The group discussed the e-textbook strategy work. The joint statement on e-textbooks had been issued including the pledge to strive to achieve fairer, more transparent and better pricing models for e-textbooks and e-books. The SCONUL position paper and two briefing papers from Jisc have also been issued. There has been positive feedback from across the sector but no major or formal response from publishers. Jisc’s briefing papers have received positive feedback both for the paper for academics and for library directors who have used this with their staff. Jisc’s learning content group will be reviewing their roadmap and looking at the next steps in the move to open educational resources.

The group discussed the data for e-books and e-textbooks and how this might be collected and then potentially shared across the sector. There would need to be further discussion and coordination around sharing the data, for example anonymity may be required. Data would be used to establish criteria in negotiations for e-books and e-textbooks with publishers.

Caren Milloy provided an update on Jisc’s work to support the UKRI strategy implementation. There is a range of activities to support institutions including data collation to monitor and evaluate the progress of the transition to OA and updating the sector’s requirements to include the requirements for TJs.

Gavin Philips provided an update on the work of SUPC, confirming that the books agreement has been awarded and standstill ended on 01/11/21. The agreements are now being implemented and when this is completed some details of the new agreement will be shared at an introductory webinar on 9th December.

Michael McLaughlin confirmed that APUC are completing their tender process for print books, English language and non-English language, and are currently in standstill. The timeline for the outcome of the tender is mid December.

The group discussed how there is an increased interest in and drive for sustainability which is becoming more important within agreements. Libraries are in a position to support their institutions policies to move to net zero through their supply chains.

Caren Milloy confirmed that Jisc are re-engaging with the Publishers Association and will be discussing VAT initially, then corresponding author, monographs, Green/RR and learning and teaching. The group suggested that digital archiving be added to the topics.