

SHERIF EBSCO Enhancement Group Meeting Minutes

20th May 2026 14:00 - 16:00 UTC + 1 (BST)

Minute Taker: Susan Craig

Attendees

Geraldine O'Beirn (Chair, Queen's University Belfast), Allison Carroll (University of East Anglia), Peter Reid (Bath Spa University), Fiona Paterson (City St George's, University of London), Helen Buchanan (Imperial College London), Nicola King (Teesside University), Susan Craig (University of Sunderland), Tim Arscott (attending for Nadine Edwards, University of Greenwich), and Cara Darroch (Open University).

EBSCO: Steve Giannoni, Bethany Peletier, Emma Waecker, Chris Atkinson, Bonnie Leavitt, Rachel Hally, Claire Honeybourne, Heather White and Richard Crookes.

Apologies / Notes

Apologies from Nicola Dennis (Aston University), Sarah Robbins (Liverpool John Moores University), Nadine Edwards (University of Greenwich).

Nadine Edwards was represented by Tim Arscott. The group noted that Nicola King is leaving Teesside for a new role and thanked her for her contribution.

1. Opening and Previous Matters

The Chair welcomed attendees and confirmed the meeting was being recorded. Previous enhancement requests raised by Teesside University. Fiona Paterson said the enhancement requests remain under consideration, with some in progress but not fully resolved.

2. EBSCO Platform and Navigation Updates

Rachel Hally outlined upcoming navigation changes to the EBSCO interface. Key changes include moving navigation to the top of the screen, improved visibility of language selection and filters, tighter page layout, more prominent personalization features under My EBSCO, and the return of paginated search results. Existing advanced search functionality and profile configurations will remain unchanged.

The navigation updates are scheduled for 7 July 2026. SHERIF libraries still on the classic interface are expected to migrate to the updated interface on 14 July 2026. Libraries already on the newer interface will receive the navigation changes on 7 July.

3. Medical Market and Advanced Search Enhancements

Heather White reviewed enhancements relevant to medical and advanced search users. Recent and upcoming improvements include email output options, suggest subject terms in the new interface, better dashboard list information, editing of combined searches, improved hit count presentation for multi-database searching, and search history enhancements.

Further improvements expected by late June or July include open-ended date ranges, saving entire search histories, search history download improvements, access options in dashboard lists, and the ability to process larger batches of records. Some requests remain under development, including rerunning full search histories in different databases, inserting search lines above or below existing lines, and more flexible export options.

4. E-book Updates and New DRM Workflow

Emma Waecker presented updates on EBSCO eBooks, particularly the rollout of the new LCP DRM workflow and Thorium Reader. The new solution removes reliance on Adobe Digital Editions and improves accessibility, especially for users with screen readers. Thorium now supports desktop and iOS, with Android development planned for the autumn.

For libraries still on the classic interface, DRM-protected downloads are currently disabled to avoid a poor user experience. DRM-free downloads remain unaffected. Libraries were advised to wait until migration to the new interface before re-enabling DRM-protected downloads unless their setup makes earlier activation appropriate.

Emma also previewed customizable e-book carousels for the new interface, allowing libraries to highlight selected e-book content for discovery.

5. Mosaic Update

Bethany Pelletier provided an update on Mosaic, EBSCO's new books ordering platform. Mosaic is designed as a modern, accessible replacement for GOBI and ECM, with improved metadata, real-time pricing, better workflow integration, and broader supplier coverage. The platform has now entered beta in the UK, marking the first non-USD currency rollout.

UK beta testing has involved institutions including Bristol, Leeds, and LSE. Broader UK availability is expected in July. Future development includes selector workflows, expanded interoperability, and additional suppliers. A question was raised about the visibility of supplier hosting fees; this will be taken away for further consideration.

6. Training and Support

Richard Crookes reminded the group of the support and training available through EBSCO Connect, EBSCO Academy, public webinars, tailored sessions, and EBSCO Admin / Experience Manager training. Subject-specific sessions, particularly for Medline and CINAHL, were highlighted as especially useful and may be resumed or expanded in line with the migration timetable.

7. AI, Usage, and Future Discussion

The group discussed interest in usage reporting for AI-related tools and the wider question of how libraries can monitor and evidence use of AI-assisted features. Steven Giannoni noted that EBSCO is actively considering how to help libraries track this usage and address the challenge of users beginning research outside library platforms in general AI tools.

It was noted that this is likely to be an important topic for a future SHERIF meeting, including discussion of partnerships and developments intended to connect users back to library-provided content from external AI environments.

8. Closing Remarks

The meeting closed with thanks to all presenters and participants. Members noted the value of receiving advance notice of changes and updates. Geraldine thanked attendees for their time and wished Nicola King well in her new role.

Actions / Follow-up

- EBSCO to share slide decks and supporting materials referenced during the meeting.
- EBSCO to continue providing updates on navigation changes, migration timings, and the LCP / Thorium rollout.
- Richard and colleagues to consider further subject-specific and migration-related training sessions for SHERIF members.
- Bethany to follow up on how supplier hosting fees or additional charges may be surfaced in Mosaic.
- Future SHERIF meeting to include deeper discussion on AI-related usage, integrations, and reporting.