

## News

### How to get ahead in libraries webinar part two, 5 February

Interested in a library leadership role but don't fit the traditional profile? The second 'How to Get Ahead in Libraries' webinar may be of interest. It will focus on the routes into leadership without a formal library qualification, often seen as a barrier to more senior leadership. All of our speakers here have explored alternative routes to 'library school' and are now in a variety of senior roles. Speakers Chris Banks (Imperial College London), Dr Sarah Pittaway SFHEA (Birmingham City University) and Simon Hall (Head of Library Liaison (Medicine and NHS)) will share their journeys and give practical suggestions for others looking to take that same step. It is on Wednesday 5 February 2025 from 11am - 12.30pm. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### SCONUL conference, 3 March, London

The conference *The library and digital transformation* will bring together SCONUL members to discuss the library's central role in institutions' digital transformation and will include the launch of our Technology Survey results and of our report on the future of the systems librarian. Professor Mark Thompson, Professor in Digital Economy, at the University of Exeter, will deliver the keynote presentation on opportunities for collaboration and shared services in HE. Programme sessions include:

- the library technology landscape and its future development
- the digital transformation of the library
- Business intelligence with lightning talks from libraries with innovative approaches to using library data / analytics.
- A panel discussion on The Systems Librarian in 2030, including a presentation on outputs from the survey.

The conference will be held on Monday 3 March, 10am to 4pm at The British Library, Knowledge Centre, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### Walking away: what happens next? webinar, 7 March

With negotiations with five of the largest academic publishers coming up in 2025 and continuing concern about the value for money and ethics of the "big deals", many SCONUL member institutions will be considering their options and strategic approach. If the publishers do not recognise the need for reform and the challenging financial situation facing UK HE, many institutions will of course consider walking away. What happens within an institution in the run-up to making this decision, and what happens next? This webinar will explore these questions. We are joined by speakers from three institutions which have taken this step and who are willing to share their experiences and to take questions. Please note that this webinar is being held under Chatham House Rule.

Our speakers are: Anna Clements, Director Library Services and University Librarian, University of Sheffield, Paul Johnson, Director of Library and Learning Services at the University of Surrey, Kirsty Lingstadt, Director of Library, Archives and Learning Services and Sarah Thompson, Assistant Director,

Library, Archives & Learning Services, University of York.

The webinar is on Friday 7 March 2025 from 11am – 12.30pm. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **Sylla demo and briefing webinar, 18 March**

Colleagues may be aware of the new approach to surfacing open and affordable learning resources which the company Sylla has been developing, and the potential of this to provide savings for the sector. Jisc has been working with Sylla to develop a pilot agreement for HE and FE and this webinar will explore Sylla's offer to the sector and the scope for this to generate savings.

The webinar is on Tuesday 18 March 2025 from 2pm – 3.30pm. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **Building effective partnerships webinar, 27 March**

Building effective partnerships with colleagues across the institution and beyond is a core skill for anyone contributing to the leadership of a library service and this webinar will provide an opportunity to explore approaches to building partnerships. We will hear from three expert speakers: Regina Everitt from the University of East London and Editor of recently published Facet collection Privileged Spaces: Academic Libraries in University Estates Strategy; Adrian Ellison, Pro Vice-Chancellor, People and Digital at the University of West London and Anna O'Neill from University of Warwick. The webinar is on Thursday 27 March 2025 from 2pm – 3.30pm. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **AI coffee morning: call for speakers**

The AI and Information Literacy SIG is seeking 2-3 speakers who are willing to share guidance and/or good practice they've developed that supports AI and Information Literacy at the next SCOUNL AI coffee morning on Friday 28 March from 10am – 11.30am. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering to speak at the event, please get in touch with Erin Nephin [e.nephin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:e.nephin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) by Monday, 10 March.

### **Briefing paper on the development of rights retention policies in the UK**

SCOUNL has published an update on the current position on the development of rights retention policies in the UK. This shows that around 60% of institutions either have a policy in place or one in development. For institutions in Jisc bands 1-5b, 71% of institutions already have one in place or expect to in this academic year. The briefing paper also includes a useful case study from Brunel University highlighting savings of £47k as a result of having a RRP policy in place. The paper is available on the SCOUNL website [here](#). Please note that you will need to log in to access it.

### **Call for expressions of interest: case studies highlighting libraries' contributions to civic and community life and to sustainability and equality.**

SCOUNL is seeking expressions of interest from member libraries to participate in a project highlighting their contributions to sustainability, equality and civic and community engagement initiatives. This initiative will showcase 8-12 case studies demonstrating how academic libraries support their institutions' priorities related to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). The case studies will provide a source of inspiration and good practice to other libraries and collectively will showcase the contribution that libraries make to their institutions' wider missions. Further details can be found [here](#) and the deadline for submitting an expression of interest is 28 February. [Read more](#)

## SCONUL Library Design Awards 2025 submissions

We are pleased to announce the return of the SCONUL Library Design Awards which for the first time include a new category for service design alongside the category for library spaces. The triennial awards return after a break during the Covid 19 pandemic and projects completed between 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2023 are eligible. Details of the two categories and how to submit an entry can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/services-for-members/library-design-awards/library-design-awards-2025/>. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday 26 February and should be sent to [lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk). [Read more](#)

## Share your time and experience and become a SCONUL Mentor

SCONUL's mentoring scheme supports emerging and newly appointed leaders, by partnering them with more experienced colleagues, who can guide them in their professional growth. The scheme is seeking mentors from across SCONUL who want to be a part of this highly valued scheme. Benefits of becoming a mentor include: offering your insight and advice to someone looking to navigate the next stages of their career, a one-to-one client-focused relationship, supporting emerging and newly appointed leaders, add to your CV. Click [here](#) to discover more about how the scheme works, and you can find more information for mentors and how to apply [here](#).

## ISKO Survey on Subject Access

ISKO, the International Society for Knowledge Organization, is conducting a survey to gather valuable insights on the use of controlled vocabularies in research and university libraries. The purpose of the survey is to learn more about the use of subject headings, classification codes and other controlled vocabularies for library searches. The eventual outcome will be a set of guidelines for procurement of library search interfaces. This is a global survey of academic and research libraries and ISKO are seeking a single response per library. To participate, please follow the link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/dyxG2jxAde>. If you have any questions about the survey, please do contact David Haynes, Chair of the ISKO Working Group on Subject Access Metadata, at [d.haynes@napier.ac.uk](mailto:d.haynes@napier.ac.uk).

## Upcoming RLUK events – open to all

RLUK have a number of upcoming events, including the last webinar in their Digital Shift programme, [Realising Open Digital Infrastructure](#) on 5<sup>th</sup> February and the start of their [Inclusive Collections, Inclusive Libraries](#) programme from 6<sup>th</sup> February. RLUK are also still taking bookings for their upcoming conference from 19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> March, [Champions of knowledge: libraries as beacons of trust and integrity](#), which will be held in Liverpool.

## CSGUK: Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End

The Customer Services Group UK has announced the next in their series of "Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End" events, taking place at [Aston University](#) on 2 April. They are looking for staff in library assistant and similar roles to share with their peers the work they are doing, ideas they have had implemented, or projects they are working on. Presentations can be individual or as a duo (with a free place for the main presenter). If you or a member of your team would be interested in taking part, please send a brief outline of a 15 minute presentation to Claire Townsend [c.townsend@aston.ac.uk](mailto:c.townsend@aston.ac.uk) by Monday 17 February for consideration for inclusion in the event. Bookings for the day will open in early March. Please contact Claire Browne [c.k.browne@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.k.browne@bham.ac.uk) (CSGUK rep) if you have any queries.

## Open Book Collective Development Fund 2025

The Open Book Collective has launched its second call for applications for funding from their Collective Development Fund. This fund is to support: 1) Creating and supporting infrastructures and/or workflows for the distribution, cataloguing and/or preservation of Open Access scholarly books; 2) Building and sustaining networks and advocacy for the support of OA scholarly books and infrastructure; and 3) Projects building capacity for scholarly OA book publishing. In this 2025 round, they expect to award at least one grant of up to £15,000 and two to five grants of up to £7,500 for projects with a duration of up to 1 year. All versions can be accessed from [this link](#). This round of applications will close on March 17 2025.

## White Rose Libraries : Repositories renewal project report available

White Rose Libraries has undertaken an extensive review of their repositories infrastructure over the last few years and have recently made available the report on the process and findings. You can access the report here: <https://whiteroselibraries.org/repositories-2/>

## UXLibs9 – Liverpool 2025

UXLibs are excited to announce that bookings are now open for their June 2025 conference, taking place in Liverpool from Tuesday 10 to Thursday 12 June 2025 with the theme 'Trust the Process'. User Experience (UX) research and design work has now become firmly embedded across the library sector worldwide and their annual conference once again offers a unique and important opportunity for those who support and enhance the experience of library users to meet and share good practice. [Read more](#)

## Behind the scenes at SCONUL

This month SCONUL has been working with colleagues at Jisc on **preparations for this year's set of "big deal" journal negotiations**, including looking at the sector's readiness and capacity for walking away. Our work on rights retention mentioned above is one output of this, but we are also looking at access to ILL providers.

We have been in discussion with partners and allies around the appetite and opportunities for **closer collaboration and shared services between libraries**, following the [recent KPMG report](#). SCONUL is organising a facilitated round table for sector leaders to identify opportunities the outputs of which will be shared with the community.

We have also been hosting a **symposium for national and regional library consortia** to discuss our shared agendas, particularly around the scope for greater collaboration and shared services across the sector, and on our common mission to advocate for the value of libraries and their contribution to their institutions' missions.

### Making the most of your SCONUL membership

- [Sign up to lis-sconul](#) to participate in discussions with your peers as well as hear about news and events.
- [Join](#) the SCONUL community on [LinkedIn](#).

- [Register](#) to access all the resources on the SCONUL website.

### 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.org.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](mailto:SitMui.Ng@sconul.ac.uk). These vacancies can also be found on our website at: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/jobs-bank/current-roles/>

### Vacancy: Digital Experience Specialist, Birmingham City University

Library and Learning Resources of Birmingham City University are seeking a customer-focused and collaborative Digital Experience Specialist to join their Library Technologies and Digital Innovation Team. Working closely with the Systems, Access and Discovery Team Leader and with stakeholders across the University, the Digital Experience Specialist ensures that user needs are at the heart of digital service design and delivery. The role has responsibility for all digital UX activities: planning, conducting and analysing research designed to understand the needs of various library user communities, including their motivations, behaviours and barriers, and using the information gathered to provide recommendations which help shape BCU's service. **Closing date 9 February** [Read more](#)

### Vacancy: Reader Assistant (Special Collections), SOAS, University of London

SOAS Library is currently recruiting a permanent, full time Reader Assistant to join their Special Collections team. The assistant will support front-of-house services in Special Collections and ensure public access to their unique collections of archives, manuscripts, and rare books. The post will also offer operational and administrative support within the team of archivists and curators. **Closing date 9 February** [Read more](#)

### Vacancy: e-Resources and Serials Team Leader, Birmingham City University

Library and Learning Resources are looking to appoint an e-Resources and Serials Team Leader to join their newly formed Content and Open Research team. In this role, the post holder will lead the e-Resources and Serials team, responsible for managing the life cycle of e-resources and serials from selection to licensing negotiation, subscription, activation for access and discovery and analysis of usage

data to support evidence-based decision making. The role plays a key role in our delivering the Library and Learning Resources 'digital first' approach to the acquisition of learning and teaching resources.

**Closing date 9 February** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Archivist (Digital Preservation), University of Glasgow**

University of Glasgow are seeking an Archivist (Digital Preservation). The post holder will manage and develop the Archives & Special Collections (ASC) digital preservation services, providing expert professional knowledge and expertise on ensuring the long-term preservation and accessibility of the Library's unique and distinctive born-digital collections. **Closing date 9 February** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Digital Collections Systems Specialist, University of Glasgow**

University of Glasgow are looking to appoint a Digital Collections Systems Specialist to develop and maintain their digital collections and discovery applications to support the University's research and educational ambitions. This will entail enhancing existing systems and advising on appropriate solutions, designing and developing new functionality or features to meet objectives, and providing operational support across all library and library adjacent systems. A particular focus for the postholder will be Archives & Special Collections' collection management systems, the collections discovery applications, and digital preservation solutions. **Closing date 9 February** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Book Conservator, University of Glasgow

University of Glasgow are recruiting for a Book Conservator within the Archives & Special Collections' Collections Management team. The successful candidate will bring professional knowledge, expertise and skill for the conservation treatment of items from across their collections. This role directly enables delivery of ASC's Collections Classroom service and supports the College of Arts & Humanities' research project 'Take Me and Make It Happen!'. **Closing date 9 February** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Acquisitions Co-ordinator, Queen Mary, University of London**

Queen Mary are seeking an Acquisitions Co-ordinator to supervise a team of Library Assistants and assist the Acquisitions Librarian with the technical and financial management of the service. The job is varied and will involve liaising with stakeholders and suppliers, analytical reporting and reviewing processes.

**Closing date 10 February** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Academic Engagement Librarian, University of Brighton**

The University of Brighton are seeking an Academic Engagement Librarian to support learning and teaching at their Moulsecoomb campus. Based in Aldrich Library, your excellent customer service skills will be key to building strong working relationships with academics and students, ensuring that library resources and services continue to meet the needs of the diverse university community. **Closing date 12**

**February** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Director of Cultural Collections and Curatorial Practice, University of Leeds**

University of Leeds Libraries are seeking to appoint a Director of Cultural Collections and Curatorial Practice. This role will work closely with the University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection, the Director of Library Services, Associate Directors, and other members of the broader leadership team, and will provide leadership and strategic capacity for the libraries. In addition, the role-holder will

contribute to the cultural shift, positioning University of Leeds libraries as a beacon of innovation and inclusivity. **Closing date 14 February** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Head of Special Collections, National Library of Ireland**

The National Library of Ireland is excited to be accepting applications for the position of Head of Special Collections. Reporting to the Director of the National Library of Ireland, the Head of Special Collections will be a member of the NLI's senior management team. This critical role is responsible for leading and overseeing the management of a major department of the NLI as well as contributing to its strategic planning and overall management. **Closing date 7 March** [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](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

**How to get ahead in libraries webinar part two, 5 February**

**BUFDG: Demystifying Finance and Budgeting in the HE sector (for Non-Accountants), 5 and 12 February**

**RLUK Digital Shift, Realising Open Digital Infrastructure, 5 February**

**RLUK, Inclusive Collections, Inclusive Libraries, starting from 6 February**

**OASPA Online Seminar, 6 February**

**Introduction to Fedora Workshop, 11 February**

**19th International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC25), The Hague, 17-19 February**

**Focus on Open Science Delhi 2025: Creating a Research Culture for the 21st Century, 21 February**

**Open Athens Access Lab, 24-27 February**

**SCONUL conference, London, 3 March**

**The Oxford Forum of Open Scholarship (OxFOS 2025), Oxford, 3-13 March**

**AI and Libraries: Literacy, Ethics, and Responsible Use, 13 March**

**Librarians Change Lives: The Library Profession in 2025, Oxford, 18 March**

**RLUK Conference, Liverpool, 19-21 March**

**UKSG 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition, Brighton, 31 March–2 April**

**Call for presentations: LILAC 2025, Cardiff, 14–16 April**

**UKSG Licensing Skills for Librarians Online Seminar 2025, 29–30 April**

**Call for papers: NAG 15<sup>th</sup> Collection Development Seminar and Public Library Forum, Leeds, 15 May**

**Call for speakers: Beyond the Horizon 2025 - CILIP North East Conference, 19 May**

**DARTS9 'Opening Doors: Empowering Librarians to conduct and support research', Swindon, 21–22 May**

**CONUL Conference 2025, Tullamore, 28–29 May**

**Call for papers: 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries, Liverpool, 3–4 June**

**50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of IASSIST, Bristol, 3–6 June**

**User Experience in Libraries 9: 'Trust the Process', Liverpool, 10–12 June**

**SCURL Annual Conference, Aberdeen, 19 June**

**Save the date: ARLIS UK & Ireland annual conference 2025, 1–3 July**

**CILIP Annual Conference, Birmingham, 2–3 July**

**Open Science Conference 2025, Hamburg, 8–9 October**