Migration to New RefWorks our experience so far
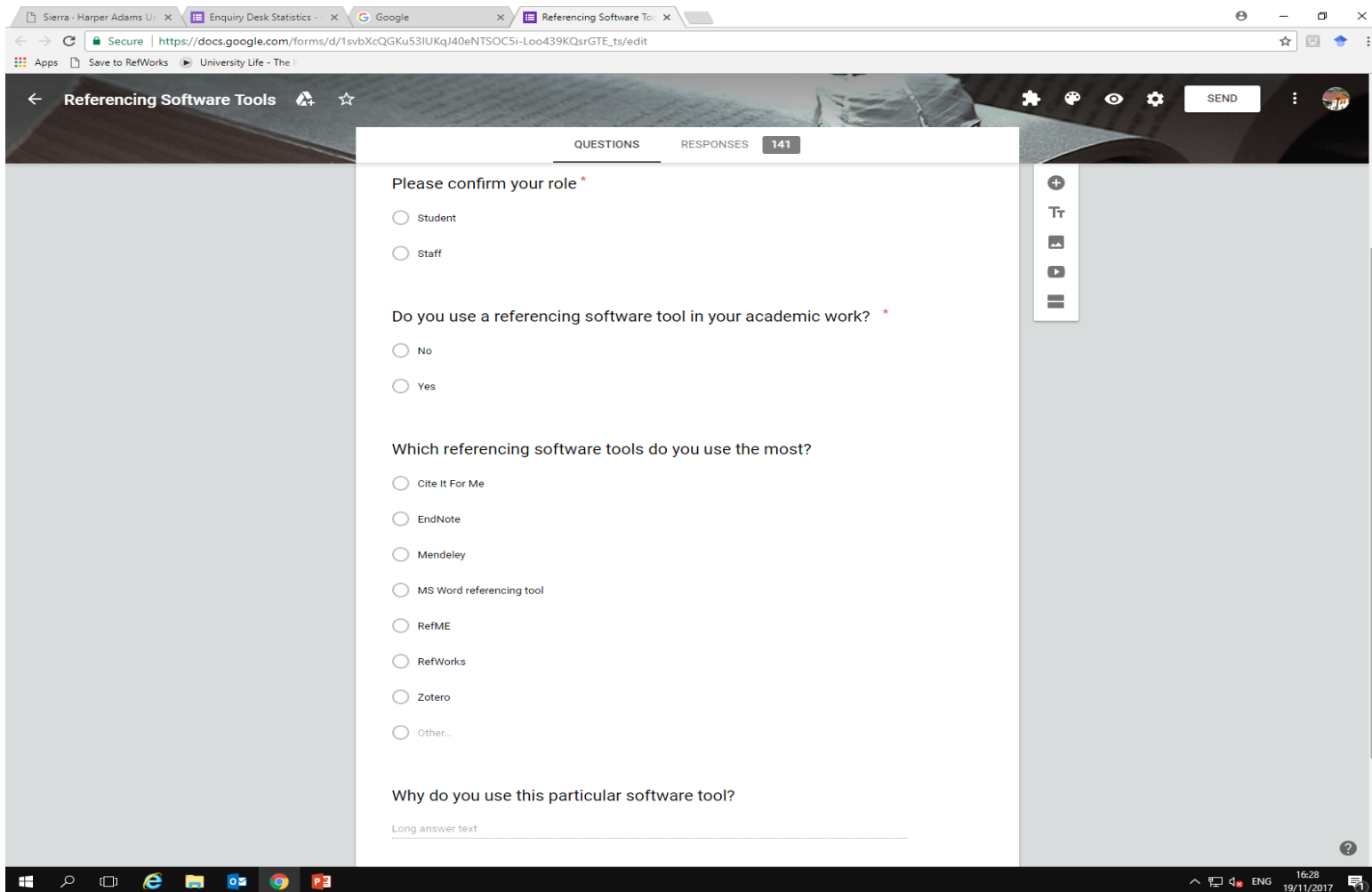
Jackie McCarthy

Librarian

History

- **Previously used EndNote but could only afford a small number of licences**

- **Undertook commercial referencing software consultation in 2012 – as a result purchased RefWorks**

- **Legacy RefWorks introduced September 2012**

- **Promoted to final year, postgrad students, researchers and staff**

- **Low uptake – why? Using other software – Endnote, Mendeley, RefMe and library not promoting heavily**

- **Write n Cite slowed PCs down**

- **RefWorks difficult to navigate**

- **Output style templates complicated to create and edit**

May 2016 - Survey students and staff using Google Docs

Results

141 responses (35% staff, 65% students)

Only 45% used a referencing software tool:

27% RefWorks

23% RefMe

15% MS Word referencing tool

11% EndNote

6% Cite it for Me

1% Zotero

New Refworks

- **Main launch October 2017**

- **Launched to all staff and students including 1st years**

- **Social media, library webpage, lectures, one to one on enquiry desk, clinics**

- **Sell to academics who will then promote to students**

- **As Legacy not used greatly, majority of users had no prior knowledge**

- **Our students using New RefWorks much more heavily than Legacy version**

Concerns and issues

- As yet – not able to access through Athens athentication

- 1st years need to understand principles of Harvard referencing before they can check automated reference lists

- Final year students reluctant to use as they felt checking for mistakes on RefWorks list harder than compiling from scratch

- Citation view is a help but references depend on quality of original resource

- Add to RefWorks tab – difficult to pull metadata from webpages

- Slow analysing PDFs

- Should academics be so strict with marking references e.g. dates in wrong order, issues missing

Positives

- **New RefWorks much more intuitive than Legacy**

- **Citation view**

- **Storing PDFs**

- **Annotating and making additional notes**

- **Sharing and feedback facility – academics**

- **Very good support from Proquest**

- **Citation manager does not slow up PCs**

Future

- **Students feeding back to us on issues within software - learn together**

- **Academics using RefWorks as a teaching tool**

- **Less referencing enquiries and more student success**

- **Our 1st years will be experts by the time they reach their final year**

- **Survey students response to new software next year**

Any questions?