

News

Date for diaries: SCONUL Content Forum

SCONUL will be holding a meeting of its Content Forum on 31 March via Zoom. The event will consider the challenging area of e-books, including e-textbooks. The event is open to all heads of service at SCONUL member institutions and is free to attend. Further details will be available in due course.

Open Letter to the Publishers Association

SCONUL and RLUK have sent a letter asking the Publishers Association and the publishers they represent to look again at the support that they can provide UK Universities in terms of access to research and teaching materials during this extended period of lockdown. [Read more](#)

Denmark signs Open Access agreement with Elsevier

In October 2020 the Royal Danish Library initiated negotiations on behalf of Danish universities with the publishing giant Elsevier. Universities Denmark requirement was to strengthen the dissemination of, and access to, university research for the benefit of society. After an intensive negotiation process, an agreement has been signed, which ensures immediate, free, read access to Danish research publications published with Elsevier, as well as publishing without additional charges, and read access to an unchanged Elsevier portfolio. [Read more](#)

Guardian article on ebook pricing 'Price gouging from Covid'

On 29 January the Guardian published an article on on E-textbook pricing and provision. The article includes contributions from library colleagues across the UK and calls for an inquiry into the academic ebook market. [Read more](#)

KU Selection Committee - Calling for New Members 2021

Knowledge Unlatched are looking for new members to further enhance its team of experts, librarians in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences, selecting the most relevant content to be published Open Access as part of its legacy collection, KU Select 2022 HSS Books. Members of the KU Selection Committee have an active say in selecting the quality and scope of titles to be included in the KU Select HSS Books Collection through a quick and easy voting process that takes place in KU's online portal. Librarians interested in joining the Committee may send applications using the [online form](#) by 28 February 2021. [Read more](#)

M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries: wellbeing resources

The M25 Task & Finish Group on Wellbeing is investigating the ways academic libraries can promote student wellbeing through their own activities and by working with other groups within the university. It is also looking at how libraries are supporting the wellbeing of their own staff. The group is formed of seven volunteers from M25 member libraries and its work is divided into three strands: Collections, Services and Spaces, and Staff Wellbeing. The group have been preparing resources for library staff and can be accessed on the M25 website and via the [M25 Wellbeing blog](#). [Read more](#)

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries: <https://www.m25lib.ac.uk/about-the-consortium/newsletter-archive/>
2. Mercian Collaboration <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news>
3. LIBER: <https://libereurope.eu/news/>
4. Northern Collaboration: <https://northerncollaboration.org.uk/content/covid-19>
5. NoWAL: <https://www.nowal.ac.uk/>
6. RLUK: <https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/>
7. ucisa: <https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views>

Appointments and job opportunities

If you have moved to a new role or institution or have any senior job opportunities that you would like us to include, please e-mail SitMui.Ng@sconul.ac.uk.

Vacancy: Research Data Specialist, University of Glasgow

University of Glasgow are seeking a Research Data Specialist. The post holder will contribute to the Digital Curation Centre (DCC)'s research development and service delivery. This will include running events/workshops, conducting investigative studies and developing a range of guidance resources, tools and training in relation to Research Data Management, Open Science, FAIR data and digital curation. Work will be delivered in collaboration with the core team spread across two sites and external project and consultancy partners globally. **Closing date 21 February** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Senior Assistant Archivist (Digital), University of Glasgow

University of Glasgow are looking to appoint a Senior Assistant Archivist (Digital). The post holder will manage and develop Archives & Special Collections (ASC) digital preservation services, providing expert professional advice, and ensuring the long-term preservation and accessibility of ASC born digital collections. **Closing date 21 February** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Assistant Archivist and Records Manager: Brunel University London

Brunel University London Library Services is looking for an Assistant Archivist and Records Manager to join its Records, Archives & Special Collections (RASC) team to help manage the full life cycle of Brunel's institutional records and archives. The post holder will be responsible for managing the University Records Centre on a day to day basis, along with reviewing and developing retention schedules, running the enquiry service, managing the transfer of records from departments across campus as well as ensuring records are confidentially destroyed in line with agreed retention periods and processes. **Closing date 28 February** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Deputy Director of Libraries, University of Nottingham

University of Nottingham are seeking to appoint a Deputy Director of Libraries. The Deputy Director of Libraries will work closely with the Director of Libraries to help lead and continue to grow and shape the future direction of the Libraries department. The post holder will be actively involved with the development of strategy and business planning, with responsibility for leading and delivering departmental programmes and projects, as well as core operational aspects of the service. **Closing date 28 February** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Service Development Manager, King's College London

King's College London are looking for a Service Development Manager to join their newly formed team working across Libraries & Collections to drive continual improvement and development in services. The post holder will be engaged in the creation and promotion of tools and frameworks to support Libraries & Collections in the delivery of service design and development making them more effective and consistent in their delivery of improvement. The post is based at the Maughan Library (near Chancery Lane) but will work across our multiple central London sites and will start predominantly from home. **Closing date 28 February** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Library Quality Manager, King's College London

King's College London are looking for a Library Quality Manager to support the delivery of quality frontline services in a sector-leading Higher Education library, committed to continuous improvement. The post holder will play an essential role in ensuring a consistently high standard of service is maintained across the division, acting as a point of contact with Senior Management, Libraries & Collections teams and other stakeholders. **Closing date 28 February** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Learning and Teaching Librarian, Open University (Maternity Cover)

The Open University are searching for a qualified librarian who will support learning and teaching activities, including the development of students as independent learners. The post holder will work in collaboration across the OU's Learner and Discovery Services portfolio to support the growing digital capabilities agenda and integrate Library content systematically into the curriculum. **Closing date 5 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: UMASCS Librarian, University of Reading (Maternity cover)

University of Reading are seeking a Library professional to join the University Museums and Special Collections Services, part of University Library and Collections Services. The post holder will be responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the UMASCS Library Service as a maternity cover as part of a job share. They will deliver high quality support for teaching, learning and research. They will supervise library staff and contribute to the integrated Special Collections Service as part of its management team. **Closing date 7 March** [Read more](#)

Resources

Below is a list of [resources for SCONUL members dealing with Covid-19](#). If you would like SCONUL to include any resources that may be of interest to members, please email sitmui.ng@sconul.ac.uk

Current COVID resources

- Government guidance for English universities on Covid-19 (updated 11 February): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses>
- The Welsh government guidance for higher education: <https://gov.wales/guidance-higher-education-keep-wales-safe-covid-19>
- The Scottish government's guidance for higher and further education institutions and student accommodation providers to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 (updated 10 February): <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-universities-colleges-and-student-accommodation-providers/>
- The Scottish government: College and university returns postponed: <https://www.gov.scot/news/colleges-and-university-returns-postponed/>
- SAGE Advice, Mitigations to Reduce Transmission of the new variant SARS-CoV-2 virus SAGE-EMG, SPI-B, Transmission Group, 23 December 2020: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948607/s0995-mitigations-to-reduce-transmission-of-the-new-variant.pdf
- Jisc's report on the response to COVID-19 and the future of digital learning and teaching: <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/reports/learning-and-teaching-reimagined-a-new-dawn-for-higher-education>
- Public Library News article *The third lockdown: damned if you do ..?* that includes a link to a list of public libraries and what services they are offering in the current lockdown: <https://www.publiclibrariesnews.com/about-public-libraries-news/coronavirus-public-library-ideas-and-responses/when-and-how-will-public-libraries-reopen-in-england>

SCONUL services during the pandemic

- The SCONUL Access Scheme is suspended until further notice, in line with Government guidelines. The SCONUL Access form has been disabled on our website to prevent new applications being made during this period. SCONUL has produced a note which sets out the current position and would be grateful if members could share this with staff and students including using the text for your website if appropriate. If you receive any queries from students about the scheme, please direct them to our website <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access>.
- The SCONUL office remains open, albeit virtually, and we are working as normal. Students or staff ringing the office or contacting us by email will have their enquiries dealt with in the usual way.
- All events this academic year (2020-21) will held virtually and we will be bringing members together to discuss their response to the immediate crisis and to look at the longer-term impacts and the community's response
- We continue to provide our support for our deputies and directors' groups, SCONUL Mentoring and other services. Please feel free to contact us as usual.

Archive: Covid-19 documentation

Resources which are no longer current but have been retained for reference purposes can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/archive-covid-19-documentation>

Events

With the current uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic many events have either been cancelled, postponed or moved to an online platform, please click on the event for further information.

sherif event/AGM: Coping with the new normal: Where next for e-resources and practical strategies to help ourselves?, 23 February

AHRC Townhall meetings: Shaping the future funding landscape to enable collaboration between researchers and academic and research libraries, 26 February 3 March

OASPA webinar: Open Book Metadata, 24 February

CSGUK: Safe Spaces - managing student behaviour during the Covid crisis, 26 February

AHRC Townhall meetings: Shaping the future funding landscape to enable collaboration between researchers and academic and research libraries, 3 March

EIFL and SPARC Europe joint webinar: International and national copyright policy action for OA, 8 March

UKSG: The Open Access Lifecycle Seminar 2021, 2 and 9 March (2 half-day sessions)

UCL Office for Open Science & Scholarship/Copyright for Knowledge E-books webinar, 15 March

RLUK21 Conference - AHRC/RLUK scoping study workshop, 17 March

RLUK Virtual Conference, 17-19 March

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for the Research Excellence Framework, 23 March

SCURL Building Collaborative Collections & Transforming Access, 25 March

M25 Annual Conference 2021: The Future of Libraries, 30 March

SCONUL Content Forum, 31 March

LILAC 2021, Manchester, 7-9 April

Online: UKSG 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition, 12-14 April

Call for papers: Excluded Voices: a WHELF Conference, 22 April

Call for papers: Online education: teaching in a time of change, 21-23 April

CALC2021 (Critical Approaches to Libraries Conference), 5-6 May

LIBER 2021 Online, 23-25 June

DCDC21 virtual conference, 28 June-2 July

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for Open Access, 9 July

Online: 14th International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries, 2-4 November

