News

SCONUL Autumn conference: 18 November: 2 places left

Just two places left for the SCONUL Autumn Conference in Birmingham, make sure to grab yours **here**! Tickets are £145pp and the deadline to register is 5 November. Join SCONUL colleagues in Birmingham to discuss fostering a sustainable and resilient library. Dr Jummy Okoya, Dean of Office for Institutional Equity and Associate Professor of Leadership and EDI at the University of East London, will deliver the keynote presentation on *Leadership through challenging times*. 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. This event is supported by Ebsco, Jisc and Reassurance Security Services. Read more

ACS survey and consultation

The negotiations for a new deal with the American Chemical Society are ongoing with Jisc, but a combination of an article development charge and price increases are making it difficult for institutions to resubscribe. SCONUL undertook a survey with subscribing members last week, who were not in RLUK. We had a good response rate and our findings indicate a strong rejection of the deal. We will be holding a Town Hall with ACS subscribers on Friday 8th November to discuss this further and if you have not been invited, but would like to attend, please email lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk for joining details.

Technology-enhanced library spaces

SCONUL is commissioning a series of case studies exploring the development and use of technology enhanced library spaces for publication. Our initial webinar earlier this year highlighted exciting new spaces and practices at Limerick, Winchester and Sheffield and we are keen to hear from members who have similar spaces, including those in development. The case study materials will be produced by an experienced consultant so the commitment will be limited to sharing available materials and being interviewed. Wie envisage using a variety of media to maximise impact. We would be grateful for initial responses by 14th November. For further information please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk or Birgit Fraser at Anglia Ruskin University (birgit.fraser@aru.ac.uk) who is leading this project for the Technology and Markets Group.

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions Forum, 13 November

The next meeting of the SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions Forum will look at how small and /or specialist members might ensure staff have the opportunity to develop given the challenges of small teams and limited budgets. We will explore the SCONUL's CPD review and the development of an Organisational Development Knowledge Base. The Forum will take place on Wednesday 13 November from 10.30am – 12pm. As always we are keen to hear from you. If you have anything you'd like to table, please contact lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

How to get ahead in libraries webinar, 22 November

Do you want to explore career options or take your next step on the ladder? SCONUL will be holding a series of webinars on *How to get ahead in libraries*, the first of which is taking place on Friday 22 November, 11am – 12.30pm. This will look at career routes from subject librarian to library management and we will hear from Alison Harding from University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Pete Williams from the University of London and Lesley English from Manchester Metropolitan University. Each speaker will briefly outline their career journey to date and highlight some tips for others looking to make a similar jump. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

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

SCONUL will be holding its next AI coffee morning on AI and research support on Friday 29 November from 10am – 11.30am. 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 Community perspectives on library apprenticeships survey results

SCONUL has published the results of its recent survey on library apprenticeships in advance of the introduction of the new Level 7 Library, Information and Knowledge Manager standard in England in 2025. It shows strong support for apprenticeships and traineeships across the sector which are seen as bringing a wide range of benefits to the host library including increased diversity within the workforce; improving retention; bringing fresh thinking and new perspectives and developing the skills of current staff. The survey was carried out as part of a project which is exploring the scope for apprenticeships to support the development of a diverse, representative and committed workforce. Read more

Joint call for suppliers to restrain costs

SCONUL has supported Jisc, British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG), RLUK and other peer organisations in a public statement on the financial challenges facing the sector and a call to suppliers to restrain costs. This may be helpful for members seeking as part of procurement activity. Read more

Parliamentary reception for libraries

SCONUL co-hosted with CILIP a Parliamentary reception at the House of Commons on Monday 21 October. In our conversations with MPs and peers, SCONUL colleagues talked about the myriad ways in which our member libraries support the needs of students and enable research and highlighted the current financial challenges facing the sector and our objectives around reducing the cost of content. We also discussed the ways in which academic and research libraries help deliver on the Government's key missions. Read more

Digital Transformation Library Lens: call for expressions of interest

SCONUL has been discussing with Jisc the application of their digital transformation work to the library context, and Jisc has set up a Task & Finish group for the creation of a Digital Transformation Library Lens to take this forward. That group will be representative of the broad SCONUL community. Further

information and details of how to apply can be found here. The new tool will be based on the existing Jisc Digital Transformation Framework. The deadline for expressions of interest is 8 November. Read more

QAA Subject Benchmark Standard for Librarianship: have your say

The QAA is reviewing the current Librarianship, Information, Knowledge, Records and Archives Management SBS and this is currently open for consultation. More information on the standard is available here, and you can respond to the consultation here. The deadline for responses is 20 November.

Next generation OA: sector consultation

Jisc has launched a programme of work with the goal of resetting the UK's open access agreements – a catalyst for greater equitable participation in research and securing financial sustainability for the sector. Over the next year, the next generation OA programme will focus on adopting equitable licensing for open access agreements and supporting the sector to integrate this approach into their financial and decision-making processes and negotiating with the five largest publishers by expenditure to reduce costs. Negotiations will begin formally in 2025 and, in preparation, Jisc have launched a consultation to establish requirements for the next agreements and identify the support needed for the new strategy to succeed. Anna Vernon, Head of portfolio, content licensing at Jisc, will be presenting a Q&A session on Next generation open access at the SCONUL Autumn Conference on 18 November.

UK Print Book Collection (UKPBC) call for partners

The UK PBC is being launched as a national collection of print books. By setting a threshold of seven print copies to be retained across participating libraries the UK PBC will enable libraries to manage down their print collections whilst retaining access to print books for current and future library users. The UK PBC is supported by the British Library's UKRR Team and Jisc's Library Hub. We are looking for an additional library to join our four pilot sites to test the processes and workflows associated with the UK PBC. To signal your interest, or for further information, please contact Jonathan Heath: jonathan.heath@bl.uk

Knowledge exchange workshops on computational research methods for libraries

Are you a librarian or archivist working with communities in the fields of history, humanities and social sciences who are using, or would like to learn computational methods to acquire, transform, analyse or present their data? Programming Historian are hosting two knowledge exchange workshops for librarians and archivists about computational research methods in library and archive-based work. The in-person Workshop is at the University of Birmingham Library, Friday 29 November, 11.00-3.00pm. Register here by 15 November. The online workshop is on Wednesday 4 December, 2-4pm. Register here by 29 November.

German DEAL consortium launches awareness campaign "Open Access means CC BY"

The DEAL consortium has launched an awareness campaign to educate scholarly authors about the importance of choosing the CC BY license whenever possible. The DEAL consortium has created an information page for academic authors that can be found at https://deal-konsortium.de/en/why-ccby. Read more

CILIP Accessibility Award (in memory of Lynne Mackie) from the CILIP Disability Network

The CILIP Disability Network are inviting nominations for the inaugural CILIP Accessibility Award, founded in memory of Lynne Mackie. The annual award highlights good practice and innovation in the support of

disabilities for library, information and knowledge management professionals and end users. Individuals and teams can be nominated. The closing date for nominations is midnight 4 November. Read more

LILAC 2025 bursaries available – apply now for full conference and day delegate places!

Applications are now open for the LILAC 2025 conference bursaries. LILAC: The Information Literacy Conference will take place from 14–16 April 2025 at Cardiff University. In addition to the 'LILAC bursaries', which provide a full conference place for people from under-represented groups and sectors, LILAC are offering 'Local to LILAC' day delegate bursaries for people who live or work near to the conference venue. The closing date for applications is Friday 22 November. Read more

Doctor of Information Science Programme at the University of Strathclyde

The University of Strathclyde is offering a Professional Doctorate in Information Science. DInfSci is a doctoral degree programme which allows experienced information professionals to research issues which arise from the practice of Information Science. This programme has been designed for experienced professionals working in senior roles within the information profession. Read more. A Postgraduate Open Day will take place on 6 November. Further details can be found at:

https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/postgraduateopendays/

SRUC degree awarding powers achieved

Congratulations to SRUC which has announced receipt of Degree Awarding Powers status. Their first course under that authority is a BVSci delivered out of their Craibstone Campus. Read more

SCONUL supporters

Alongside the development of our website, we have introduced new packages for SCONUL corporate and charitable supporters. In doing so, we have tried to strike an appropriate balance between maximising income from sources other than subscriptions and maintaining the community focused approach that we bring to all our work. We now have supporter pages on our website and will have very occasional emails to members from those supporters – a maximum of one per month in total. We hope you feel that we have got the balance right but if you have any comments, please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

The SCONUL team is working with Jisc on sector preparedness for the **next round of journal negotiations** and we look forward to discussing this with members at the November conference. Ann Rossiter has been meeting Jisc colleagues one to one and with other SCONUL representatives on the Content Expert Group. Lisa McLaren has been representing SCONUL at the October meeting of the UKRI Open Access Stakeholder Forum talking about **capacity building in open access longform publications** and the bedding in of the policy in this area.

To support negotiations with content and other suppliers, SCONUL is preparing a **follow up survey on sector finances** which will be issued in November. This is an important piece of work which will inform Jisc's negotiations on the sector's behalf and help shape the sectors' collective response to the financial challenges we are facing.

Thanks to colleagues who have responded to our recent surveys on the **Future of the Systems librarian** and our consultation on **a new Organisational Development Knowledge Base**. The project teams are busy analysing the results and will be sharing the responses with the community in coming weeks. We are

also underway with commissioning case studies on "**how to get ahead in libraries**" and on **technology enhanced library spaces** which will be available in spring 2025.

Over October and November our new **Community of Interest Groups** are meeting for the first time and we will sharing an update on this work next month. It's not too late to sign up – please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL facilitates the Libraries EDI coordinating group, which met last month and we publish their latest news update for the community.

SCONUL's Deputy Director, Lisa McLaren, will be chairing a panel on **Showcasing Sustainable Practice** at this year's Green Libraries Conference 2024 at the British Library on 25 November. As a Partner organisation, SCONUL members can register with the discount code: GL24SCONUL.

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. 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/

Appointment: The British Library
Rebecca Lawrence has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the British Library and will take up the role from 2 January 2025. She succeeds Sir Roly Keating, who has led the Library since 2012 and retires in December. Read more

Appointment: Imperial College London

Kate Price has been appointed Director of Library Services at Imperial College London from 20 January 2025. Kate is currently University Librarian at Queen Mary University of London and will succeed Chris Banks who will be retiring on 14 February.

Appointment: LIBER Emerging Leaders Programme Director

The LIBER Leadership Programmes Working Group has announced the appointment of Niamh Tumelty, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science Library, as the next Emerging Leaders Programme Director. The LIBER Emerging Leaders Programme is aimed at developing the next generation of senior European library leaders. Read more

Vacancy: Research Skills Advisor, University of Birmingham

University of Birmingham are recruiting for a Research Skills Advisor to join the Research Skills Team in the Library. The Team directly supports the development of key skills of researchers from PhD level to professor. The post holder will develop, deliver and evaluate a central and embedded offering of research skills, including baseline support for literature searching, research data management and open access, citation metrics and online identity management, scholarly communication including open research, digital and information literacy, as well as a broad range of postgraduate academic skills. **Closing date 6 November** Read more

Vacancy: Digital Development Co-Ordinator, Queen Mary University of London

Queen Mary University of London are seeking a Digital Development Coordinator to join their Library Innovation and Planning Team. It is intended that the post holder will spend most of their time focusing on our digital offering and working across teams. The Innovation and Planning team supports cross-service working groups and Library teams with the prioritisation, planning, financial management, workforce management, and operational implementation of various projects and service improvements related to the digital and physical infrastructures supporting Library Services. **Closing date 10 November** Read more

Vacancy: Administrator - Library Resources, Sheffield Hallam University

Sheffield Hallam University are recruiting for a Library Resources Administrator. This role is based in the Access & Supply team. The post holder will support the digitisation and transcription of teaching and course materials for students with visual impairments, and the digitisation of learning resources required on reading lists, alongside other Library Resources work including collection management activities and projects. They will also help to support a virtual enquiry service. **Closing date 10 November** Read more

Vacancy: Librarian, Shakespeare's Globe

Shakespeare's Globe is currently seeking a permanent full-time Librarian. The Librarian will work as part of the Library & Archive team in the development, promotion and daily running of the new Research and Collections space. The person in post will focus on appraising and cataloguing existing and new library stock as well as the Rare Books Collections and Special Collections. They will develop curatorial knowledge of the Rare Books Collections and Special Collections and undertake research and advise on and implement new library cataloguing systems and cataloguing procedures. **Closing date 11 November** Read more

Vacancy: Research Services Adviser, University of Leeds

University of Leeds Library are looking for a Research Services Adviser to join their team. The role will focus on providing operational management and delivery of the literature searching and reference management services, with scope for involvement in wider team activities. **Closing date 12 November**

Read more

Vacancy: Goldsmiths Textile Collection Curator, Goldsmiths, University of London

Goldsmiths, University of London, are seeking a Curator (Goldsmiths Textile Collection) to join their Special Collections and Archives team within Library Services. Reporting to the Special Collections & Archives Manager, the post holder's main responsibilities are the management, care and accessibility of the Goldsmiths Textile Collection. This includes supporting researchers, collections management and the planning and delivery of student, staff and public exhibitions and events in the Constance Howard Gallery, with a view to enhancing the student experience. **Closing date 17 November** Read more

Vacancy: Information Specialist, University of Plymouth

University of Plymouth are looking for a qualified Information Professional to become part of their Library & Digital Support team, providing support for the School of Nursing & Midwifery and the School of Psychology. The post holder will provide information and digital literacy induction and teaching for students, support researchers and research students with open scholarship, and provide expert guidance, documentation and advice in specialist areas relevant to the disciplines. **Closing date 17 November** 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.

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

OASPA Webinar – A deep-dive into S2O, 6 November

Jisc webinar: Digital preservation – advice and guidance to consultancy, 7 November

Digital learning transformation: leading change within change, Sheffield, 12 November

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions Forum, 13 November

The next step: How FE and HE libraries can work together to improve the transition of students from one to the other, 15 November

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

Empowering Communities: Shaping Open Scholarly Publishing in Europe and Beyond, 19 November

UKSG November Conference 2024, 20 and 21 November

SCONUL: How to get ahead in libraries webinar, 22 November

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

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

ONB Labs Symposium "Newspapers as Datasets", Austria, 25-26 November

SCONUL AI coffee morning, 29 November

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

Access Lab, 24-27 February 2025

Call for presentations: LILAC 2025, Cardiff, 14-16 April 2025