News

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum

SCONUL will be holding its summer meeting of the Small and Specialist Institutions Forum on Thursday 11 July, 2.30pm – 4pm. The co-chairs of the group, David Archer from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Amy Straker of Norwich University of the Arts, will lead a conversation which will cover the financial challenges facing the sector. We will also be discussing how the library sector is responding to the challenge of climate change and sustainability. Members are also invited to suggest topics or issues to cover. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Financial challenges facing the sector

Following the results of the pulse survey into the financial crisis hitting the sector, SCONUL has organised two webinars to give members a chance to discuss how they are approaching these challenges. The second of these, looking at strategic responses to budget pressures: pay and other non-pay budgets, chaired by Andrew Barker, co-chair of SCONUL, will be held on 12 July 15.00 – 16.30. This webinar is aimed at heads of service or those directly deputising for them as we expect the discussion to cover sensitive issues. For registration details please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk. For those who missed the first discussion on content budgets, a recording is available on request. This was chaired by Libby Homer, Co-chair of SCONUL and included contributions from Chris Banks, Director of Library Services at Imperial College London; Ann-Marie James, Director of Library Services at Aston University; and Sarah Thompson, Assistant Director, Content and Open Research at the University of York.

Vivienne Stern to deliver keynote at SCONUL members meeting, 15 July

Vivienne Stern MBE, Chief Executive at Universities UK, will deliver the keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and members meeting (11.30am – 1.30pm via Zoom) on Monday 15 July. By the time of the AGM, the election results will be known and 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. 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 26 July from 10am – 11.30am. This month's coffee morning will look at AI with regards to metadata and will feature outputs from the Plan M event. 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 Autumn conference: Navigating change, innovation and creativity, 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. Delegates will also have an opportunity to explore the early findings from the projects being developed as part of the SCONUL strategy. These cover a wide range of issues including AI, sustainability, technology-enabled library spaces, collaborative collecting and the development of an organisational development knowledge base. 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, email sconul@sconul.ac.uk for registration details.

Recent SCONUL events

In June, SCONUL held five events covering AI and copyright; the development of library technologies and how we might drive improved responsiveness to the sector's needs; the Green Libraries Partnership and the drive to improve sustainability; Plan M and the future of open metadata; and the financial challenges facing the sector in relation to content. For those who missed these and would like to catch up on the presentations and discussions, we are making these available on our website here: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/events/past-events.

SCONUL supporters

Alongside the development of our new 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 will now have supporter pages on our website and 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.

SCONUL Community of Interest Groups

SCONUL is pleased to announce that we are launching four new community of interest groups in September 2025. These will be on:

- Academic Libraries and learning technologies: for those managing learning technologists and those interested in developing in this area.
- AI and information literacy: for those leading on the provision of advice to library users of AI tools and techniques.
- Library analytics: for those with an interest in exploring the use of library data and analytics for service improvement.
- The Future of the Systems Librarian: for those interested in exploring the role of the systems librarian in supporting the evolving needs of the library and looking at challenges around recruitment and succession planning as the systems themselves continue to evolve.

There will be an opportunity for those who have not already expressed an interest in being involved to do so shortly. In the meantime, if you have any further questions, please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk. We anticipate delivering a further CIG on Higher-level apprenticeships once the development of a Level 7 apprenticeship in the Library and Information sector is further advanced, in 2025. Read more

SCONUL Higher Level Apprenticeships survey

The development of a Level 7 apprenticeship in the Library and Information sector represents an opportunity to develop new routes into the profession, especially for those in under-represented groups. The SCONUL Organisational Development Strategy group is undertaking project work to understand how the current Level 3 apprenticeship is being used in practice and how the Level 7 might be practicably used going forward. We would be grateful if you could fill in a short survey exploring the use cases for apprenticeships in libraries and the barriers to adoption. The survey is open to all, and you need not already be utilising apprenticeships to comment. The survey should take a maximum of 10 minutes to complete will close on 22 July. For further information, please contact sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL Technology Survey

Thank you to those institutions which have already provided a response to the Technology Survey. If you haven't responded yet, please do so as the more complete the data set we are able to produce the more helpful this will be for colleagues and for SCONUL and partners to act effectively on your behalf. It covers around 30 functional areas of activity (e.g. discovery; library management systems; gate entry products) and the results will be published in the autumn accompanied by analysis and case studies. The deadline for responses is 31 July. For further information, please contact Lisa McLaren.

SCONUL responds to the REF Open Access Consultation

SCONUL has submitted a response to the REF Open Access consultation. This response is based on a consultation with members and has been written to correspond with the word count specified. SCONUL is supportive of the continuing move towards a more open research landscape but wanted to address the concerns of the sector in a number of areas. 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: 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

Vacancy: Library Content and Discovery Manager, Falmouth Exeter Plus
Falmouth Exeter Plus manages and delivers services at Falmouth, Penryn and Truro Campuses on behalf of Falmouth University and the University of Exeter. They are seeking to recruit a Library Content & Discovery Manager. The post holder will be responsible for managing the acquisition and development of library collections and the technical infrastructure to access library resources including discovery, metadata and reading lists. They will manage the associated budgets; and collate and analyse data to inform future library strategy. **Closing date 4 July** Read more

Vacancy: Engineering Library Manager, University of Cambridge
University of Cambridge have a vacancy within the Technology Library team. The Engineering Library Manager will be responsible for delivering library services for Engineering but will also have responsibility across the school. The Engineering Library is based in the heart of the Department of Engineering, and support all of the academics, students and staff based within. This role is responsible for providing a high quality library service, which includes reader services, staff/student wellbeing, and academic and information literacy teaching. This role also supports the use of the University's virtual learning environment (Moodle) and lecture capture in the Department. With two libraries as part of the team, the role holder will also have to work closely with the West Hub Manager to coordinate across the service. **Closing date 7 July** Read more

Vacancy: Digital Library Systems Specialist, University of Glasgow
University of Glasgow are seeking a Digital Library Systems Specialist to work within their Digital Library team at Information Services. In this role, the Digital Library Systems Specialist will support the operational management and development of library-related IT systems, such as Sierra (Library Management System), Summon (discovery layer), and other ancillary digital systems, to enhance the Library Services offered to students and staff. This role requires a good understanding of all library related systems and how they connect together, and the ability to support end to end processes across a range of teams and functional areas. **Closing date 7 July** Read more

Vacancy: Director of Library Services, Imperial College London
The Director of Library Services is a senior post within the institution, reporting to the Registrar and University Secretary and contributing to the University's academic mission and our international reputation. The Director is a member of both the University Research & Enterprise Board and the Education & Student Experience Committee. With overall responsibility for the strategic and operational development and management of the Library's collections and services, we are seeking a forward-looking Director who is committed to customer-focused provision. The successful candidate will maintain and further develop high standards and expertise, to ensure that Library Services respond creatively to University initiatives. **Closing date 15 July** Read more

Vacancy: Librarian (Customer Services), University of Suffolk

University of Suffolk are seeking to appoint a Learning & Teaching Librarian (Customer Services). The post holder will develop subject-specific information resources and support for learning and teaching in a designated School and or subject area. This will include the development and delivery of face to face and online resources, advice and guidance, workshops and one-to-ones, in relation to information and digital literacies. As the lead on customer services for library services the role holder will manage and lead the provision and development of customer services across the library. This includes evaluation and analysis of user engagement and experience, identifying and leading on process improvements and ensuring the front of house team are working effectively and efficiently. **Closing date 15 July** Read more

Vacancy: Digital Curator, OCR/HTR, The British Library

The British Library is looking for someone to join its Heritage Made Digital team to further improve the access and usability of its digital collections by integrating a standardised Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) production process into existing workflows, in line with industry best practice. This will allow for greater discoverability of content and facilitate digital research and engagement. It is expected that the person appointed to the role will become the established OCR/HTR expert within the Library, be recognised as such across the wider cultural heritage ecosystem, and will use their knowledge and expertise to further advance OCR/HTR technologies. **Closing date 21 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.

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

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum, 11 July

SCONUL members meeting and AGM, 15 July

SCONUL AI coffee morning, 26 July

Uncataloguing Workshop with UKCoR, 31 July

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

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