

## News

### **SCONUL Spring Conference: Openness Under Pressure: Strategic leadership for libraries in an era of disruption, London, 1 May**

Join us for the [SCONUL Spring Conference](#) at the Royal College of Physicians in London on Friday 1 May from 9.30 for 10am to 4pm. Professor Karen Stanton, Vice-Chancellor of University of the Arts London, will be sharing her reflections on the challenges and opportunities facing UK HE. The conference will also explore how the library community's commitment to openness can be maintained in the face of countervailing pressures including growing economic and political nationalism and cybersecurity concerns. It will also provide an opportunity for delegates to consider how to prepare for a future shaped by Gen Z and Alpha learners. Tickets are £175pp, for registration details please email

[sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk). [Read more](#)

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

We are holding our AGM and members meeting on Thursday 16 July, 11am – 1pm, via Zoom. The meeting 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).

### **Call for speakers: SCONUL AI coffee morning, 24 April**

We are seeking speakers for its next AI coffee morning which will focus on AI-enabled content discovery. This session aims to explore how AI tools are changing the way people discover, access, and use content. We are keen to showcase real examples, lessons learned, and a range of experiences. If you have a perspective to share, please contact Jo Lambert [Jo.Lambert@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:Jo.Lambert@sconul.ac.uk). The AI coffee morning will take place on Friday 24 April at 10am. 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/>

### **Webinar on AI prompt libraries, 15 May**

Would your library benefit from an AI prompt library to support users? Or are you already at the planning stage and would like to benefit from the expertise of those who have already done the groundwork? SCONUL's AI working group is hosting a webinar exploring two examples of prompt libraries created by Virginia Tech in the US and the University of Kent in the UK. We will hear from speakers: Ginny Pannabecker, Assistant Dean and Director, Research Collaboration and Engagement (RCE) and Yinlin Chen, Associate Director, Centre for Digital Research & Scholarship, at Virginia Tech, and from Oliver Perrott-Webb, AI and Education Specialist at University of Kent. The webinar will be held on Friday 15 May from 14:30 - 16:00hrs. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

## 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 was held on 24 March and 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/>. 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, 21 May 14.00 – 15.30hrs

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 will include a deeper dive into how the HE Reference Models are being used to inform institutional change processes. It will also introduce the new HE Service Reference Model which is being developed to help support this type of work. We will hear from:

- Mary Millard, Executive Director of Faculty Operations at University of Bristol and sponsor of Bristol's Professional Services Transformation Programme which has led the development of the institution's service catalogue based on the HERMs.
- Iain McCracken, Director of Service Delivery at the London School of Economics. Iain is leading the development of the new HE Service Reference Model and he will set out the background to its development; share the alpha version of the Service Model and discuss how the SCONUL community can engage with this work.

For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### Engaging with the HE Reference Models, 7 July 14.00 – 15.30hrs

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. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### Business Intelligence CIG meeting, Business Intelligence, 20 May

The next meeting of the SCONUL Business Intelligence Community of Interest Group will focus around the management of analytics, how to pull this data into dashboards and use this data for decision making. Michelle Halpin, Digital Services and Content Developer at University of Sunderland, will be sharing some of the analytic work they've been doing at Sunderland including an overview of the frameworks and protocols they have developed to help them manage their analytic offer. Katie Mann, Assistant Director of Library Services (Engagement & Experience) at Newman University, will outline how they learned to use Power BI to move from minimal, hard-to-use library enquiry data toward a more structured and insightful evidence base. Richard Milne, Library Systems Manager at Robert Gordon University, will be looking at bringing together siloed data. The session will look at their response to build an M365-based data repository that brings together data from numerous sources through a suite of Power BI dashboards

that visualise activity across Library functional areas. The aim is to provide a central, user-friendly, and intuitive source of library insights – supporting a common understanding of measures, improving trust in the data, and enabling colleagues to explore and use it more independently. They'll share their journey to this point, the challenges they've encountered, what they've learned, and where they want to take this next. The CIG meeting will take place on 20 May, 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 meetings 2026**

The next two meetings of the Future of the Systems Librarian CIG will each explore current themes in system librarianship. The group officers welcome and invite contributions or suggestions from anyone who would like them to address particular topics – please [get in touch!](#)

#### **People, recruitment, and progression, 30 April, 13:00-14:30hrs**

To include a further look at the name of the Systems Librarian – is this still the most relevant name for the role? For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk)

- Matt Cox, Head of Content Delivery and Discovery, Anglia Ruskin University – Reflections on a 5-year challenge to recruit a Systems Librarian
- Sue Egleton, University Librarian, University of Reading – Looking at entry level roles

#### **Different ways of working, 17 September, 13:30- 15:00hrs**

Looking 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. For registration details, please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

### **Welcome to new SCONUL and Access member: Paul Mellon Centre**

We are delighted to welcome new SCONUL member, the Paul Mellon Centre (PMC), as the latest addition to the SCONUL Access Scheme. PMC is a UK educational charity that fosters an understanding of British art history and culture. It is part of Yale University, and a partner to the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven in the US. The PMC is a multi-stranded institution which publishes books and an online journal, has learning and events programmes, and offers funding opportunities for individuals and organisations. The Archives & Library are at the heart of the Centre, with collections relating to British art and architecture. Although not a Higher Education Institution with its own students, PMC routinely welcomes students from HEIs amongst its readers and runs annual study abroad programmes for Yale undergraduates. The PMC collection consists of approximately 40k books and exhibition catalogues, 15k auction catalogues and 250 journal titles. It covers British art and architecture from the medieval period to the present day. PMC will provide access to its collections to all four bands for reference only use, requesting that readers book a place in advance via email. For more information visit:

<https://www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk/archives-and-library/visiting-the-public-study-room>

### **BUFDG Finance for Non-Finance Managers**

BUFDG, the membership organisation for HE finance professionals, are running a Finance for Non-Finance Managers course for the sector. BUFDG also help to support non finance staff with finance training. This course has been created for non-accountants to understand more about university finance and is delivered online. The Demystifying Finance and Budgeting in the HE Sector (for Non-Accountants) course is delivered on-line in two parts. Part 1 is on 1 June 9.30-1pm and Part 2 is on 8 June 9.30-1pm. The course costs £325 plus VAT. For further details or to book a place, please contact [rachel@bufdg.ac.uk](mailto:rachel@bufdg.ac.uk).

## How libraries contribute to shaping digital transformation podcast

Recorded live at Digifest 2026, Jisc's podcast features insights from library leaders involved in the Jisc digital transformation library lens programme, the discussion focuses on how libraries move from strategy into delivery. Panellists share how they align services to institutional priorities, support research and digital skills, and enable collaboration when digital change has to coexist with business-as-usual. [Read more](#)

## Call for case studies: Green Libraries Week

Green Libraries Week will run from Wednesday 21 October to Wednesday 28 October 2026, celebrating libraries with a focus on the climate and sustainability. In preparation for this and to inspire this year's participants, a case study feature from 2025 is being developed to show the impact and value of Green Libraries Week. If you are interested in contributing a case study or would like further information, please contact Hinna Vayani [hinna.vayani@cilip.org.uk](mailto:hinna.vayani@cilip.org.uk). Deadline for submission is Friday 17 April. [Read more](#)

## Behind the scenes at SCONUL

SCONUL's officers will be meeting colleagues from other library consortia across the UK and Ireland at our annual symposium to share knowledge and experiences, and to explore together some of the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. Behind the scenes, SCONUL has been meeting the UKRI about the development of its open access policy, with Jisc about its decisions on Publications Router, and with colleagues running a new four-year Research England funded *Research Professional Futures project* about how libraries can input into the work.

### 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: Research Data Officer, University of Strathclyde**

University of Strathclyde's Information Services Directorate is seeking to appoint a Research Data Officer to join their Scholarly Publications & Research Data (SP&RD) team. This specialist role is key to supporting the University's strategic goals in Research Data Management and Open Access compliance. The post holder will lead the design and delivery of research data management and preservation services, ensuring researchers meet funder mandates and contributing to the University's research visibility and reputation. **Closing date 5 April** [Read more](#)

## **Vacancy: Research Support Librarian, Robert Gordon University**

Robert Gordon University are recruiting for a new Research Support Librarian. The aim of this post is to lead on management of their institutional repository, [OpenAIR@RGU](#), ensuring that research outputs are deposited compliantly with internal and external requirements, and that they are as discoverable and accessible as possible. The postholder will also assist in the effective delivery of the Library's research support services, providing guidance, training and support to RGU researchers on Open Access, repository services and scholarly communications. **Closing date 12 April** [Read more](#)

## **Vacancy: Director, The Roald Dahl Museum & Story Centre**

The Roald Dahl Museum is seeking a commercial and innovative Director to lead the Museum into a period of major transformation. Working with and supported by the Board of Trustees, the postholder will shape long-term financial and organisational sustainability, whilst celebrating the magic of one of the UK's most renowned authors. **Closing date 20 April** [Read more](#)

## **Vacancy: Teaching and Engagement Librarian, Royal Holloway, University of London**

Royal Holloway, University of London, is recruiting a Teaching and Engagement Librarian to support the Faculty of Law and Business. The post holder will be part of a team of Teaching and Engagement Librarians and will work closely with academic colleagues, professional services partners, and the wider Library, Learning Support and Culture team. They will lead the design and delivery of engaging, inclusive information and digital literacy teaching, working closely with academics to embed skills development across undergraduate and postgraduate curricula. **Closing date 26 April** [Read more](#)

## **Vacancy: Academic Support Librarian, Abertay University**

Abertay University is seeking to appoint an Academic Support Librarian. Reporting to the Library Services Manager, they will contribute to the design and delivery of curriculum-embedded teaching that supports students in developing effective information and digital skills. Working closely with academic staff, the post holder will help embed these skills within modules and assessments, design engaging learning resources, and build students' confidence in searching for, evaluating and using information ethically in an increasingly AI-enabled research environment. The post holder will also contribute to reading list support,

scholarly discovery, copyright guidance and the effective use of the digital tools and licensed resources that underpin teaching and learning. **Closing date 11 May** [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).

**Practicing Experimental Books: Celebrating Copim's Book Pilots, 8 and 9 April**

**RLUK Research Shift Programme: 2.1 Leadership, 14 April**

**EBLIDA Annual Council & Conference 2026, Prague, 20-22 April**

**London Open Science & Scholarship Festival 2026, 20-24 April**

**NLISN: Fitting In and Standing Out: Experiences of Autistic Librarians in Ireland, 23 April**

**Building collaborative approaches to AI conference, 24 April**

**Samvera Europe meeting, London, 5 May**

**LIBER Architecture Group (LAG) Seminar, Dublin, 6-8 May**

**RLUK Repositories Symposium, 8 May**

**Critical Approaches to Libraries Conference (CALC), w/c 11 May**

**RLUK Research Shift Programme: 2.2 Inclusive & Equitable, 12 May**

**Lights, Echoes, Libraries! Moving Images of Global Knowledge Justice, London, 12, 19 and 28 May**

**Knowledge Equity and Open Scholarship Week 2026, 19-21 May**

**NAG Seminar and Forum, Nottingham, 20-21 May**

**CONUL Conference 2026, Galway, 27-28 May**

**18<sup>th</sup> Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference, Romania, 26 and 29 May**

**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

UXLibs Europe, York 2, 9-11 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

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

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

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

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