News

Financial challenges facing the sector

SCONUL has carried out a pulse survey into member finances, which has shown significant challenges facing the sector. The results being made available to heads of service on request. Please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk for further information.

We asked whether members would find it helpful to come together and share information on the strategies being adopted across the sector in dealing with these challenges and there was strong support for this. We have put together two webinars covering (a) content budgets and (b) pay and non-pay budgets (other than content) for those leading their institution's service.

20 June 15.00 – 16.30   Strategic responses to budget pressures: content, chaired by Libby Homer, co-chair of SCONUL. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk

12 July 15.00 – 16.30 Strategic responses to budget pressures: pay and other non-pay budgets, chaired by Andrew Barker, co-chair of SCONUL. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk

Library providers AI roadmaps

Over January and February 2024, the AI Working Group, a sub-group of the Technology and Markets Strategy group, undertook a number of meetings with library suppliers and publishers to gain greater insight into their AI roadmaps. These meetings have now been distilled into a short report that is available on the SCONUL website: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/ai/

Launch of SCONUL technology Survey

SCONUL's Technology Survey has now been launched. This was developed in response to requests for a clearer picture on the use of technologies across the library community in the UK and Ireland. It covers around 30 functional areas of activity (e.g. discovery; library management systems; gate entry products). We are hoping that as many members as possible will find the time to provide this data as part of a collective effort to support the sector. The results will be published in the autumn and will be accompanied by analysis and case studies. The deadline for responses is 31 July. For further information, please contact lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL Mentoring Oversite Group – Call for a new member

The SCONUL Mentoring Oversite Group (SMOG) is seeking a new member. SMOG oversees the SCONUL mentoring scheme to ensure it runs smoothly and meets the needs of members. The group also reviews mentee submissions and matches them with potential mentors based on the interests and experience of both parties and if practicable, location. The Chair of the group is James Stephens, University of Cumbria. The vacancy would suit a director with experience of mentoring and a passion for supporting current and future leaders. If interested, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Plan M, from principles to practice, and shaping the future event, London, 18 June

Join leaders and practitioners at a day devoted to the current and future approaches to open metadata, linking to wider services, and challenging ourselves on the benefits or other opportunities emerging in this space. Attendees will hear from Simeon Warner, Associate University Librarian for Information

Technology and Open Scholarship at Cornell University, Neil Grindley, Director of Content and Discovery Services at Jisc, Hannah Mateer, Head of Collections Services at University of Edinburgh and Stuart Hunt, Director of University Library and Collections, University Librarian, at Durham University. The event will be held at Jisc, 15 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1BW and costs £45. Please note there is a limit of 60 tickets available on a first come, first served basis. Read more

Library Technologies webinar, 25 June
Join Roger Schonfeld, Vice President, Organizational Strategy and Libraries, Scholarly Communication, and Museums, ITHAKA and members of the SCONUL Horizons Strategy Group, on 25 June from 13.30-15.00, to explore the evolving landscape on library technologies. This webinar marks the launch of a new project considering the community's relationship with its suppliers in the context of the increasing vertical and horizontal integration of the provider markets, and growing pressure on library budgets in the UK. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

Green Libraries Partnership webinar, 26 June
SCONUL and CILIP invite you to join a webinar on Green Libraries Partnership on 26 June from 10.00 – 11.30am. This interactive webinar will look at the work to date of the Green Libraries Partnership, including what you can do to keep building momentum. Yvonne Morris, Projects and Programmes Manager at CILIP, will outline the work of the Green Libraries partnership from the development of the manifesto, to the next phases of the project, including the next Green Libraries week. This webinar will give members a chance to outline their good practice in the climate change space and hear other useful ideas, as well as considering what their Green Library pledge might be, when this is launched later in the year. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

Vivienne Stern to deliver keynote at SCONUL members meeting, 15 July
Vivienne Stern MBE, Chief Executive at Universities UK, will deliver a keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and members meeting (11.30am – 1.30pm via Zoom) on Monday 15 July. With an election imminent, the discussion will look at the policy landscape we're currently navigating and the in-tray for a new government on HE. The AGM will include formal business including Executive Board elections and an opportunity for members to engage with SCONUL's work and get involved in shaping the community's future. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

AI coffee mornings – 31 May and last Friday of every month at 10am
After the popularity of the first SCONUL AI coffee morning, we are really looking forward to the second which is being held on 31 May from 10am to 11.30am. This will focus on supporting student learning and academic integrity in the context of institutions' individual approaches to AI. The AI coffee mornings are a way of bringing together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month 10am to 11.30am for the remainder of this year. You can see a summary of the most recent meeting here as well as a recording of the discussion. These meetings provide an opportunity for library colleagues to come together, share experiences and ask questions so that we can explore these tools and techniques 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. Please bring your own coffee and biscuits! E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

SCOPE 3 webinar

Led by the SCONUL project team on sustainability and the climate crisis, we brought colleagues together on Friday 3rd May 2024 to explore what the drive to reduce SCOPE 3 emissions means for our institutions and how we can work with our supply chain, our spaces and our people to drive the change we all need to see. A summary of this event together with the recording, chat transcript and presentations can be found here.

Controlled Digital Lending webinar

We were joined by 314 members for a joint Jisc and SCONUL webinar to look at the recently published Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) report, commissioned by Jisc and written by Chris Morrison and Jane Secker. A summary of this event together with the recording and chat transcript can be found here, you will need a member log-in to access this content. If you don't have one, you can register for one on the log-in page.

Journal negotiations webinar

Following the publication of the review of transitional agreements in the UK, SCONUL held a webinar with colleagues from Jisc to discuss the next steps in journal negotiations, with a particular focus on Elsevier and proposal to introduce "article development charges" from ACS. A recording of this webinar is available on request, please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

PALOMERA feedback survey – help shape the future of OA books

The PALOMERA (Policy Alignment of OA Monographs in the European Research Area) project has created one of its first resources, the Knowledge Base collecting OA book policy documents across the European Research Area. The project team would like to know how you are using it within your organisation and have set up a short survey. You can provide feedback on different potential uses as well as suggest ideas on future OA book policy recommendations. The survey also contains a short demonstration (2-minute video) on how the Knowledge Base works. The survey can be found here and the deadline for responses is 15 June. For any questions about the survey, please contact Ursula Rabar (ursula.rabar@operas-eu.org), Project Community Manager.

Insights and experiences in using data and technology to measure and demonstrate the impact of library services on student success

The Library Impact Research Group (LIRG) is a new collaborative initiative designed to help librarians be more effective in supporting student success. The group is looking at how library services and resources can deliver the greatest impact and have created a survey to help inform the most effective ways forward. The survey takes around 15 minutes to complete and can be found here. The group are looking for additional people who have the enthusiasm and capacity to help drive forward their work. If you are interested or would like to know more please do contact ken@kenchadconsulting.com Tel: +44 (0)7788 727 845. Read more

Academic Libraries North Conference 2024

Register for a place at #ALN24. This hybrid conference will take place online via Teams on 12 June and in-person at the St George's Centre in Leeds on 5 July. This year's conference is on the theme of generative AI and emerging technologies. It will explore emerging technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing or generative AI and their impact on ethics, information literacy instruction, or research. The programme comprises a range of thought-provoking workshops, presentations,

lightning talks and keynote speakers. Keynote speakers for the two days are Sue Attewell, Head of AI and Co-design at Jisc and Ciaran Talbot, Associate Director for the Directorate of AI and Ideas Adoption at the University of Manchester. Read more

Information Literacy Through Theory

Information Literacy Through Theory edited by Alison Hicks, Ola Pilerot and Annemaree Lloyd is a guide for researchers, practitioners and library students interested in rich information literacy and practice. It provides a space for key theorists in the field to discuss, interrogate and reflect on the applicability of theory within information literacy research, as well as the implications for this work within a variety of contexts. Read more

Discovering Academic Research, Teaching and Support (DARTS): Save the date and a call for speakers

The 9th CILIP Academic and Research Libraries Group (ARLG) Discover Academic Research Training and Support (DARTS) Conference is to be held from 21-22 May 2025. The title of the conference is '*Opening Doors: Empowering Librarians to conduct and support research*. The venue is Stanton House Hotel, and the group is seeking contributions. If you are interested, please contact the DARTS Committee at: arlgdarts@gmail.com with a brief abstract (no more than 500 words) detailing your proposed presentation/ workshop. The closing date for submissions is Friday 28 June. Read more

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.ac.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: Resources, Content and Metadata Manager, Goldsmiths, University of London

Goldsmiths are seeking a Resources, Content and Metadata Manager to lead, motivate and direct the Resources Management team. This team is key to Goldsmiths' student and academic experience, delivering an efficient and effective service in the provision of appropriately catalogued, classified and processed resources in all formats and media. As part of the Extended Library Management Team, the

successful candidate will collaborate on the development and delivery of new strategies and processes in line with our strategic plan (Library Framework) as well as the institution's changing needs and priorities. **Closing date 4 June** Read more

Vacancy: Assistant Librarian Academic Engagement, University of Brighton

The University of Brighton are seeking to recruit a part-time (18.5 hrs) Assistant Librarian: Academic Engagement. This is a permanent post based at their Aldrich Library on the University of Brighton's Moulsecoomb campus. The successful candidate will be keen to engage with and contribute to the development of Libraries, particularly under the Academic Engagement workstream of their strategy. **Closing date 9 June** Read more

Vacancy: Casual Information Assistants, Leeds Trinity University

Leeds Trinity University are recruiting Casual Information Assistants to support the day-to-day running of the Library, including providing a first line enquiry service via the Library Helpdesk, carrying out circulation duties, shelving and shelf tidying tasks. The posts provide opportunity to work at both the Horsforth and City campuses. **Closing date 16 June** Read more

Vacancy: Information & Academic Skills Librarian (maternity cover), London South Bank University

London South Bank University are excited to be recruiting for the post of Information and Academic Skills Librarian to join their highly skilled Library, Skills and Customer Services (LSCS) department. This role is part of the Skills for Success team who support teaching requirements across the LSBU Group where you will utilise your pedagogical expertise and experience to design and deliver engaging skills workshops, training sessions, teaching materials and resources. **Closing date 16 June** Read more

Vacancy: Research Information Coordinator, The Glasgow School of Art

The Glasgow School of Art is currently advertising for a full-time Research Information Coordinator in their Research Department team. They are looking for someone with experience in a library, archive or repository setting for this varied role, which supports GSA's academic staff and postgraduate research students. The successful candidate will play a key role in the administration and development of GSA's RADAR repository, and the provision of guidance to support repository users. **Closing date 3 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.

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for digital technology in higher education, 3 June

CILIPS Annual Conference 2024, 3-4 June, Dundee

SCURL Annual Conference, Stirling, 5 June

Public Policy Exchange: Protecting Local Libraries, 11 June

Academic Libraries North Conference 2024: Generative AI and Emerging Technologies, 12 June (via Teams) and 5 July, Leeds

User Experience in Libraries 8: 'Curiosity & Empathy', Cambridge, 11–13 June

Plan M, from principles to practice, and shaping the future event, London, 18 June

Health Libraries Group Conference 2024: Connecting, London and online, 20–21 June

ARLIS UK & Ireland Annual Conference 2024, London, 2–4 July

SCONUL members meeting and AGM, 15 July

Luxatia International: 9th Innovative Learning Spaces Summit, Berlin, 18–20 September

Call for papers: Fantastic Futures Canberra 2024 Conference, Australia, October

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