News

SCONUL Autumn conference: 18 November

Join SCONUL colleagues on 18 November in Birmingham to discuss fostering a sustainable and resilient library. There will be sessions on cybersecurity and business continuity; climate sustainability and behaviour change; sharing practice on successfully meeting the financial challenges facing the sector; and new approaches to content negotiations. Speakers include

- **Ismini Vasileiou**, Associate Professor in Information Systems at De Montfort University and **Liz Jolly**, Chief Librarian at The British Library

- **Sue Ackermann**, Director, University of Nottingham Libraries; **Regina Everitt**, Assistant COO (Service Excellence) and Director of Library, Archives, and Learning Services at the University of East London, and **Helen Rimmer**, author of The Kind Librarian

- **Rowan Williamson**, Associate Director Library Services and Support at the University of the Arts London, and **Deborah Phelpstead**, Head of Sustainability at Birmingham City

- **Anna Vernon**, Head of Portfolio, Content Licensing at Jisc.

The conference will be held at EcoSmart accredited venue The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham, B2 5EP on 18th November from 10am to 4.30pm, with registration from 9.30am. Tickets are £145ppFor registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk. This event is supported by Ebsco, Jisc and Reassurance Security Services.

AI coffee mornings – last Friday of every month at 10am

SCONUL will be holding its next AI coffee morning on Friday 25 October from 10am – 11.30am which will look at the skills gap and opportunities to upskill the sector in this area. The AI coffee mornings are held on last Friday of every month and provide an opportunity for library colleagues with an interest in AI to come together, share experiences and ask questions as a community. These are not expert forums but for sharing information and experiences as practitioners and they are open to all, whatever your role or level of expertise. A summary of recent meetings as well as a recording of the discussions can be found here. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL survey on a proposal to share job descriptions and organisational charts

Would it be helpful for you to be able to easily share job descriptions and organisational structures with colleagues across the library sector? The SCONUL Organisational Development Strategy Group is undertaking a project in this area to see what the demand would be for a shared database of these documents as well as links to relevant case studies. We would be grateful if you could fill in a short survey to let us know what your interest would be in this database and to provide your initial thoughts on what case studies you would prioritise being created. The survey is open to all, we are looking for one reply per institution preferably. The survey can be accessed via https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/dQBqlt and take a maximum of 5-10 minutes to complete. Deadline for responses is 11 October. Read more

Call for webinar panel participants: How to get ahead in libraries - non-professional route

SCONUL's Organisational Development Strategy Group is looking to run a webinar on *How to Get ahead in Libraries - the non-professional route*. We are looking for managers who are willing to talk about their experiences of progressing their career into management without a formal library qualification. If you went on to qualify later, we are also interested in hearing from you. We will be looking to discuss the skills you bring, the challenges you have faced and any advice you would give to someone in a similar position. If you would be willing to take part in the panel for this webinar please contact Jenny Jones jmjones@cardiffmet.ac.uk with a brief outline of your career journey.

SCONUL community of interest groups

We are delighted to announce further details of the community of interest groups that SCONUL is setting up. These are open to everyone within our member libraries who want the opportunity to share information, knowledge and challenges, and to support each other and the broader community. There is no limit to the number of people who can participate in each group and their structure and processes will be tailored according to the specific focus and interests of members. It is expected that they will run for at least 18 months in the first instance, with the opportunity to continue beyond that if the members would like it to. If you've previously expressed an interest to join a group, please simply register for a meeting using the links below. If you haven't yet expressed an interest, please drop the office a line at sconul@sconul.ac.uk and you will be added to the relevant Jisc mailing list where the group members can share information. Read more

SCONUL Strategic Planning Set and Annual Statistical Return 2023-24

SCONUL has opened the Strategic Planning Set survey and the annual statistical return for 2023-24. We are still using Zoho survey for this year, which unfortunately means two surveys again, but we are looking into other options for 2025. Although you can't page through the survey, without filling in all mandatory questions, you can save the results and come back at any time to complete them and a spreadsheet with the full question set can found on our website at: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/services-for-members/benchmarking-statistics/statistics-guidance/. If you require access to the survey for your institution, the link was sent to all Library Directors on 13 September. The Strategic Planning Set survey deadline is 29 November and the deadline for the annual statistical return is 31 January 2025. If you have any queries please email Lisa McLaren lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk or Sonya White sonya.white@hotmail.co.uk.

'How equitable is it?' tool launched

COAlition S, Jisc and PLOS have launched the new 'How Equitable is it?' tool to assess the equity of scholarly communication models. It was developed by a working group including librarians, library consortia representatives, funders and publishers, and convened by cOAlition S, Jisc and PLOS. It provides a framework for evaluating scholarly communication models and arrangements. The tool, which was inspired by the How Open Is It? framework, is aimed at institutions, library consortia, funders and publishers. It offers users the opportunity to rate scholarly communication models and arrangements across seven criteria: access to read; publishing immediate OA; maximizing participation; re-use rights; pricing and fee transparency; promoting and encouraging open research practices in relation to data and code, and to pre-prints and open peer review. Read more.

Green Libraries Week, 7 – 13 October 2024

Green Libraries Week led by CILIP is the annual opportunity to celebrate libraries across all sectors with a focus on the climate and sustainability. The focus for 2024 is green initiatives, showcasing the imaginative and creative work libraries are doing with, and for, their own communities around the environment, sustainability and climate action. If your library has not taken part in Green Libraries Week before, you can use the Get Started Guide to download free and comprehensive marketing and publicity toolkits. The Green Libraries Conference will follow Green Libraries Week on Monday 25 November at the British Library Knowledge Centre. Early bird discounted tickets are now on sale. For more details: https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/greenlibrariesconf24. SCONUL members can access a sector wide discount using code: GL24SCONUL

ARLIS Research Awards 2024-25

Applications are now open for the 2024/25 ARLIS UK & Ireland Research Awards. The ARLIS/UK & Ireland Research Awards are made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor and have been established to support the research activities of librarians, archivists and curators in the art, architecture and design documentation sector. There are two awards, Members Research Award up to £1500 Non-members Research Award up to £1000. Applications are welcome from all – please request full guidelines and application form by contacting info@arlis.net. Deadline for applications is 20 October.

UKRI Open Access Policy update

UKRI continues its work on open access and have recently published updates about its activities, which are summarised in Update on UKRI's journey to open access. In summary they have published: Updates on their implementation activities, including monitoring and evaluation, monographs and long-form outputs, and technical standards for research articles. A report on monitoring and evaluation of UKRI's open access policy and the record-level dataset and code underpinning the analysis in the report is available to enable reuse. Clarifications on technical requirements for research articles for improving the open access research information landscape. An announcement of a partnership with the OAPEN Foundation to provide open infrastructure services our monographs and edited collections that are published open access under UKRI's policy and make them available through the OAPEN Library. Any questions, please get in touch at openresearch@ukri.org. Read more

New community resource: Building assessment criteria for collection development policies

Copim has produced a resource to support libraries in developing a model evaluation template with criteria to consider when assessing open access book models. This was based on work previously carried out by the University of St. Andrews and the University of Salford. It is hoped that libraries will take what they need from this community resource and use it to create their own assessment rubrics. Read more

Scottish Universities Press announces first book titles

The library-led Scottish Universities Press (SUP) has announced that it will release its first two book titles from October, marking a significant step in their journey to make high-quality academic research freely accessible to everyone. The first two titles to be released from October 2024 are: *Conversations with Tim Ingold: Anthropology, education and life* By Tim Ingold, Robert Gibb, Philip Tonner and Diego Maria Malara and *Digital Editing and Publishing in the Twenty-First Century* Edited by James O'Sullivan, Michael Pidd, Michael Kurzmeier, Orla Murphy, Bridgette Wessels and Sophie Whittle. Both books will be freely

available to download in both PDF and EPUB format from the SUP website with Creative Commons licences. Print copies will also be available to purchase via leading booksellers. Read more

Launch of the new Museum Data Service

The Museum Data Service (MDS) a collaboration between Art UK, Collections Trust, and the University of Leicester has been officially launched. It has been designed to be accessible for all museums, regardless of size, allowing them to upload collections and consequently allowing users to search and access them. The service is aiming to gather item and collections data across the estimated 80 million object records spread across hundreds of UK museum databases, most of them offline. It launches having already collected an initial 3.1m records from 21 museums, with a further 1.9m records in the pipeline. Read more. For those who want to explore the data-sharing options offered by MDS and see how the process works a webinar is being held on 9 October, register here: https://museumdata.uk/events/getting-ready-for-mds-2024-10-09/

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. WHELF 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.   These vacancies can also be found on our website at: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/jobs-bank/current-roles/

Vacancy: Curation and Discovery Supervisor, University of Kent

The University of Kent are looking for a Curation and Discovery Supervisor to join their team in the Templeman Library. The Curation and Discovery Supervisor is a pivotal role that coordinates, supervises and supports the work of the Curation and Discovery Team. This team makes the teaching and research content discoverable and ensures access to the collections and content. This role reports to, and works closely with the Collections Manager, and liaises with other managers across the Library's Learning and Research Resources (LRR) Section. **Closing date 16 October** Read more

Vacancy: Director of Library and Learning Services, Leeds Beckett University

Leeds Beckett University are seeking a new Director of Library and Learning Services. Reporting to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and as a key member of the University's senior management team,

the post holder will be a key source of expert professional advice and provide strategic leadership of the service to support the teaching, learning and research success of our students and academics. Leeds Beckeet University are at a point of transition as they seek to deliver change, reshape their service model and prioritise strategic contribution in response to the needs of students and colleagues and the current challenges facing the higher education sector. **Closing date 21 October** Read more

Vacancy: Library Systems & Digital Services Coordinator, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland
RCSI Library is seeking a Library Systems & Digital Services Coordinator, based at the St Stephen's Green campus, Dublin, Ireland. The appointment is at Assistant Librarian grade and is a permanent full time post. The Library Systems & Digital Services Coordinator is responsible for managing, developing, implementing, maintaining, and supporting a wide range of library technologies and applications. This role is central in delivering innovative library services and ensuring access to RCSI Library's digital services, including collections. **Closing date 21 October** 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.

Senior leaders webinar: Driving Digital Sustainability in Higher Education: Trends, Challenges, and Jisc's Digital Sustainability Support Roadmap, 7 October

Data-centric AI webinar #4: knowledge representation in the age of LLMs, 8 October

Fantastic Futures Canberra 2024 Conference, Australia, 15-18 October

The British Library, Open and Engaged 2024: Empowering Communities to Thrive in Open Scholarship, London and online, 21 October

Timeless Archives, Timely Connections: Preserving Endangered Documentary Heritage and Inspiring Collaboration, London and Online, 31 October-1 November

Rewired 2024, 1 November

Securing our collections: managing risks in historic libraries, London, 4 November

SCONUL Autumn conference: Navigating change, innovation and creativity, Birmingham, 18 November

SUMAC (analySis, Understanding and proMotion of heritAge Contents) workshop, Melbourne, 28 October – 1 November

UKSG November Conference 2024, 20 and 21 November

CSGUK Annual conference: Stop, Start, Continue, Belfast, 22 November

44th Annual IATUL conference, New Zealand, 24–28 November

19th International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC25), The Hague, 17–19 February 2025

Access Lab, 24–27 February 2025