

SHEDL Strategic Summary

The Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL) was established in 2009 to maximise access to resources through collaboration and to manage costs equitably across the sector. The fundamental basis of SHEDL is to provide parity of access to content for all staff and students working in HEIs in Scotland.

The scholarly publishing landscape is dynamic and rapidly evolving with Plan S and the move to Open Access driving change. SHEDL works with partners including JISC and Advanced Procurement for Colleges and Universities (APUC) to deliver access to content at a sustainable cost. Today, SHEDL retains the goal of delivering an “all-in” model for access to digital content through collaborative, commitment-based procurement and licensing. In recognition of the diverse needs of our members and the complexity of the publishing landscape, however, there is scope for flexibility in exceptional circumstances. Exceptions will be considered by the SHEDL Steering Group and weighted in the interest of the whole SHEDL community.

Leadership on individual negotiations is distributed across the five working groups according to the established SHEDL negotiating criteria. The criteria are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the SHEDL approach keeps pace with developments across the sector.

The SHEDL groups are structured according to content type – these are:

- The **SHEDL eBooks Group** manages eBook supplier frameworks both eBook publisher and aggregator contracts, and seeks to create a strategy for electronic textbooks
- The **SHEDL eJournals Group** negotiates access to eJournal content packages available direct from the publishers. The group seeks to secure open access publishing rights for UK academic staff within these agreements.
- The **SHEDL Learning Content Group** seeks to develop framework agreements for aggregated multi-publisher databases, online streaming and online training services. The group seeks to develop strategies for access to content and resources not usually covered by current framework agreements e.g. datasets, marketing resources and relevant software.
- The **SHEDL Print Books Group** manages print book supplier frameworks for English and foreign language material.
- The **SHEDL Subscriptions Group** manages the sole supplier subscription agent contract for electronic & print journal subscriptions.

The SHEDL Steering Group meets three times per year, as do each of the working groups. Meeting dates are coordinated to facilitate efficient information exchange across the SHEDL network. The working groups operate on a three-year cycle for strategic planning, submitting annual progress reports for review by the SCURL Business Committee at the first meeting of the year.

SHEDL works closely with Advanced Procurement for Colleges and Universities (APUC) using different procurement models, including tendering for content, direct negotiation with publishers and framework approaches. SHEDL recognises and values APUC expertise and guidance on procurement regulations and contract maintenance, consequently, APUC is represented on the SHEDL Steering Group.

SHEDL has a close working relationship with Jisc Collections so that Scottish HEIs benefit from deals negotiated at UK-level. SHEDL is represented on the Jisc Content Negotiation Strategy Group and the other strategic groups. SHEDL also works in partnership with the scholarly communications community.