

## News

### **SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 16 July**

SCONUL is pleased to announce that Peter Mason, Transformation and Efficiency lead at Universities UK, will deliver a keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and Members meeting (11am–1pm, via Zoom) on Thursday 16 July. Peter Mason will talk about the [transformation and efficiency programme](#) being undertaken by UUK which is designed to help the UK HE sector respond to the challenging financial environment through collaboration and shared services. The AGM will include formal business, including Executive Board elections, and will provide an opportunity to review SCONUL's work from 2025–26 and engage with plans for next year, and with the development of the SCONUL strategy 2027–2030. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **SCONUL succession planning survey for Deputies and Associate Directors**

The SCONUL Organisational Development Strategy Group is currently seeking views on succession planning in member libraries via a survey, the deadline for which is 15 June. The survey can be found here: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/efDBpw>. All colleagues who report directly to a Library Director/Chief Librarian/Head of Library Service are encouraged to complete this which is aimed particularly at those working in Deputy Director/Associate Director/Assistant Director roles. The survey is confidential and will take approximately 20–30 minutes to complete. This is part of a broader piece of work on succession planning within libraries, including at senior leadership level which will explore how SCONUL can support opportunities for development and progression. Further information is available on the SCONUL website: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/about-us/our-working-groups/organisational-development/>.

### **SCONUL AI coffee morning: AI and practical development of skills and competencies, 26 June**

The AI and information literacy CIG will be taking over SCONUL's AI coffee morning once again in June, on the theme of 'Using AI content discovery tools to develop user skills and competencies'. Joining the coffee morning will be speakers: Mike Jones, Information Librarian at Southampton Solent University, who will introduce the TRYAngle framework and how this has been used to design teaching to support students AI literacy. Nicholas Heavey, Teaching Librarian at the University of Sussex, who will be talking about teaching approaches for AI literature searching with students, giving practical insights into how these sessions support students to develop AI literacy. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk). The AI coffee mornings bring together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month. SCONUL members can access recordings and resources at: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/ai/ai-coffee-mornings/past-ai-coffee-mornings/>

### **SCONUL Autumn Conference, 13 November 2026: hold the date**

We will be holding our next autumn conference on 13 November 2026 at The Studio in Birmingham. We look forward to welcoming you and offering delegates high-quality plenary presentations and lightning talks. There will be a chance to take part in workshops, and this will be an excellent opportunity for

colleagues to connect and network. Hold the date in your diaries, more information on how to register and the agenda will follow soon.

### **AI and Information Literacy CIG meeting, 3 June**

SCONUL's AI and Information Literacy CIG meeting will be on 'Approaches to using and evaluating AI content discovery tools'. Joining the meeting will be speakers: Anna Richards, Academic Support Librarian at the University of Edinburgh, who will be talking about the library's approach to evaluating AI tools, including using AI tools themselves to support with evaluation tasks; and Kelly Travers, Academic Services Librarian at the University of East London, who will be talking about the library's approach to using AI discovery tool 'Keenious'. Kelly will provide examples of how students use 'Keenious' to support the surfacing of literature using areas of interest, research topics, and assessment briefs. The CIG meeting will take place on 3 June at 10.00-11.30hrs. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **The Future of the Systems Librarian CIG meeting, 17 September**

The next meeting of the Future of the Systems Librarian CIG, *Different ways of working*, will look at how the role can sit outside the library and how this can work effectively. Also reflecting on the importance and visibility of the role. The CIG meeting will take place on 17 September, 13:30-15:00hrs. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **Call for papers - AI That Works: Real Stories, Real Libraries, Real Impact**

Over the past two years, SCONUL has brought practitioners together through monthly AI Coffee Mornings and a series of webinars exploring how artificial intelligence is really being used in libraries and archives. These technologies are already reshaping core areas of library and GLAM practice, from data and information services to knowledge stewardship and as a community we have surfaced emerging practice and highlighted case studies where AI has been adopted in meaningful, grounded ways. We are now seeking chapters for an edited work about real world lived experiences and case studies from academic, national and cultural institutions around the world—showing what works, what doesn't, and what others can learn from their experience. We are particularly interested in transferable insights into how AI is supporting day-to-day work in areas such as information literacy, collections, metadata, discovery, research support, and digital heritage. The collection will be published by Facet Publishing, which has a green open access policy. The editors for the collection will be Mark Hughes (Head of Libraries, Cardiff Metropolitan University) and Anna O'Neill (University Librarian, University of Warwick). Please express your interest by 15 June to Mark ([mark.hughes@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:mark.hughes@cardiffmet.ac.uk)) or Anna ([anna.oneill@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:anna.oneill@warwick.ac.uk)). Alternatively, please contact either Mark or Anna for an informal conversation.

### **HE Reference Models webinar series**

#### **Everything you wanted to know about the HE Reference Models but were afraid to ask**

SCONUL is holding a series of three webinars exploring the HE Reference Models and their relevance to libraries. The first webinar held on 24 March looked at why the HE Reference Models matter; how they work; and how they are being used to meet the challenges of digital transformation and to sport other change processes within your institution. SCONUL members can access the recording and resources here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/library-structures-and-strategies/he-reference-models-webinar-series/everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-the-he-reference-models-but-were-afraid-to->

[ask-24-march-2026/](#). If you don't yet have access to the HERMS documentation and would like a copy, please contact the SCONUL team at [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### [HE Reference Models as a tool for institutional transformation](#)

The HE Reference Models are being used as a tool for those leading institutional restructuring and transformation programmes, often alongside, or integrated with other frameworks. This webinar held on 21 May is the second in a series of three webinars exploring the HE Reference Models and their practical application across the higher education sector. Building on themes introduced in the first session, it focused specifically on how institutions are using the models to support transformation and change initiatives. SCONUL members can access the recording and resources here:

<https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/library-structures-and-strategies/he-reference-models-webinar-series/he-reference-models-as-a-tool-for-institutional-transformation-21-may-2026/>.

### [Engaging with the HE Reference Models, date and time](#)

There are clear advantages for those leading library in having a good working knowledge of the HE Reference Models and their uses in the wider institutional context as they can be a powerful advocacy tool, making visible the myriad ways in which the library supports wider capabilities within the institution, and providing a tool for demonstrating the value of the library to the institution's missions. This third webinar in the series on the HE Reference Models will provide an opportunity to hear from SCONUL members who have successfully engaged with the use of the models within their institution and to explore how these can be to support the library's engagement with the institutional leaders and to advocate for the library. This webinar will take now take place in October/November. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### [SCONUL Spring Conference: presentations](#)

SCONUL's Spring Conference, *Openness Under Pressure: Strategic leadership for libraries in an era of disruption*, took place on 1 May at the Royal College of Physicians, London. Bringing over 100 SCONUL members together, the conference explored the library community's commitment to openness and how it can be maintained in the face of countervailing pressures including growing economic and political nationalism and cybersecurity concerns. Across panel discussions, peer exchanges and lightning talks, attendees considered how to move beyond reactive adaptation toward intentional leadership: shaping digital futures that are equitable, resilient and aligned with institutional priorities. Delegates also had the opportunity to consider how to prepare for a future shaped by Gen Z and Alpha learners. You can access the conference presentations here: <https://sconul.ac.uk/events/sconul-spring-conference-2026/>

### [Webinar on AI prompt libraries recording available](#)

Over 160 colleagues attended this webinar, hosted by SCONUL's AI working group, exploring two examples of prompt libraries created by Virginia Tech in the US and the University of Kent in the UK. Ginny Pannabecker, Assistant Dean and Director, Research Collaboration and Engagement (RCE), Virginia Tech, opened the session with an overview of the institutional context at Virginia Tech, setting the scene for how AI initiatives are embedded within their wider strategy. YinLin Chen, Associate Director, Centre for Digital Research & Scholarship, Virginia Tech explored how it was developed, managed, and used, as well as how it supports broader efforts to teach prompt engineering skills. Oliver Perrott-Webb, AI and Education Specialist, University of Kent, shared University of Kent's approach to developing its own prompt library. SCONUL members can access the recording and resources here:

<https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/ai/webinar-on-ai-prompt-libraries-15-may-2026/>.

## Academic Libraries and Learning Technologies CIG

SCONUL has taken the reluctant decision to close down the Academic Libraries and Learning Technologies CIG. While there have been some really useful conversations among the group, the membership has been fairly small in number and there is some overlap between this group and the AI work that's happening elsewhere in SCONUL. We would like to thank all who have contributed but particularly Elizabeth Charles and Bertha Low who have led the discussions with energy and drive. SCONUL is currently engaged in discussions about its next strategy and we will be actively considering what communities of interest we could usefully support. If you have suggestions for new CIGs we would welcome these – please email [ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk).

## Welcome to new SCONUL Access member: Hartpury University

SCONUL is delighted to welcome Hartpury University, as the latest addition to the SCONUL Access Scheme. Hartpury University is a leading specialist education provider in animal, agriculture, business, equine, sport and veterinary nursing. The new University Learning Hub opened in Spring 2026 and hosts the library, academic registry, social and formal study space, lecture rooms, café and drop-in space for other student-facing services. <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/student-life/campus-facilities/university-learning-hub/>

## SCONUL Mentoring Scheme

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 and mentees from across SCONUL who want to be a part of this highly valued scheme. Click [here](#) to discover more about how the scheme works. Information on becoming a mentor and how to apply can be found [here](#). If you would like to sign up as a mentee you can find further information [here](#).

## RLUK NDN Meeting for library leaders 22 June

RLUK's New Directors Network (NDN) is hosting an in-person meeting on 22 June at Senate House, London, 10:00-15:00hrs and invites SCONUL Library Directors to join us. This meeting is for those in Library Director roles to discuss, peer-to-peer, approaches to various challenges for library leaders. The meeting will be led by Sam Henney (SOAS) and will explore: Navigating changes in University leadership; Managing restructures. There will also be an opportunity to tour the galleries and recently refurbished reading room at SOAS. The meeting is open to all RLUK and SCONUL colleagues currently working in a Library Director role. The meeting is free to attend and catering will be provided. Please note that places are very limited for this event so please contact [Melanie.Cheung@rluk.ac.uk](mailto:Melanie.Cheung@rluk.ac.uk) to confirm if you will be attending (and if you have any dietary requirements) as soon as possible.

## Update on the UK Print Book Collection

UK PBC membership continues to grow, and member names are now visible on the website: [ukpbc.uk](http://ukpbc.uk). Almost 8 million of the 583 retention statements have been added to the national bibliographic knowledgebase and UK PBC has received positive coverage in the Times and the Times Higher Education. The UK PBC is a shared service supported by SCONUL, RLUK, the British Library and Jisc. The success of the UK PBC depends on as many libraries as possible signing up to supporting a national distributed collection of monographs based on a minimum number of 7 retained copies across the member libraries. Any Higher Education and specialist library in the UK is welcome to join, and membership will help your institution to make confident local collection management decisions which will

facilitate more effective use of finite space, and other resources. To find out more or to become a member, please contact [ukpbc@bl.uk](mailto:ukpbc@bl.uk) or visit the [UK PBC website](#).

### Jisc's sector-wide digital maturity assessment

Jisc has launched its sector-wide digital maturity assessment for higher education, running from May to 30 June 2026. This work directly supports the ambitions set out in UUK's Transformation and Efficiency Taskforce report, [Towards a new era of collaboration](#). The report highlights the importance of a shared, evidence-based understanding of organisational digital capability to enable more coordinated, strategic and sustainable transformation across UK higher education. To support this, Jisc has developed a short online assessment designed for executive decision-making, informed by [Jisc's digital transformation framework](#) and [digital maturity model](#). It enables vice-chancellors and chief operating officers to work with leaders across key strategic areas including digital culture, leadership, skills, governance, infrastructure, data, teaching, research, and the wider student experience. [Read more](#)

### Global cultural leaders invited to Oxford as applications open for 2026 leadership programme

Applications are now open for the Oxford Cultural Leaders Residential Programme at the University of Oxford, with cultural professionals from around the world invited to apply by 8 June 2026. The 2026 programme will take place from 20–25 September 2026 in Oxford. Delivered by Oxford University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM) in partnership with Saïd Business School, the residential programme brings together an exceptional cohort of leaders from across museums, galleries, performing arts organisations, heritage sites, festivals and cultural policy bodies. Widely recognised as one of the leading leadership programmes in the cultural sector, it attracts participants from some of the world's most influential institutions and leaders shaping the future of the field. [Read more](#)

### Help Shape the Future of AI in Research Operations

AIRON (AI in Research Operations Network) have recently launched three activities to help the Higher Education research operations community better understand, explore, and shape the responsible adoption of AI. They would particularly like to hear from the library community if you are able to share with your team:

1. State of AI in Research Operations 2026 Survey <https://tally.so/r/pbVeQ8>
2. AIRON AI Use Case Hackathons: <https://tally.so/r/Xx80zO>
3. AIRON Resource Library: <https://tally.so/r/Y5JaAW>

There's also a short blog explaining why this work matters and how to get involved:

[From Uncertainty to Direction: How You Can Help Shape the Future of AI in Research Support – AIRON.](#)

Please do contact [AIRON](#) if you have any questions.

#### 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.

- [SCONUL mentoring scheme](#) supporting emerging and newly appointed leaders.
- [Join a SCONUL Directors or Deputies Group](#).

### Updates from our peer organisations:

1. Academic Libraries North <https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/>
2. CILIP [https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/IP\\_news](https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/IP_news)
3. CONUL <https://conul.ie/news/>
4. LIBER <https://libereurope.eu/news/>
5. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries <https://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/>
6. Mercian Collaboration <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news>
7. RLUK <https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/>
8. SCURL <https://www.scurl.ac.uk/news>
9. ucisa <https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views>
10. 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@scnul.ac.uk](mailto:SitMui.Ng@scnul.ac.uk). These vacancies can also be found on our website at: <https://www.scnul.ac.uk/jobs-bank/current-roles/>

### Appointment: Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience and Colleges, Lancaster University

Andrew Barker, former SCONUL Co-Chair, has been appointed PVC Student Experience & Colleges at Lancaster University. Phil Cheeseman has been appointed Interim Library Director.

### Appointment: Chair of Board, Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC)

The Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) has appointed Martina McChrystal as the next Chair of the SLIC Board. Martina is Director of Library Services at the University of Glasgow, a member of the SCONUL Executive Board and Chair of SCURL. [Read more](#)

### Vacancy: Open Research Manager, University of Warwick

University of Warwick is seeking an Open Research Manager to lead the development and delivery of their open research strategy. In this role, the post holder will, Shape and deliver the open research strategy; Lead the Open Access Service and a small, dedicated team; Advise senior leaders, including the VP Research and Associate Deans Research; Influence policy and sector developments around openness, transparency, and reproducibility; Design training and support that empowers researchers across disciplines. **Closing date 7 June** [Read more](#)

### Vacancy: Head of User Services, Aston University

Aston University are seeking a Head of User Services to lead their front-line Library and Learning Services team. The post holder will play a central role in shaping the overall user experience for Aston students, driving inclusive and responsive services through user insight and co-creation. This includes

leading data-informed decision making to continually adapt and improve provision in line with evolving needs. **Closing date 8 June** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Academic Liaison and Collection Development Manager, London School of Economics and Political Science**

LSE Library are seeking an Academic Liaison & Collection Development Manager. Within the Collections and Academic Services Group, the Academic Liaison & Collection Development (ALCD) Team (currently 6.4FTE) leads on the library's liaison activities and in developing teaching, learning and research collections. The ALCD Manager is responsible for leading and co-ordinating liaison with academic departments and working across the library to develop and promote library services. The post holder also develops and maintains the Library's Collection Development Policy in support of the school's information resources needs. **Closing date 14 June** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: University Archivist, University of Northampton**

The University of Northampton is recruiting a University Archivist to provide maternity leave cover. The archive is currently moving location from the University's Development Hub to the Innovation Centre near Northampton Railway Station. They are looking for an archivist who can work unsupervised to manage the collection following the move. The post will involve managing student, staff and visitor access to the collection, as well as managing volunteers and working with local heritage groups. The post will also involve enabling and promoting the use of the collections in teaching, learning and research, and where applicable working with academic staff to design and deliver learning opportunities to student groups. **Closing date 14 June** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Deputy Librarian, University College Cork**

UCC seeks a Deputy Librarian to support the University Librarian in delivering integrated Library services aligned with the University's strategic goals. The postholder will lead the library's staff professional learning and development strategy and manage a functional area, currently the library's contribution to Learning, Teaching and the Student Experience. The role is a key member of the Library Leadership Team, providing shared strategic oversight of services, staff and functions. **Closing date 16 June** [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).

**CILIP Data Protection Conference, 3 June**

**CILIP Online Copyright Conference, 4 June**

**University Science and Technology Librarians' Group, Glasgow, 4 June**

**6th Sheffield Hallam University Library and Skills Centre Teachmeet, Sheffield, 6 June**

**SCOLMA (UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa) Summer Seminar Series "Work in Progress", June - July**

**M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2026, 9 June**

**NLSIN: I, the mask: navigating work post-disclosure, 9 June**

**UXLibs Europe, York 2, 9-11 June**

**Counter AGM and Conference 2026, 11 June**

**SCURL Annual Conference 2026, Glasgow, 16 June**

**National Designing Libraries Conference, London, 17 June**

**Customer Services Group UK: "Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End", London, 18 June**

**Edinburgh Open Research Conference 2026, Edinburgh, 18 June**

**Academic Practice and Technology (APT) Conference 2026, London, 19 June**

**OER26: Openness Reimagined: Continuity, Change and Shared Vision, Milton Keynes, 22-23 June**

**RLUK Research Shift Programme: 2.3 Collaborative, 23 June**

**cpd25 LISA Conference 2026 (previously the SLA Conference), London, 23 June**

**ALN Conference: Reimagining Openness in Academic Libraries, 24 June (online) and 6 July (Manchester)**

**Library-led digital transformation: the experience of the Jisc digital transformation library lens programme webinar, 1 July**

**LIBER Annual Conference, Trondheim, 1-3 July**

**ARCLIB Conference, Liverpool, 1-3 July**

**Copim Community workshop: How to 'Market' Open Access, 2 July**

**World Cafe on Subject Analysis, Edinburgh, 3 July**

**ARLIS Conference 2026: Challenging Collections, Leeds, 6-8 July**

**RLUK Research Shift Programme: 2.4 Impactful, 14 July**

**14th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, Glasgow, 14-16 July**

**Call for contributions: NLISN (Neurodivergent Library and Information Staff Network) Conference, Leeds, 16-17 July**

**CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group conference, Cambridge, 9-11 September**

**Call for submissions: AI4LAM Fantastic Futures 2026: Trust in the Loop, Washington, 15-17 September**

**OASPA Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing 2026, 21-23 September, Zagreb**

**The European Print Initiative Collaboration conference, London, 30 September – 2 October**

**46th Annual International Association of University Libraries (IATUL) Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 November**

**Call for papers: CGUK Annual Conference, Bristol, 27 November**