

## News

### SCONUL Executive Board elections

SCONUL is holding elections to its Executive Board. There are nine candidates standing for five places on the Board. SCONUL institutions are being asked to vote electronically for up to five Board members via <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/chB1a9>. Institutions are entitled to one vote and it is up to each member institution to decide who will vote on behalf of their institution and formally represent them at the [AGM on 14 July](#). You will need to be the chosen SCONUL representative for your institution to vote, or that person must have successfully submitted a signed proxy form naming you as the person nominated to vote. A Form of Proxy can be completed at: <https://form.jotform.com/SCONUL/sconul-agm-2025-form-of-proxy>. Voting will close at 23.59 on Sunday 13 July.

### Professor Sue Hartley OBE to deliver keynote at SCONUL members meeting, 14 July

Professor Sue Hartley OBE, Vice-President for Research & Innovation at The University of Sheffield and Chair of the UUK/Jisc Research licensing strategy group, will deliver a keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and Members meeting (11am–1pm, via Zoom) on Monday 14 July 2025. Professor Hartley will speak about the intersection between libraries and academics on the conversation about open research. The AGM will include formal business including Executive Board elections and an opportunity for members to review SCONUL's work from 2024–2025 and engage with plans for next year. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### SCONUL library sector finances pulse survey – deadline extended

SCONUL is seeking updated information on member finances as we come to the end of this academic year. The more complete the response from the sector, the more effective this information will be for helping the Jisc negotiations for the 'Big Five'. We are seeking one response per institution, and for responses from as many institutions as possible. The survey can be completed here: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/v9aova> and we would appreciate responses by close of play on Wednesday 9 July.

### Public statements by SCONUL

SCONUL's Executive Board has considered when and how it should take public positions including making public statements in relation to matters of national or international significance. It has developed a consultation paper, and the Board is seeking member institutions' views on this in advance of the AGM on 14 July. Further details about the proposed policy can be found here: [Public statements by SCONUL: a consultation paper](#) and the feedback survey is here: <https://forms.gle/FrSdhgzWgro1ok4P7>.

### Case studies on technology-enabled library spaces

SCONUL has published a [collection of case studies](#) showcasing technology-enabled library spaces across the UK and Ireland. The spaces highlighted are innovative in design and execution, providing access to the latest equipment, hardware and software including green screens, 3D printing, photogrammetry and AR and VR equipment within media labs and makerspaces. The development of these spaces is aligned

to the pedagogical mission of the host institutions, providing new approaches to knowledge creation, nurturing creativity, supporting the digital humanities, and fostering the development of digital literacy skills to support studies, research and future employability. This case studies were commissioned by SCONUL's Technology and Markets Strategy Group as part of its mission to develop and articulate a shared understanding of the development of library infrastructure with the library community and stakeholders based on member needs. [Read more](#)

### **SCONUL Small & Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum, 3 July**

SCONUL's Small and Specialist Institutions will come together on Thursday 3 July at 10am until 11.30am. The SSI Forum provides an opportunity for institutions which define themselves as small or specialist (or both) to come together to share knowledge and experience. The meeting will provide members with an update on the development of the Organisational Development Knowledge Base, the recently published SCONUL CPD review report, the work of the Open Education Network (OEN) in the UK and an update on Jisc's "Big 5" negotiations and sector finances. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **Engagement with university leaders in AI conversations webinar, 16 July**

We are holding a webinar on engaging senior leaders with conversations around AI on 16 July from 1.30pm - 3pm. We will hear from Gavin Boyce and Graham McElearney from the University of Sheffield on the creation of a Library GenAI statement and associated stakeholder engagement work; and from Robert Curry from Oxford Brookes University, who chairs their institutional AI working group, on collaborative institutional projects. Our final speaker is Mark Hughes of Cardiff Metropolitan University, who will talk about his experience of chairing the University AI group. This webinar will be useful for library staff who are looking to gain a greater understanding of how they can engage senior leaders in their AI work. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **Town Hall meeting on "big five" negotiations, 18 July**

SCONUL is holding a Town Hall meeting for members to discuss the "big five" negotiations with Elsevier, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, Wiley and Sage, being conducted on the sector's behalf by Jisc. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the details of the publisher proposals which are open to consultation. Jisc colleagues Anna Vernon, Head of research licensing, Caren Milloy, Director of licensing and Sarah Roughley Barake, Licensing portfolio specialist at Jisc will be in attendance. The meeting will take place via Zoom on Friday 18 July, 10am-11.30am. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **AI coffee mornings and webinars**

SCONUL's regular AI coffee morning will pause for the summer break and will be back on Friday 26 September at 10am. The coffee mornings brings together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month. SCONUL members can register for future AI coffee mornings [here](#) and access recordings and resources at: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/ai/ai-coffee-mornings/past-ai-coffee-mornings/>. SCONUL will also be holding two AI webinars in Autumn, one on 18 September looking at AI in the Library Supply Chain and one on 13 November on Leading and Developing AI services & teams. Further details and how to register for these will be available in due course.

### SCONUL Autumn conference, 19 November

SCONUL is pleased to announce that it is bringing members together in Birmingham on Wednesday 19 November for a one-day face-to-face conference. The theme of the conference is *Library Transformation: people and place* and will include the announcement of the results of the SCONUL Library Design Awards. The event will be held at EcoSmart accredited venue [The Studio](#), 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham, B2 5EP on 19 November. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### SCONUL Access and Participation Plan webinar

SCONUL held a webinar on 19 June with Libby Homer, Director of Student and Library Services at Anglia Ruskin University, Pete Maggs, Director of Libraries and Learning Resources at Nottingham Trent University, and Andrew Barker, Director of Library Services & Learning Development to look at the role of the library in creating and contributing to the work of Access and Participation Plans (APPs). SCONUL members can access the recording and chat transcript [here](#).

### New Jisc Resource: Library Task Workflow Checklist for IRRP Implementation

Jisc has produced a new resource: [the Library task workflow checklist for IRRP implementation](#). This practical workflow checklist has been developed using documentation from their resource bank, shared by institutions currently implementing—or who have already implemented—IRRP. You can find this along with a collection of community-created resources designed to aid the implementation of rights retention policies at UK higher education institutions at: [Quick Guide: Developing and managing institutional rights retention policies](#).

### CILIP K&IM Awards: Knowledge Manager of the Year and KM Initiative of the Year

The CILIP Knowledge and Information Management (K&IM) Awards recognise outstanding achievements in the field of knowledge and information management. Nominations are being sought for Knowledge Manager of the Year, which recognises an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and impact in KM, [here](#), and nominations for the Knowledge Management Initiative of the Year, celebrating teams, projects, products, or services that have delivered outstanding results and advanced KM practice, [here](#). Nominations are open to the public and the winners will be announced at the CILIP K&IM annual awards ceremony. Deadline for nominations is 15 August. For further information contact KM awards coordinator at [junehuang@ellnpro.co.uk](mailto:junehuang@ellnpro.co.uk). [Read more](#)

### UKRI Open Access policy: Practical guides for libraries and research offices

Jisc has published two new guides designed to help libraries and research offices support researchers in making UKRI-funded research outputs immediately open access. These resources provide clear, practical advice on how to comply with the UKRI open access policy: [Complying with the UKRI open access policy for researchers: articles](#) and [Complying with the UKRI open access policy for researchers: long-form publications](#).

### Building Bridges to Open Access: Paths to Institutional Rights Retention in Europe 2024

This Knowledge Rights 21 (KR21) resource from SPARC Europe provides case studies from ten European countries illustrating a diverse rights retention landscape, as well as concrete lessons on how to advance effective policies. You can watch the pre-release KR21 webinar recording [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EfK_HkH6XA): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EfK\\_HkH6XA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EfK_HkH6XA) and listen to a University of Leeds Research Culture Uncovered podcast episode on the report [here](https://player.captivate.fm/episode/3e0c6d27-a511-48c9-9be3-0cab3531b40d): <https://player.captivate.fm/episode/3e0c6d27-a511-48c9-9be3-0cab3531b40d>.

## Behind the scenes at SCONUL

We're preparing a report for the community on the potential for further shared services in the academic and research library space which we'll be publishing shortly, following the recent roundtable of library directors. The report will include short summaries of some of the current shared library services as well as identifying possible future services. The Technology and Markets Group has been taking this work forward and held a workshop with Professor Mark Thompson of Exeter University exploring applying Wardley mapping to the library services landscape.

### 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/about-the-consortium/newsletter-archive/>
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. 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](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: Academic Success Manager, Liverpool John Moores University**

Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) is seeking an experienced, innovative, and strategic leader for the role of Head of Academic Success within their Library Services team. This team is responsible for delivering high-quality support in information and digital literacy, academic skills development, and the ongoing enhancement of library resources – both physical and digital. The Academic Success Manager is a senior position and offers an opportunity to lead and shape the development of academic support services based within The Library that enhance student learning and success. **Closing date 6 July** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Research Services Adviser (Research analytics), University of Leeds**

An opportunity has arisen for a research analytics specialist to join University of Leeds' Library Research Services section. This role will lead our research analytics and responsible research metrics services, supporting researchers and research leaders' understanding of academic research impact and identifying opportunities for strategic development. The role will actively partner with a range of colleagues to deliver holistic research support, reflecting the current and future needs of the University, our commitment to research excellence and a positive research culture. **Closing date 6 July** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Senior Library Administrator, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland are looking for a Senior Library Administrator to lead a team of Library Assistants at the Conservatoire's Whittaker Library. The post holder will be required to ensure the provision of an effective and efficient Library Service to all library users, with a focus on providing excellent customer service. They will lead and support a team, demonstrate excellent communication skills, organisational capacity and the interpersonal skills to work within a small team in a busy performing arts environment. **Closing date 10 July** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Associate Director Collections and Digital Transformation, Manchester Metropolitan University**

Manchester Metropolitan University is seeking an Associate Director Collections and Digital Transformation. A key area of responsibility will be to develop a vision for the content future that supports open research, experiential learning, evolving publishing models, diverse formats, changing user needs and behaviour and inclusive access to knowledge. Another will be to lead the digital transformation of services and user experience, together with the strategic development of systems and platforms to support education and research. As an active member of the Library and Cultural Services Executive, deputising for the Director of Library and Cultural Services within and beyond the University, the post holder will share responsibility for the department's development, leadership and management. **Closing date 13 July** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Engagement Librarian, University of Southampton**

University of Southampton Library Service is seeking to appoint an Engagement Librarian specialising in Research Data Management (RDM). The post holder will engage with staff and students to promote and develop best practice RDM. They will be part of a small team responsible for the University's data catalogue and data repository, and for planning, outreach, and service development to address the data life cycle needs of researchers in line with the University's commitment to open research and the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable) principles. **Closing date 14 July** [Read more](#)

## Vacancy: University Librarian & Head of Library Services, University of Strathclyde

The university is seeking to appoint a proactive strategic thinker and leader to drive the continuing development of all elements of the Library and Information Resources services and facilities that support research, teaching and learning. Within its portfolio the library service includes converged support services for library and IT, with all operational areas of the library service being Customer Service Excellence (CSE) accredited since 2019. Excellent financial planning management skills alongside an understanding of the contractual and licensing environment for information procurement will be essential. Effective leadership through innovative thinking, collaboration and good communication will be necessary to devise, drive and deliver successful change management programmes that will continue to support the strategic objectives of the University Strategy 2030 and beyond. **Closing date 21 July** [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).

**ARLIS UK & Ireland annual conference 2025, Limerick, 1-3 July**

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

**CILIP Supplier Showcase (Midlands), Birmingham, 3 July**

**Equality, diversity, and inclusion in the research library: looking at recruitment practices, 10 July**

**LIRG AGM and Assessing and Recognising Research Excellence session, 11 July**

**SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 14 July**

**ALISS showcase: strength and diversity through co creation and curation in library and archive settings, 17 July**

**Open Fifth: Library Open Source Software Shared Practice and Experience Forum, London, 7 August**

**CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group (RBSCG) Conference 2025, 3-5 September**

**Fedora Camp, Vienna, 10-12 September**

**OASPA Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing 2025, Leuven, 22-24 September**

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

**Call for papers: CSGUK Annual Conference, Birmingham, 28 November**

**Call for papers: CILIP Metadata & Discovery Group Conference 2026, Bristol, 11-13 March 2026**

**Call for topics: UKSG Annual Conference, Glasgow, 30 March-1 April 2026**