News

SCONUL Autumn conference: 18 November

SCONUL is pleased to announce that it is bringing members together in Birmingham on 18 November for a one-day face-to-face conference. The conference will provide an opportunity to look at the ways in which we can successfully navigate the changes and challenges ahead and foster resilience and creativity. This event is supported by Ebsco, Jisc and Reassurance Security Services, and will be held at EcoSmart accredited venue The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham, B2 5EP on 18 November from 10am to 4.30pm, with registrations opening at 9.30am. Tickets are £145pp. 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 Friday 27 September from 10am – 11.30am. 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 for the remainder of this year. A summary of recent meetings as well as a recording of the discussions can be found here. 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. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL Executive Board

SCONUL is pleased to announce that at its AGM on 15 July David Clover (Middlesex University), and Andrew Preater (Goldsmiths, University of London) were elected to the Executive Board. SCONUL is also grateful to Liz Jolly, Chief Librarian at the British Library who is co-opted representing national libraries, Kate Kelly, Director Library Services at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland who is co-opted representing libraries in Ireland, Martina McChrystal, Director of Library Services at University of Glasgow and who is co-opted representing libraries in Scotland and Amy Straker, Library Manager at Norwich University of the Arts who is co-opted representing the interests of small and specialist institutions. Congratulations to all concerned. With many thanks to Marilyn Clarke and Gary Elliott-Cirigottis who are standing down.

SCONUL's support for members

SCONUL has published its *Annual report and audited accounts* for 2023. This gives a useful overview of its activity over the last year and sets out our future plans. The report can be found at:
https://www.sconul.ac.uk/media/einooxiy/sconul_annual_report_and_audited_accounts_2023.pdf

Financial challenges facing the sector

Following the results from the pulse survey into member finances and the financial crisis hitting the sector, SCONUL held two webinars to give members an opportunity to discuss how you are approaching

these challenges. The first discussion on content budgets was chaired by Libby Homer, Co-chair of SCONUL and included contributions from Chris Banks, Imperial College London; Ann-Marie James, Aston University; and Sarah Thompson, University of York. The second of these, looked at strategic responses to budget pressures: pay and other non-pay budgets. This session was chaired by Andrew Barker, Co-chair of SCONUL and included contributions from Emma Walton, Loughborough University; Sue Ackerman, University of Nottingham and Rachel Scott Halls, Buckinghamshire New University. For those who missed these a recording is available on request. (These recordings are aimed at heads of service or those directly deputising for them due to the discussion covering sensitive issues.) Please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Small and Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum

On 11 July, SCONUL's Small and Specialist Institutions came together to discuss sector finances, SCONUL's ongoing work around climate change and sustainability, and on handling DPIA paperwork in small teams. Lisa McLaren, SCONUL's Deputy Director, shared highlights from the recent financial pulse survey and SCONUL webinars, looking at the sector cuts and mitigations that have been put in place. A summary of this event together with the recording and chat transcript can be found here. You will need to log-in to our new site to access this content. If you have an existing SCONUL website account, your username is your email address. If you've never previously held an account, you can register for one, also on the log-in page.

SCONUL Statistics 2022-23

SCONUL is pleased to announce that the 2022-23 Statistical Data is now available to members on the website at https://www.sconul.ac.uk/services-for-members/benchmarking-statistics/sconul-annual-library-statistics-2022-23/ (you'll need to log in to view this page).

NSS results for libraries

The NSS results, published 10 July, show continuing high levels of student satisfaction with university libraries' support for students. The results for question 20 "Q20: How well have the library resources (e.g., books, online services and learning spaces) supported your learning?" give an average score across the UK of 89.8, up on last year's score of 89.5 and once again the second most positive rating for any aspect of student satisfaction covered by the NSS. Read more

Jisc Institutional Rights Retention work

Jisc has undertaken some recent webinars exploring issues around rights retention over the last few months and they also have a useful repository of resources to assist any institutions looking to develop their own. In order to access the recordings and resources, you need to make a request to join their Teams site, which is part of the wider Digital Community offering and once your request is approved, you can then sign in. Please be aware, this requires you to have multi factor authentication set up with Teams. If you have any questions, you can contact Jisc on help@jisc.ac.uk. SCONUL also has a number of resources in place to help you with this, please log on to our website to access the resources. If you don't have an account with us, you can sign-up from the log-in button.

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: Assistant Librarian, University of Cambridge

Cambridge University Libraries wishes to appoint an Assistant Librarian to support the delivery of outstanding library services in support of the teaching, learning and research activity of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics (MMLL). The Assistant Librarian will be based at the MMLL Library in the Raised Faculty Building on the Sidgwick Site. Responsible for the management of day-to-day services within the MMLL Library, the post holder will lead on the provision of an exceptional, effective and inclusive user experience for all library users, playing a key role in the provision of teaching, learning and research support, particularly around induction, and in the evaluation and assessment of library services. **Closing date 4 August** Read more

Vacancy: Content and Discovery Manager, University of East London

University of East London are seeking a Content and Discovery Manager. The ideal candidate will be educated to degree level and hold a professional qualification in librarianship or information science. With experience in purchasing and acquisitions operations within an academic library environment, they will be adept with current cataloguing, classification, and metadata standards. This is an ideal role for someone with a commitment to excellent customer service and with high levels of digital fluency, looking to gain management experience and play a prominent role in managing library content acquisitions. **Closing date 4 August** Read more

Vacancy: Open Research Specialist, Aston University

Aston University are seeking maternity cover (up to 12 months) and are looking for an individual with some basic knowledge of open research, but more importantly somebody who is committed and excited by the opportunity of developing their skills and experience in support for open research. The main focus of the role is to check and enhance the records for the PURE database of Aston's publication and data assets, and provide support to fulfil the Open Access requirements for the REF. The post holder will have wider influence by representing Library & Learning Services at University forum, and inputting into University committees and training programmes**. Closing date 4 August** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Collections, Acquisitions and Discovery, University of Southampton

The University of Southampton is seeking to appoint a new Head of Collections, Acquisitions and Discovery within Library and Learning Services. This is a key role, leading the Acquisitions, Reading List, and Metadata and Discovery teams. The post holder will manage the acquisition of content aligned with disciplinary and interdisciplinary research innovation, curriculum development and initiatives in transnational education. The post holder will have budgetary oversight and be responsible for fluent, customer focused workflows that make content discoverable through Reading Lists and other discovery tools. **Closing date 5 August** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Library Collections Management, Technologies and Systems, University of Southampton

The University of Southampton is seeking to appoint a new Head of Library Collections Management, Technologies and Systems within Library and Learning Services. This is a key role, leading the Collection Development and Library Technology teams. The post holder will manage the deployment and strategic development of library technologies and manage library collections. The post holder will also develop collections analytics and work across teams to support collections development aligned with disciplinary and interdisciplinary research innovation, curriculum development and initiatives in transnational education. The post holder will have budgetary oversight and be responsible for fluent, customer focussed workflows. **Closing date 5 August** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Collections Discovery and Systems, University of Glasgow

The University Library is seeking to appoint a new member of the Library Collections Senior Management Team to bring expertise and leadership in the digital discovery, preservation, and management of the University's internationally significant collection of books, manuscripts and archives. The Head of Collections Discovery & Systems will articulate an ambitious vision for collection discovery, preservation, and access. The postholder will build capacity and capability within Library Collections to harness the potential of digital transformation and digital humanities scholarship to enhance and develop our professional practice and services. They will work closely with senior colleagues within Library Services and Library Collections to deliver an enabling technology environment meeting the needs of our collections and the expectations of our users. **Closing date 11 August** Read more

Vacancy: Senior Research Data Officer, University of St Andrews

University of St Andrews are advertising for a Senior Research Data Officer to join their Research Data Management team. The post is offered until 31 March 2025 in the first instance. This is a temporary post to support Research Data Management services to meet institutional objectives and encourage open data practices. Under the guidance of the Research Data Manager, the primary purpose of this role will be assisting post-graduate research students to develop and write data management plans as part of their first-year progress review, ensuring these take account of funder mandates on research data and criteria for sharing, storage and preservation of data. **Closing date 18 August** Read more

Vacancy: Open Access Librarian, University of Birmingham

University of Birmingham are seeking an Open Access Librarian to join their Scholarly Communications Services team. The role is integral to Library and Learning Resources support offer to University of Birmingham researchers. The successful candidate will provide expert advice to researchers and research administrators, helping them navigate the increasingly complex options for effective dissemination of

research outputs. They will administer approximately £1.5m per annum of dedicated open access funding; maintain oversight of the research publications repository service; and support strategic alignment in the open access space with funder requirements and emerging best practice. Initial priorities will include supporting the implementation of the University's Rights Retention Policy and revising procedures to align with the new REF open access policy. **Closing date 18 August** Read more

Vacancy: Curation and Discovery Supervisor, University of Kent

An opportunity has arisen at the University of Kent, in the Templeman Library. The Curation and Discovery Supervisor coordinates, supervises, supports and develops the work of the Curation and Discovery Team, working closely with the Collections Manager to set priorities. Coordinates with colleagues across matrix Learning and Research Resources (LRR) Teams to contribute to section wide service improvements for curation and discovery activity. **Closing date 18 August** Read more

Vacancy: Assistant Director (University Collections and Digital Services), University of Essex

This is an exciting opportunity to lead the University Collections and Digital Services division of Library and Cultural Services. A member of the Leadership Team, reporting to the Director and University Librarian, you will lead the teams covering content and collections, special collections, archives and art collections, and the digital infrastructure of the Section. This will include working closely with the Director to ensure the governance of the University's Collections and Section finances. Collaborating with line reports, University staff, and partners to lead positive outcomes for our students, researchers, staff and communities (internally and externally), contributing towards the University's Education and Research Strategies. **Closing date 20 August** Read more

Vacancy: Information Manager (Content, Collections and Library Systems Support), University of Hertfordshire

As an Information Manager (Content, Collections and Library System Support) you will play a crucial role in support of the full "knowledge lifecycle" of acquisition, organisation, storage, dissemination, discovery and use of library and learning resources, (such as print books and eBooks, ejournals etc) utilising recognised standards, and new and evolving technologies. Responsibilities include supporting the development and implementation of high-quality, customer-focused services in acquisitions, cataloguing, classification, and metadata management. In addition, working closely with the Library Technology Consultant (Systems Librarian) you will administer, maintain, and support the main Library Information Systems. **Closing date 22 August** 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.

Sherif: 'Sustainability and Libraries – making an impact', 3 September

OAI13 – The Geneva Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication, 4-8 September

OASPA 2024 Conference, Lisbon, 16-18 September

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

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

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

UKSG November Conference 2024, 20 and 21 November

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

SUMAC (analySis, Understanding and proMotion of heritAge Contents) workshop, Melbourne, 28 October – 1 November

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