

News

Finance survey

SCONUL will shortly be issuing a survey into sector finances. Individual institutional responses will be treated as confidential, but we will use aggregated data to (a) inform negotiations and discussions with publishers and other library suppliers and (b) provide the sector with an overview of the current financial position and libraries' responses to these challenges. This survey builds on the pulse survey carried out in May 2024. The deadline for responses is Monday 20 January. While we appreciate the pressures on everyone's time, a response would be appreciated from as many institutions as possible. This will support the sector as a whole providing intelligence to support negotiations with publishers and for advocacy on behalf of libraries. Please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk for further information.

Directors groups on managing change

SCONUL is setting up a series of directors' groups on managing change. These will provide an opportunity for those leading libraries who are rethinking spending priorities, structures or services in response to current financial challenges to share intelligence, experiences, and strategic responses including advocacy. These groups would operate along the lines of existing SCONUL new directors and deputy directors groups which are confidential and self-organising and would consist of 8-10 people to come together confidentially for mutual support. The SCONUL office will facilitate their set up and initial meetings as required. We envisage the groups remaining as long as members find them useful. If you are interested in taking part in such a group, please do contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL Access website downtime

The SCONUL Access website will undergo a move to the latest version of Drupal overnight on Thursday 12 December, so we will have some downtime between 8pm and midnight. During this time, students will not be able to make applications. When you log-in to the site on Friday morning, the colour scheme will be refreshed and the menus will have changed slightly, but we have an updated handbook, that will allow you to navigate the new site with confidence. This final major website upgrade will safeguard the security of the site, as Drupal 7 becomes unsupported in January 2025. For further information please contact lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk.

Times Higher Awards – Outstanding Library Team winners

Huge congratulations to the [University of Edinburgh Research Support team](#) who won at the Times Higher Awards on 28 November, largely for their groundbreaking Rights Retention policy, developed in 2022 and their work in the citizen science space. Congratulations also go to Dublin City University, who were highly commended for their work with local secondary schools. [Read more](#)

SCONUL Technology-enhanced library spaces webinar, 11 December

SCONUL is pleased to announce the next webinar on exploring technology-enhanced library spaces on 11 December 2024 from 10am – 11.30am. Attendees will hear from three case studies exploring different stages in the development and delivery of such spaces: University College Cork's Library Digital

Scholarship Studio; University of Exeter's Digital MakerSpace; and Manchester Metropolitan University has a brand-new library innovation space (from late September), with programming in development which will be co-created with students. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL conference, 3 March 2025, London

SCONUL's Spring Conference will discuss the library's central role in institutions' digital transformation. It will explore technology-enabled library spaces supporting research and teaching, the development of the systems' librarian role, data-driven decision-making and service development, and AI skills for education and employability. The conference will be held on Monday 3 March, 10am to 4pm at The British Library, Knowledge Centre, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

AI coffee mornings

SCONUL's AI coffee morning will take a pause for the holidays in December and will resume again in January and then March. 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 Small and Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum 2025

SCONUL's Small and Specialist Institutions came together on 13 November. Lisa McLaren, SCONUL's Deputy Director, outlined the rationale for the upcoming CPD review to the group and garnered feedback around barriers to accessing CPD, including difficulty in releasing frontline staff. The meeting also looked at the Organisational Development Knowledge Base that SCONUL is developing, which aims to bring job descriptions and organisational charts into a shared database. It also looked at the recent mapping work by Ann Rossiter, SCONUL's Executive Director, around rights retention, ILL provision and big deals across the sector and what this might mean for small and specialist institutions. A summary of this event together with the recording and chat transcript can be found [here](#)

Community of Interest Groups – 2025 meeting dates

SCONUL is delighted to announce further meeting dates for 2025 for its community of interest groups. These groups are open to everyone within our member libraries who want the opportunity to share information, knowledge and challenges, and to support each other and the broader community. Further information about each of the CIGs including the meeting dates can be found [here](#). If you are interested in joining a group and would like to register for one of the upcoming meetings, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk

SCONUL Town Hall meetings

SCONUL recently held two town hall meetings to allow members to discuss the ongoing negotiations with ACS and IEEE and what contingency plans might be put in place if there is not a successful deal put in place. Anna Vernon, Sarah Roughley-Barake and Jon McCrow from Jisc were on hand to provide updates and advice and a number of members shared their plans and communications. We will keep the sector updated on further developments.

SCONUL Autumn conference 2024 presentations

On 18 November over 120 SCONUL members gathered in Birmingham to explore *fostering a sustainable and resilient library*. The keynote, on *Leadership through challenging times*, was delivered by Dr Jummy Okoya, Dean of Office for Institutional Equity and Associate Professor of Leadership and EDI at the University of East London. There were 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. [Read more](#)

How to get ahead in libraries webinar recording

SCONUL recently held the first of a series of webinars on *How to get ahead in libraries*. This session looked at career routes from a subject librarian role to library management. Attendees heard from Alison Harding from University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Pete Williams from the University of London and Lesley English from Manchester Metropolitan University, who briefly outlined their career journey to date and highlighted some tips for others looking to make a similar jump. The recording, chat transcript and presentations are available here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/organisational-development/how-to-get-ahead-in-libraries-webinar-22-november-2024/>

SCONUL deputies and new director groups – expressions of interest

SCONUL is putting out a call for expressions of interest in membership of deputies and new directors groups. The SCONUL deputies and new directors groups provide informal support and advice both virtually and through face to face meetings. In general, groups meet once or twice a year and have between a dozen and twenty members. Each group has their own discussion list and conversations are generally assumed to be confidential unless otherwise agreed. The SCONUL office facilitates the group's first meeting, after which, the groups are expected to self-organise. If you think you would benefit from joining such a group, please fill out the form here: <https://forms.gle/KYoTuu4sKEzFJgKx8>

New Co-chairs for the SCONUL Horizons Strategy Group and the Organisational Development Strategy Group

SCONUL is pleased to announce that Martina McChrystal, Director of Library Services Information Services at University of Glasgow will be co-chairing the Horizons Strategy Group with Rachel Beckett. David Clover, Deputy Director, Library and Student Support: Head of Library and Learning Enhancement at Middlesex University will co-chair the Organisational Development Strategy Group with Emma Walton.

Jisc to take responsibility for HE sector copyright negotiations

Jisc is to take responsibility for the Copyright Negotiating and Advisory Committee's (CNAC) work to negotiate copyright licences on behalf of the higher education (HE) sector. This applies to the four main copyright collective management organisations. For the last 36 years, the CNAC has negotiated copyright licences on behalf of the sector with oversight from Universities UK. It monitors how licences are fulfilled and raises issues with licensing bodies about new products or services that are related to copyright and likely to affect universities. The CNAC also advises Universities UK and GuildHE on UK/EU legislative initiatives and prepares responses to them on their behalf. The CNAC will continue in this role as part of Jisc. [Read more](#)

[New guide to support authors publishing open access books by Lancaster University Library](#)

Lancaster University Library has launched a [new guide](#) to support authors interested in publishing open access books. The guide is freely accessible without registration and it is hoped it will be useful to authors external to Lancaster University who are interested in producing open access longform outputs. The resource covers a wide range of topics related to publishing open access books and includes a range of case studies with authors, detailed guidance on various aspects of the publication process, and useful resources to support users to make informed decisions. It can either be used as a reference guide to find information related to a specific topic, or users can work through each section in turn to help them better understand key considerations when publishing an open access book and to develop their publication strategy. [Read more](#)

[SPARC update - Advancing Rights Retention and Open Licensing across Europe](#)

SPARC Europe leads the Retain Project, which is part of the [Knowledge Rights 21 \(KR21\)](#) programme. They have recently published a position paper on authors' rights, [Retaining rights in research outputs to enable the open dissemination of knowledge](#). This position paper highlights key approaches and challenges that authors, researchers, institutions, and publishers can tackle to facilitate rights retention. To mobilise the ideas and actions outlined in the position paper, they have launched a new webpage, [#RetainYourRights](#), which serves as a call to action for authors, researchers, institutional policymakers and publishers to advance rights retention strategies. You can also [sign up to the Rights Retention mailing list](#) to stay informed about the latest resources, events, and advocacy opportunities, all aimed at empowering researchers and institutions to take control of their work and promote open access. [Read more](#)

[Scottish Universities Press now welcoming submissions from all UK HEIs](#)

Scottish Universities Press (SUP), the newly launched open access publisher, has expanded its scope to include submissions from researchers at all UK higher education institutions. SUP is a collaborative initiative supported by a consortium of 19 universities working through [SCURL](#), the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries. The Press initially focussed on books by researchers at SCURL member institutions as part of an incremental start-up plan but has quickly moved to scale up following a successful platform launch in October 2024. [Read more](#)

[New Partnership: The University of Manchester Library and The Dr Williams's Library](#)

The John Rylands Library at The University of Manchester and the Dr Williams's Library have announced a new partnership which will bring together inarguably the two finest collections of non-conformist religious social history in the world and situate them in Manchester, itself a renowned city of dissent and innovation. The new partnership draws upon the almost unlimited scholarly synergies between the existing collections, expertise in the management of special collections, powerful traditions of nonconformity, and a proven track record of impact and public engagement. Following a prolonged period of consideration and with the advice and input of many scholars and researchers, the Dr Williams's Trust was unanimous in its decision to select The University of Manchester Library as the institution best placed to fulfil the Trust's ambition for the future. [Read more](#)

[Online catalogue of New College, Oxford's collection of archives and records launched](#)

New College Library have launched a new online catalogue of New College, Oxford's collection of archives and records—50 years after the publication in 1974 of a summary printed catalogue of our

holdings. Up till now, it has been very difficult for researchers to discover what New College's Archives contain, and so the value and potential of this rich collection have not been fully realised. Over 100,000 historical documents, dating back to the 11th century onwards, were listed in brief format in the printed catalogue, since which time many more documents have been acquired, along with a regular ingress of modern records. The extent and import of the Archives make the collection one of the finest of its kind.

[Read more](#)

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

This month SCONUL has been working closely with members to develop a detailed understanding of the sector's position on rights retention and on inter-library loans as part of preparations for the next round of journal negotiations. We've also been talking to colleagues at CILIP about advocacy and demonstrating the value of academic libraries, and attending the latest project meeting of the KR21 project "Unlocking eBooks."

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/>

Vacancy: Collections Assistant, University of Edinburgh

University of Edinburgh has an opportunity to join a dynamic team managing print General Collections in the Main Library, site libraries and University Collections Facility. Primarily based in the Main Library, Post

holder will be involved in the review and rationalisation of collections, requiring frequent visits to site libraries across the city. They will also support the wider Collections Services Team in its delivery of essential library services and undertake collaborative project work with a range of stakeholders. **Closing date 6 December** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Assistant Librarian - Content Discovery and Acquisitions, Ulster University

Ulster University are seeking to appoint an Assistant Librarian - Content Discovery and Acquisitions. The postholder will ensure the university-wide development and delivery of a cost-effective, high quality and responsive service for: The discovery of resources within the library's collections and the bibliographical and other metadata records used to describe them, and; The associated processes of cataloguing – record creation and maintenance – and acquisitions – the procurement or leasing of e-book, print book and other resources or content and their preparation for use. **Closing date 9 December** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Assistant Librarian - Content Subscriptions and Licensing, Ulster University

Ulster University are seeking to appoint an Assistant Librarian - Content Subscriptions and Licensing. The postholder will ensure the university-wide development and delivery of a cost-effective and efficient service to manage the library's serials and database subscriptions. **Closing date 9 December** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Content and Discovery Senior Manager, University of Sussex

The Content and Discovery Senior Manager leads the Acquisition, Reading List, and Metadata teams, driving the future of how knowledge is accessed and delivered in both digital and physical formats. This is an essential role for the Library; you'll be shaping our content journey, ensuring seamless integration of innovative technology and user-centred experiences. By building strong relationships with a diverse range of content providers and other stakeholders, you'll deliver effective licensing, discovery, and access to a wide variety of scholarly materials. **Closing date 15 December** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Knowledge and Library Services Manager, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

Northamptonshire Healthcare (NHFT) and Northampton General Hospital (NGH) are recruiting for a Knowledge and Library Services Manager. The post holder will set the strategic direction of the service, leading the team and managing the budget to provide an excellent Knowledge and Library service to NHFT, NGH and the other partners with whom they have Service Level Agreements. Responsibilities will include staff management; financial management to ensure appropriate provision of staffing and resources; strategic service development, and collaboration with local and national organisations to further develop the service. **Closing date 15 December** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Enlighten Supervisor, University of Glasgow

The University of Glasgow is advertising for the post of Enlighten Supervisor. The postholder will be part of the University's Library Services division and as the Enlighten Supervisor will oversee efficient day-to-day operations of Enlighten, the University of Glasgow's suite of institutional repositories in relation to: Publications (published research material), Theses (higher research degree theses), Dissertations (undergraduate and taught PG dissertations). You will also be responsible for the supervision of the Enlighten repository team. **Closing date 19 December** [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.

Public Policy Exchange: Rebuilding Local Libraries: Establishing Public Libraries as Cultural and Skills Hubs and Engines of Growth at the Heart of Local Communities, 10 December

RCN Nursing Librarianship Conference 2024, 12 December

UCISA: Immersive Environments: exploring current practice and barriers in Higher Education, Leeds, 13 December

UCISA: Immersive Environments: exploring current practice and barriers in Higher Education, London, 13 December

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

DARTS9 'Opening Doors: Empowering Librarians to conduct and support research', Swindon, 21-22 May 2025

Call for papers: User Experience in Libraries 9: 'Trust the Process', Liverpool, 10-12 June 2025

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