News

SCONUL conference: Future-ready libraries, 18 January 2023, London

Come together with old and new friends and colleagues to discuss shared opportunities and challenges post-Covid at the SCONUL conference on 18 January at the Royal College of Physicians in London. While it includes formal sessions, the focus of the conference will be on members coming together to discuss common experiences and to share learning, and to collaborate on planning for the future. Delegates will hear from Professor Susan Orr, Chair of the OfS Blended Learning Review on the shape of learning and teaching post-Covid and Margaret Ayers, Vice-Chair of UHR on how universities are meeting the challenges of recruitment and retention of staff. The conference opens with a networking breakfast from 9-10am with the formal proceedings running from 10am until 4.30pm and is open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. Read more

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions Forum, 16 January 2023

SCONUL's Small & Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum is holding its first meeting of 2023 on Monday 16 January from 11:00 to 12:30 via Zoom. If you are part of a leadership team at a SCONUL member institution which defines itself as specialist or small (or both) please do join the discussion, which will include a discussion about the next SCONUL strategy. Which are the issues or challenges most pressing for your institution? What do you see as the most important issues for the sector over the next 3-5 years? Which of the services that SCONUL provides are most useful to you, and what else can SCONUL do to support you and your team? We will also be discussing priority topics for the Forum for 2023. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for further details.

Webinar on Springer Nature negotiations (2), 11 January 2023

SCONUL will be hosting a follow up webinar on the SpringerNature negotiations on Wednesday 11 January, 11am to 12pm. This will provide SCONUL members an opportunity to hear an update on progress and to ask any questions which arise on the detail of the proposals. The briefing will be presented by Caren Milloy, Director of Licensing, Jisc and Anna Vernon, Head of Licensing, Jisc Collections and chaired by Libby Homer, Chair of SCONUL's Content Strategy Group and Director of Student and Library Services, Anglia Ruskin University. This is a confidential briefing for SCONUL members, e-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for further details.

HEA Fellowship support

SCONUL recently surveyed members about the appetite for a scheme to support staff seeking HEA fellowships. Results were positive with a significant number of people who had themselves successfully achieved fellowship saying that they would be willing to offer support to peers doing the same. In the new year, SCONUL will be creating a register and bank of resources to support staff embarking on fellowship applications and we will in touch with colleagues shortly. For more information, please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

Cost-of-living support

Earlier this month, SCONUL hosted a discussion with colleagues to explore the support that libraries are offering students and other library users around the cost-of-living crisis. For example many libraries are registered as warm spaces; some are extending opening hours or offering facilities around warmth and food such as blankets, hot water and cooking facilities. Others are looking at loans policies; extending access to laptops or looking at ways to mitigate the cost of resources. A recording of the session is available to SCONUL members, e-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for further details.

Volunteers sought to lead SCONUL BAME staff and allies Forum

SCONUL is seeking volunteers to lead the development and delivery of its next Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff and allies Forum. The Forum aims to be a safe space for BAME library and information professionals to exchange information about careers and key issues in the academic library and information sector, as well as network to develop sustainable support systems. The next meeting will be open to allies as well as to all BAME staff at SCONUL libraries and we are seeking members of a

task and finish group to lead on development and delivery of the next Forum meeting with administrative support from the SCONUL office. If this is of interest or you'd like to find out more, please do contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk or Regina Everitt at r.everitt@uel.ac.uk. Please do pass this on to anyone in your networks who may be interested.

Scoping study to support an Emerging Leaders programme for members of ethnically diverse communities within libraries

Alongside RLUK and Libraries Connected, CILIP, SCURL and WHELF, SCONUL is supporting a project to scope the creation of a cross-sector Emerging Leaders' programme for colleagues from ethnically diverse communities from across the library sector. The project is being funded by the Arts Councils and the participating partners. The study will look at whether the Leading Libraries programme, recently delivered by Libraries Connected, the University of Birmingham Leadership Institute, and CILIP, and supported by Arts Council England, provides an appropriate blueprint for a cross-sector programme, and whether any adaptations would be required. The tender is available here: https://www.rluk.ac.uk/emerging-leaders-itt/#ELITT.

Libraries after Lockdown recordings

Recordings of all previous Libraries after Lockdown events are available to view on the SCONUL website. If you were unable to attend or to stay online or simply want to re-visit the various discussions, login to the SCONUL website and you can find the sessions via: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/libraries-after-lockdown-a-virtual-collaboration. You will also find materials referenced, including transcripts of the event chat with your comments and questions on the event webpages under 'resources'.

Available recordings:

From Adaptive Practice to Service Redesign

- Libraries as creators of content, 15 July
- Shaping the institutional discussion on the future of content, 6 June
- From research service provider to research partner, 24 May
- Choice and personalisation in blended learning, 1 March
- Blended Learning and the Shape and Design of Library Services, 29 September 2021
- Small and specialist institutions post-pandemic, 15 July 2021
- The campus experience post Covid: what does this mean for library spaces?, 5 July 2021
- Shared international perspectives on libraries' responses to the pandemic, 29 March 2021

The Dynamic Workforce

- Evolution of the working environment: An international perspective, 28 June
- The recruitment lifecycle – Part 2, 22 June
- The recruitment lifecycle – Part 1, 9 June
- Embracing new ways of working post-pandemic, 31 March
- Developing a resilient and agile workforce, 26 November 2021
- The library workforce post-pandemic: exchange of experience, 12 July 2021

Embracing Disruption

- AI for libraries: Part 2 – Libraries as AI generator, 27 May
- AI for libraries: Part 1 – Libraries as AI customer, 5 May
- Repositories and beyond – the evolving landscape, 29 April
- Alternative Approaches to Discovery, 22 March
- ILL and its strategic uses for academic and research libraries, 16 July 2021

The Libraries after Lockdown programmes are open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. You can find out more here.

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.

Vacancy: Senior Library Manager (Student & Academic Services), Open University
Open University are seeking to appoint a Senior Library Manager (Student & Academic Services). This post provides the role holder with the opportunity to lead a key area of service provision, ensuring the Library's learning and teaching librarians provide a valuable contribution to student success. Responsible for managing the strategic relationships with one of our faculties, the post holder will play a key role in shaping the Library's operational plan in line with University strategy and insight. **Closing date 3 January** Read more

Vacancy: Senior Library Manager (Digital Services & Metadata), Open University
Open University are seeking to appoint a Senior Library Manager (Digital Services & Metadata). This post provides the role holder with the opportunity to lead the team that carries out the product management of user-facing library websites (including Library Search, our discovery system), ensuring the Library's Digital Services & Metadata team provides a valuable contribution to student and research success. The post holder will play a key role in shaping the Library's operational plan in line with University strategy and insight. **Closing date 3 January** Read more

Vacancy: Systems Librarian, Imperial College London
Imperial College London are seeking a Systems Librarian to join the Content and Discovery team at Imperial College Library. As Systems Librarian you will work with the Systems Manager and Systems Developer to support, configure and develop the library systems and services used by library colleagues, students and researchers. **Closing date 8 January** 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: The Teaching Excellence Framework 2023, 13 January 2023

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions Forum, 16 January 2023

SCONUL conference: Future-ready libraries, 18 January 2023, London

Call for presentations: LILAC: The Information Literacy Conference, 19-21 April 2023

Open Science (OAI13) Conference, 4-8 September 2023