

News

Copim and SCONUL: exploring practical problems and potential strategies to fund equitable OA book publishing, 25 January 2024, 10.00hrs

SCONUL and Copim Open Book Futures are holding a webinar to explore the difficulties of funding open access books, and how different libraries have developed strategies to tackle these challenges. There is a growing shift towards open access (OA) for books, with policies such as UKRI mandating OA publication and a number of OA presses springing up at different universities. But when some institutions are not eligible for funding, and budgets are under increasing pressure, can libraries support this shift to open access for books? If so, how might it be done? This webinar, chaired by Andrew Barker, will hear from Phil Brabban, University Librarian and Group Director of Learning Resources at Coventry University, Dominic Broadhurst, Head of Content & Discovery at University of Salford and Anna Clements - Director of Library Services and University Librarian at University of Sheffield. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

SCONUL Content Forum: The future of subscriptions, 2 February 2024

The results of the Critical Review of Transitional Agreements will be published in January, and SCONUL is bringing the sector together to discuss its findings and to consider the future approach to subscriptions at the next meeting of the SCONUL Content Forum. This is a face-to-face meeting which will be held at Goodenough College, London, on Friday 2 February 2024, 10.00am to 4.00pm. There is no charge for attending. The first UK transitional agreement was agreed on behalf of the UK library community in 2016. Since then, 47 such agreements have been reached, including with Elsevier in 2022 and Springer Nature earlier this year. Despite the work and commitment that has gone into developing these agreements, progress towards open access has been slow, while costs remain very high. The time has come to consider the set of options open to the sector on subscriptions which will shape our work and inform Jisc's approach to negotiations. The Forum is open to heads of service and their senior leadership teams from member institutions only and meets once a year, or more often if required. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

SCONUL Benchmarking Statistics Consultation

Please look out for our survey on the future of the benchmarking statistics early in the New Year. We are asking leadership teams to fill this in jointly as one submission for the institution and your feedback will be vital to the future of the statistics.

SCONUL supports Green Libraries

SCONUL is pleased to announce that it has joined the Green Libraries Campaign as a partner organisation. The Green Libraries Campaign is the next phase of the Green Libraries Partnership, which connected libraries across England through the national Green Libraries Week campaign, allocated funding that enabled libraries to launch green activities, and ran the inaugural Green Libraries conference for knowledge sharing and green networking. As a sponsor, SCONUL will support the Green Libraries Campaign in growing and evolving, to launch new campaigns and activities so that libraries can continue to lead the way in environmental action. [Read more](#)

SCONUL photo library

SCONUL is in the process of moving to a new website and would like to build up a library of images to use on our website as well as for wider digital use. We are very keen to have images from our member libraries and are putting out a request for you to share with us any images that we can use for these purposes. If you are able to help and would like to share images of your library building or facilities, we would be most grateful. Please do send any images to SitMui Ng SitMui.Ng@sconul.ac.uk. If you are able to provide them as individual high-resolution image files (minimum 600 dpi resolution) and copyright cleared that would be most helpful.

Leading change on race equality, 10 and 24 April 2024

As part of SCONUL's ongoing commitment to increasing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the sector, we continue to partner with AdvanceHE to bring members subsidised development workshops on 'Leading Change on Race Equality'. The two linked workshops are designed to strengthen knowledge, skills and confidence to lead progress on race equality in college, national and university libraries. In partnering with AdvanceHE, we are able to offer a significantly discounted rate to support participation and development across the membership. The workshops will be held on Wednesday 10 April and Wednesday 24 April 2024 and the course fee is £115pp. These workshops are being intended for library professionals currently in management roles. Places are limited and offered on a first come, first served basis. Further details will be available shortly.

SCONUL Team Administrator

SCONUL is pleased to announce the appointment of Noura Mokhtar as our new Team Administrator. We would like to welcome Noura who joined us on 14 November.

Learning, teaching and assessment priorities

The chairs of the two groups representing the interests of HE stakeholders in negotiations with publishers for content for research ([Content Negotiations Strategy Group](#), and for teaching and learning ([Learning Content Expert Group](#).) have made a statement on priorities for licensing negotiations – available [here](#). Libby Homer, co-chair of the Learning Content Expert Group, has also published a blog with Gavin Philips from SUPC on e-textbooks and the future of learning which is available here: [e-textbooks and the future of learning, teaching and assessment - Jisc](#)

THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023

SCONUL is an Event Partner for THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023 which is being held on 6-7 December in Liverpool. Session highlights include: [The new age of the university library: Library services as a vehicle for transformation](#) – which will focus on the changing nature of academic librarianship and how library leaders can transform their library services to align with their institution's strategic plan. [Case study: By All, For All: Levelling Up Through Culture](#) - will explore the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Creative Communities programme and new models of delivering cultural R&D through cross-sector co-creation with communities across the devolved nations of the UK. You can explore all sessions in the research management and impact track [here](#). This event will be hosted along with the THE Awards ceremony. [Read more](#)

Coalition of HE sector bodies to tackle the lack of ethnic diversity at leadership level

Over the last 12 months, a group of representatives from a wide range of HE sector bodies have come together to pool resources and knowledge to tackle the lack of ethnic diversity in the leadership of academic/education and student professional services. In November 2022, research was carried out to understand the level of challenge faced as a sector. The results of the data showed good representation of ethnically diverse staff at entry levels into academic and student services. This was reduced by c.50% at each salary step until reaching virtually no representation in director-level roles. It also identified a severe and worrying data gap with many directors not having access to the data about their staff. This is a sector-wide issue that can't be tackled in isolation and representatives from AHEP, AMOSSHE, The Student Services Organisation, HESPA, the HE Strategic Planners Association, the Association of Heads of University Administration (AHUA), AGCAS, the Academic Registrars Council, SCONUL, UHR: Universities Human Resources and Shakespeare Martineau have come together to form the [#HigherDiversityCoalition](#). [Read more](#)

UKRI update on new open access policy and fund for monographs, book chapters and edited collections

UKRI will be implementing their open access policy requirements for monographs, book chapters, and edited collections published from 1 January 2024. Ahead of this date they have announced some key information:

1. There will be a nine-month bedding in period for the policy, meaning between January and September, UKRI will not be monitoring compliance or taking any action. Any contracts negotiated from January 2024 should support open access publication.
2. The fund to support open access longform publications will operate in two stages. Stage 1 is now open for applications from research organisations via Citizen Space and further details can be found at: <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/publishing-your-research-findings/open-access-funding->

[and-reporting/](#). Stage 2 applications will open in January 2024 via UKRI's funding service. Your institution can provide more detail on what this will look like.

There are maximum levels of funding from UKRI for each type of publication:

- £10,000 (including VAT) for entire monographs and edited collections
- £1,000 (including VAT) for book chapters
- £6,000 for non-book processing charge models where one eligible UKRI output is published (i.e. diamond, collective or subscribe to open models).
- An additional £3,000 is also available where two or more UKRI publications from the same institution are published under the same model.
- VAT is not charged in the UK for these models, but where VAT is chargeable, this is included in the maximum funding level.

In order to see the full details, please see the UKRI news article at: <https://www.ukri.org/news/update-on-ukri-open-access-policy-and-fund-for-books/>

Publishing under the UKRI open access policy: copyright and Creative Commons licences

Jisc have published a new guide *Publishing under the UKRI open access policy: copyright and Creative Commons licences* which can be found here: <https://beta.jisc.ac.uk/guides/copyright-and-creative-commons-licences-for-publishing-under-the-ukri-open-access-policy>. This guide has been made available under Creative Commons License (CC BY-NC-ND).

WHELFL+ (Inter-lending): Expressions of Interest

Would you like to join the WHELFL+ libraries benefiting from cost savings, quick delivery times and a collaborative community? WHELFL+ is a free, reciprocal, inter-library borrowing scheme currently comprising 18 members from across the UK. It started with the WHELFL consortium but expanded beyond Wales in 2021 hence the '+' in WHELFL+. The WHELFL+ working group are happy to be able to open the scheme to new members. Read more about WHELFL+ and the SLA on the WHELFL website: <https://whelf.ac.uk/the-whelf-interlending-scheme/>. WHELFL+ are currently only working with Alma libraries. If you're a non-Alma library and are interested, please get in touch and we may be able to work with you in the future. Contact Jenny McNally mcnallyj1@cardiff.ac.uk to express your interest in joining WHELFL+.

GW4 Alliance launches joint statement on rights retention in scholarly works

Library teams from across the GW4 Alliance, a consortium of four of the most research-intensive and innovative universities in the UK: Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter, have joined together to publish a collective Rights Retention Statement, advocating for greater measures to support researchers to retain the rights to their work. [Read more](#)

The British Library: technology outage, 31 October 2023

The British Library is continuing to experience a major technology outage, as a result of a cyber-attack. The outage is affecting its website, online systems and services, as well as some onsite services including their Reading Rooms and public wifi. They anticipate restoring many services in the next few weeks, but some disruption may persist for longer. The British Library have now confirmed that this was a ransomware attack, by a group known for such criminal activity. In response to the attack, targeted protective measures have been taken to ensure the integrity of its systems, including a full password reset and the quarantining of hardware to enable the installation of additional monitoring and detection software across the estate. These and other measures will enable the British Library to restore their systems in a safe and managed way, and further updates will be provided in the coming weeks. The Library's sites in London and Yorkshire are open to the public as normal, and details of the services, exhibitions and events that remain available can be found [@britishlibrary](#) on X (formerly Twitter)

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. Academic Libraries North <https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/>
2. CONUL <https://conul.ie/news/>
3. LIBER <https://libereurope.eu/news/>
4. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries <https://www.m25lib.ac.uk/about-the-consortium/newsletter-archive/>
5. Mercian Collaboration <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news>

6. RLUK <https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/>
7. SCURL <https://www.scurl.ac.uk/news>
8. ucisa <https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views>
9. WHELP <https://whelf.ac.uk/>

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.

Appointment: Director of Library Services, University of West London (UWL)

Davina Omar has been appointed as the Director of Library Services, University of West London. This follows a period as Interim Director, following Andrew Preater's move to Goldsmiths, University of London in February 2023. Davina has over 20 years' experience in HE libraries, most recently as Head of Academic Support at UWL. She has previously worked at Kingston University, Brunel University London and University of Northampton.

Vacancy: Deputy Head, CMOS, Acquisitions & Metadata, Trinity College Dublin

The Deputy Head, CMOS, Acquisitions & Metadata leads the strategic development of the Library's acquisitions and bibliographic metadata processes. This includes monographs and journals; print and digital; legal deposit, web archiving, donation, purchase, and e-resource licencing. The post holder is responsible for the Library's main bibliographic database, its adherence to international content and metadata standards, compatibility with aggregators (including union catalogues), fitness to enable users find and discover the Library's resources, and suitability for collection analysis, collection management and stock moves. The post holder plays a key role in developing the Library's collections to facilitate teaching, learning and research in the University and beyond. **Closing date 11 December** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Deputy Head, CMOS, Digital, Trinity College Dublin

The Deputy Head, CMOS, Digital leads the strategic development of the Library's IT infrastructure, including core systems, digital repositories, user interfaces, and websites. Liaising with the University's IT Services department, the post-holder ensures systems are robust, secure and sufficiently supported, and ensures staff across the Library have appropriate equipment and software. The post holder drives the technical development of the platform for digitised collections and has oversight of the digital content development strategies. Similarly, the post holder is responsible for procuring, developing, and maintaining systems for born-digital collections of diverse provenance, formats, and access restrictions. In doing so, the post-holder plays a key role in advancing the Library's infrastructure and services for digital and open scholarship. **Closing date 11 December** [Read more](#)

Events

If you would like SCONUL to include any events that may be of interest to directors, please e-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

CILIP Disability Network Event 2023, 4 December

THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023, Liverpool, 6-7 December

Spotlight on services: How can OpenAIRE facilitate your work in the UK, 15 December

Copim and SCONUL: exploring practical problems and potential strategies to fund equitable OA book publishing, 25 January 2024

Green BIC Brunch: Focus on Libraries, 25 January 2024

SCONUL Content Forum, London, 2 February 2024

International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC24), Edinburgh, 19-21 February 2024

LILAC 2024, Leeds, 25-27 March 2024

User Experience in Libraries 8: 'Curiosity & Empathy', Cambridge, 11-13 June 2024