? Personal attitudes? Access to material (archives/grey lit); time pressures? Personal interest? - Need for training in impact activities and subsequent evaluation; should we (RISIGS) be looking at issuing guidance/advice- running a seminar? 	
4.	IfA Conference	
	<p>Details of programme on website (http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/2013-programme-web.pdf) The session is on April 18th 2.00-5.30</p> <p>Aim to have substantial space for discussion – will have a series of breakout sessions Some possibility of a stand or at least looking at a way of distributing hardcopies of the questionnaire. LB to explore possibilities of hard copies in the conference pack.</p>	
5.	Nominations for representative on Professional Development and Practice Committee	
	<p>SIGS are encouraged to have a representative on the Professional Development and Practice Committee.</p> <p>DP tentatively willing but needs some more information</p>	
6.	Future aims/aspirations	
	<p>6.1 Group Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Quarterly at most, 4 pages, NP to edit, format to include noticeboard with current projects, collaborative PhDs, publications. First edition to be sent to committee for approval for end May ii. RN – which research facilities are available commercially? Issue for a discussion article. Tie in with AF's York workshop? iii. Possible content: NP= Letter from Chair; DP on Impact in HE 	

	<p>context; DM WWI in Wiltshire; Conference Report</p> <p>6.2 Skills matrix and competency map for researchers</p> <p>Need to clarify how work on this needs to be fed back to IFA. Should we be looking at a more formal guidance/publication e.g. CBA Handbook. If so, how should this be funded</p> <p>6.3 CPD activity</p> <p>Ample scope for cooperative ventures with other SIGS: Group agrees on importance of being a hub/facilitator joining together aspects of other existing groups - include this in chairs letter e.g. Media training workshop g social media? Involve MOLA press office, Lorna Richardson, CBA</p> <p>6.4 Getting researchers involved</p> <p>Use workshops as recruitment / networking events. Also capitalise on conference session for recruitment Encourage use of FB and other social media</p> <p>First workshop in September 2013 – Funding workshop – invite EH, HLF, AHRC etc and other grant givers – arrange details at next group meeting</p>	
7.	AOB	
	None	
8.	Date of next meeting	
	18 July, Birmingham	

Actions

	Action	Responsible	Deadline
	Circulate revised minutes and minutes of this meeting	DP	Apr-13
Conference	Ensure commercial archaeologists are in the audience as lack of papers/speakers on this.	ALL	Apr-13
	5 minute examples of impact	ALL	Apr-13
	Assign speaker to each of 4 groups	AF/NP	Apr-13
	Facilitate research group question	DM	Apr-13
	Facilitate community group question	DP	Apr-13
	Paper copies of survey for all session attendees	AF/NP	Apr-13
	Paper copies in conference pack? Look into costs	LB	Apr-13
	Draw up timetable for working out guidance document	ALL	May-13
Survey	Add front page, add unemployed to profession and UK/non UK	NP	Apr-13
	Review who the survey was sent to and draw up list of targets for phase 2	NP	Apr-13
	Repeat via IfA account after conference	AF	Apr-13

Newsletter	One page on what is impact in academia	DP	May-13
	One page on WW1 and Wiltshire	DM	May-13
	Personal statements from committee	ALL	May-13
	Chairs letter on group aspirations and research, plus calls for contributions	NP	May-13
	Conference/survey report	AF/NP	May-13
	Send call for papers to list	DP (via LB)	Apr-13
	(Future issues on strategy, article on Binchester, York college work)		
Other	Discuss tie-in with York workshop	RN/AF	Jul-13
	Write annual report paragraph	DP	May-13
	Resend email about PDPC and send more information to group	DP/LB	May-13
	Pass on information on KTPs	NP	May-13