

News

Drivers for the Usage of SCONUL Member Libraries

SCONUL has published a new report into “Drivers for the Usage of SCONUL Member Libraries”. The use of academic and research libraries continues to increase despite the fact that much content is now available digitally. The report by Andrew M Cox and Melanie Benson-Marshall uses published and unpublished sources to examine this phenomenon, looking particularly at:

- changes to library space in the wider context of changes in campus design and use
- the interrelated factors driving changes in the use of academic libraries
- what published studies tell us about trends in the use of library space
- and what unpublished sources from SCONUL member libraries also reveal
- the factors which may shape library use in the future, including the impact of the recent pandemic.

The report is available [here](#).

Libraries after Lockdown

The Libraries after Lockdown programmes are now open for registration. Each programme will include a series of activities bringing members together to discuss and shape our collective future and members are invited to register their interest in one or more of the programmes. Information about, and access to, all the events will be via our event platform and are open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. You can find out more and register [here](#).

This week’s events include:

- Webinar for members from small and specialist institutions examining the impact of the pandemic on their library services, Thursday 15 July, 11.00 - 12.30
- ILL and its strategic uses for academic and research libraries, Friday 16 July, 13.30 - 15.00

SCONUL BAME Group inaugural Allies Forum, 14 September

The SCONUL BAME group will host its inaugural Allies Forum on Tuesday 14 September from 1-3pm. Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff members and their allies are invited to come together to discuss what it means to be an ally and to share best practice and experiences. Jess Gardner, University Librarian at Cambridge University will provide the opening address and members from the SCONUL community will share case studies of successful partnerships. Click here to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYudu-upzkjGd3lbHmrO4wtaO5Ktsu-7S0>

SCONUL community of interest groups: call for expressions of interest

SCONUL is setting up community of interest groups (CIGs) in the following areas: Delivering blended learning (looking at libraries’ role in supporting their institutions); Embracing disruption: emerging technologies and systems (looking at new technologies and innovative uses of existing technologies); and Organisational development (looking at roles, skills and the nature of our work post-Covid). We are now inviting people to register to join the CIGs, which you can do by providing your details here: <https://forms.gle/gG2LjAHyjGYBqkyd7>. Membership is open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. [Read more](#)

Elections to SCONUL Board

SCONUL will be holding elections for positions on the SCONUL Board at the AGM on 15 September and would like to invite SCONUL member representatives to consider putting themselves forward for election. SCONUL is seeking nominations for three places on the Board. We would particularly welcome nominations from Wales, Scotland and Ireland and from small or specialist institutions. A formal call for nominations was sent out on 30 June and elections are held in the run-up to the AGM. Candidates will be asked to put forward a short statement stating why they believe they would be able to make a useful contribution. If you would like to find out more about the role of the Board, please feel free to contact Ann

Rossiter at ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk or Susan Ashworth at Susan.Ashworth@glasgow.ac.uk. The closing date for nominations is 3 August. [Read more](#)

Jisc appoints new CEO

Heidi Fraser-Krauss, currently executive director of corporate services at the University of Sheffield, has been appointed as Jisc's new CEO and starts on 16 September 2021. Heidi replaces Paul Feldman, who is retiring after six years in the role. Heidi's career to date includes a wide variety of senior leadership roles in higher education. This has included leading the technology change team at University of St Andrews and as deputy registrar, director of corporate and information services and a member of the executive board at the University of York. [Read more](#)

UKRI OA update

The latest update, via Parliamentary Questions, on the UKRI Open Access Review is that it is expected to be published in the summer. [Read more](#)

Cancelling the Big Deal

ITHAKA have published a research report into the impact of cancelling a big deal. This shows that when a suite of journals is no longer available through a Big Deal subscription package, researchers experience little negative impact in the short term. While there are some institutional, disciplinary, and career-stage variations, overall researchers are able to work around the access barriers they encounter. The report also provides analysis and recommendations about how libraries can best structure decision-making and strategic communications processes with faculty members and other campus constituencies. [Read more](#)

WHELF Excluded Voices events, 22 April and 24 May 2021

The WHELF Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Group recently held two events under the title *Excluded Voices*. The WHELF EDI group was formed in 2020 after the murder of George Floyd and the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement worldwide. The recordings from these two events can be found here: <https://whelf.ac.uk/whelf-excluded-voices-events-2021/> -

WHELF Annual Report

WHELF has published its annual report for 2019-20. The report includes examples of their collaborative activities and can be found here: <https://sway.office.com/GwluvMmHCwmJfpD4?ref=Link>

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. Academic Libraries North <https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/newsletters>
2. LIBER: <https://libereurope.eu/news/>
3. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries: <https://www.m25lib.ac.uk/about-the-consortium/newsletter-archive/>
4. Mercian Collaboration <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news>
5. RLUK: <https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/>
6. SCURL <https://www.scurl.ac.uk/>
7. ucisa: <https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views>
8. 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: Content, Digital and Bibliographic Systems Manager, London Metropolitan University

Library Services at London Metropolitan University is looking to recruit a Content, Digital and Bibliographic Systems Manager. Leading the Content and Digital team, the post holder will be part of the Library Senior Management Team and would have a varied portfolio that includes overseeing the acquisition, cataloguing and processing of content in a variety of formats as well as the administration of module reading lists. The discovery and accessibility of collections via the library management system and other library technologies also forms a key element of the role. **Closing date 14 July** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Associate Director User Experience, University of Southampton

University of Southampton Library Services are seeking an Associate Director User Experience. This key role will lead, manage and develop user focused and professionally robust services that ensure the provision of a high-quality inspirational experience to over 23,000 students and staff across all campuses, digitally and in person. As the lead for customer excellence the post holder will develop inclusive and accessible policies, procedures and training to support high quality service delivery within the ethos of excellent customer service. **Closing date 2 August** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Assistant Director Student Journey: Student Support Services, University of Sunderland

University of Sunderland are seeking to appoint an Assistant Director Student. This role will provide the senior lead to their Student Support Services portfolio, providing strategic leadership, vision and management to the teams and ensuring services to students are high quality, innovative, relevant and underpin the strategic direction of the University. The post holder will be the institutional strategic lead, holding senior level responsibility/expertise and giving informed insight, for all Student Support Services other team related matters, including Prevent, safeguarding, mental health, and compliance requirements. **Closing date 23 August** [Read more](#)

Resources

Below is a list of [resources for SCONUL members dealing with Covid-19](#). If you would like SCONUL to include any resources that may be of interest to members, please email sitmui.ng@sconul.ac.uk

Current COVID resources

- Government guidance for English universities on Covid-19 (updated 6 July): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses>
- The Welsh government guidance and services for higher education (updated 14 May): <https://gov.wales/guidance-higher-education-keep-wales-safe-covid-19>
- The Scottish government's guidance for higher and further education institutions and student accommodation providers to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 (updated 6 July): <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-universities-colleges-and-student-accommodation-providers/>
- SAGE Advice, Mitigations to Reduce Transmission of the new variant SARS-CoV-2 virus SAGE-EMG, SPI-B, Transmission Group, 23 December 2020: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948607/s0995-mitigations-to-reduce-transmission-of-the-new-variant.pdf
- Jisc's report on the response to COVID-19 and the future of digital learning and teaching: <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/reports/learning-and-teaching-reimagined-a-new-dawn-for-higher-education>
- Public Library News article *The third lockdown: damned if you do ..?* that includes a link to a list of public libraries and what services they are offering in the current lockdown: <https://www.publiclibrariesnews.com/about-public-libraries-news/coronavirus-public-library-ideas-and-responses/when-and-how-will-public-libraries-reopen-in-england>
- Libraries Connected have incorporated updated advice from PHE on quarantine of returned library books and resources into their revised Library Service Recovery Toolkit. <https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/resource/service-recovery-toolkit-word>

SCONUL services during the pandemic

- The SCONUL Access Scheme is suspended until further notice, in line with Government guidelines. The SCONUL Access form has been disabled on our website to prevent new applications being made during this period. SCONUL has produced a note which sets out the current position and would be grateful if members could share this with staff and students including using the text for your

website if appropriate. If you receive any queries from students about the scheme, please direct them to our website <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access>.

- The SCONUL office remains open, albeit virtually, and we are working as normal. Students or staff ringing the office or contacting us by email will have their enquiries dealt with in the usual way.
- All events this academic year (2020-21) will be held virtually and we will be bringing members together to discuss their response to the immediate crisis and to look at the longer-term impacts and the community's response
- We continue to provide our support for our deputies and directors' groups, SCONUL Mentoring and other services. Please feel free to contact us as usual.

Archive: Covid-19 documentation

Resources which are no longer current but have been retained for reference purposes can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/archive-covid-19-documentation>

Events

With the current uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic many events have either been cancelled, postponed or moved to an online platform, please click on the event for further information.

Westminster HE Forum: The future use of digital technology and remote learning in Higher Education, 15 July

Westminster Media Forum: Valuing culture and heritage, 23 August

OAI12 – The Geneva Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication, 6-10 September

Call for papers: Academic Libraries North Conference, 8 and 9 September

Mercian Collaboration conference: Adaptation and Growth in Times of Adversity, 9-10 September

SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 15 September, 2-4pm

Call for contributions: New Librarianship Symposia Series, Autumn 2021

Call for papers: 14th International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries, 2-4 November