

SCONUL Executive Board Member Elections

26 June 2023



The Candidates

who they are • what they say • how to vote

SCONUL Executive Board Member Elections 26 June 2023: the candidates: who they are, what they say, how to vote

● how to vote

This year we have an election for two Executive Board posts with four candidates having put themselves forward. We are very grateful to them for offering to stand and in this paper you will find statements from each of them.

SCONUL institutions are being asked to vote electronically for up to two Board members via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/sconulelections2023>

Members can vote on a one institution one vote basis.

Institutions are entitled to one vote and it is up to each member institution to decide who will vote on behalf of their institution and formally represent them at the AGM.

You will need to be the chosen SCONUL representative for your institution to vote, or that person must have successfully submitted a signed proxy form naming you as the person nominated to vote. A Form of Proxy can be completed at: <https://form.jotform.com/SCONUL/sconul-agm-2023-form-of-proxy>

The electronic ballot will end at 23:59 on 25 June 2023.

● the candidates

- **REGINA EVERITT**, ACOO (Service Excellence) and Director of Library, Archives and Learning Services, University of East London
- **TIM WALES**, University Librarian, Cranfield University
- **EMMA WALTON**, Director of Library Services and University Librarian, Loughborough University
- **JONATHAN WHITE**, Director of Library and Cultural Services and University Librarian, University of Essex

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REGINA EVERITT ACOO (Service Excellence) and Director of Library, Archives and Learning Services, University of East London



“ I am standing for re-election because I would like to continue to work cross-sector to embed the recommendations from the 2019 SCONUL report on the experiences of Black, Asian, and minoritised ethnic staff members in academic libraries. We have made a start on implementing the recommendations around leadership and succession planning, voice, institution culture change, and effective partnerships for change, which benefit the wider sector regardless of institution mission, type, or size. I am particularly pleased with how SCONUL is working closely with regional groups to enable local support as well as knowledge and information exchange to benefit our staff members and organisations. The SCONUL 2023-26 strategy builds on the work started around organisational development and work with regional groups provide valuable opportunities for new and experienced professionals to collaborate to drive innovation to enhance the value of libraries.

During my time on the SCONUL Board, I co-project managed the 2019 SCONUL BAME report and went on to Chair the SCONUL BAME committee. The committee's work is being devolved into cross-cutting equity, diversity, and inclusion work of SCONUL. Working with the Organisational Development group, I have helped deliver programmes such as *Libraries After Lockdown: International Perspectives*. I co-edited *Narrative Expansions: Interpreting Decolonisation in Academic Libraries* with Jess Crilly to support the sector in understanding this contentious topic. I am currently working with colleagues on a book about the place of academic libraries in university estates strategy. I am also keen to work with the sector on the development of staff skills for institutional digital transformation. At the end of my final term, I will continue to work with SCONUL and the wider sector to promote the value of libraries.”

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TIM WALES University Librarian, Cranfield University



“ I have been University Librarian at Cranfield University since May 2022, joining from Brunel University London. In the previous decade I have held library leadership positions at Rothamsted Research, the University of West London and London Business School. I like to say that I earned “my academic librarian stripes” in the Noughties as an e-strategy library manager at Royal Holloway, University of London and as a business subject librarian at the wonderful Open University in Milton Keynes. I have written on a diverse range of professional librarianship topics including: library strategy; business librarianship; library technologies; information literacy and veterinarian information-seeking behaviour. I am currently an editorial board member of the *New Review of Academic Librarianship* journal, a member of the SCONUL Services Steering Group and Mercian Collaboration Directors Board. I am also a chartered member of CILIP and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

What would I bring to the SCONUL boardroom table? I consider myself to be an ideas person and I like come at things from a different angle than the norm. Hopefully, colleagues will have noted from my contributions to events and emails over the years that I am not afraid to ask honest, open and challenging questions of SCONUL and ourselves on occasions. I am also very keen to ensure SCONUL provides value for money, clarity of purpose and efficacy for all categories of member institutions. This approach is something I would be committing to continue if elected to the Board and would hope that both my diverse professional experience in a variety of different types of academic institutions and my professional writing would stand me in good stead when representing you all.

In terms of future SCONUL priorities, I am interested in developing and encouraging the next (diverse) generation of librarians across all of our functions and specialities. I am also keen on national projects involving content, collections and systems which can benefit us all as a collaborating community rather than us having to keep reinventing the wheel individually or in our various mission groups. ”

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EMMA WALTON Director of Library Services and University Librarian, Loughborough University



“ I have been Director of Library Services & University Librarian at Loughborough University since 2015 and have worked in academic libraries both teaching focused and research intensive since 2000. Previous experience included FE and the commercial sector and this range of experience has given me a good understanding of the breadth of our sector.

I am honoured to have been a member of the SCONUL Board since 2019 and chair of the Organisational Strategy Group since 2020. During my term, the sector has faced considerable challenges and it has been a privilege to work with colleagues on the board, strategy group members and SCONUL staff to support members during this time. The benefit of sharing experiences, of working collaboratively to advocate and influence, the advantage of an “all in this together” approach has been indispensable. For me personally SCONUL fora, whether it be the Board, events or group meetings have provided at times a safe and an inspiring space to discuss issues and seek solutions and through initiatives like *Libraries After Lockdown* the experience of others and their willingness to share assisted our transition through the pandemic. Working together has ensured that current and emerging issues are an integral part of the new SCONUL strategy.

As chair of the Organisational Strategy group, this collaborative approach ensured our delivery of the Dynamic Workforce strand of *Libraries after lockdown*. Our events supported members by providing another opportunity to share experiences and learn from others in areas such as developing skills and training, embedding inclusivity and diversity and new ways of working. The feedback we received for our events was positive and if re- elected I would very much like to continue to build on this important work in support of members’ needs.

I feel very proud to have been a part of this collegiate and collaborative way of working and in the programme we delivered for member institutions.

I have recently become Chair of the Mercian Collaboration and am enthusiastic about working collaboratively with my Midlands counterparts to support existing and emerging regional needs and working with SCONUL to contribute to the new Strategy.

I am keen to continue to support the SCONUL membership and to contribute to positive change across the breadth of our sector and through the work of the Organisational Strategy group support the next generation of leaders.”

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JONATHAN WHITE Director of Library and Cultural Services and University Librarian, University of Essex



“SCONUL’s role as the sector’s leader for collaboration and collective development remains of immense value to its diverse membership. With the financial, political and sustainability pressures the sector is currently facing, the need for a collective voice and powerful advocate at the national level is crucial. I am therefore pleased to see that the new SCONUL strategy re-affirms this role and provides a framework for sector development. Within this framework, I am particularly interested in how we can drive innovation across the sector, ensuring that libraries remain relevant and as leaders and partners in education and research development. My interests also lie in ensuring a sustainable future for libraries, and as evidenced with the recent negotiations with Springer Nature, strong sector collaboration is key to this future.

My career in libraries stretches over almost 20 years and I have been in leadership team roles for five of those years. I have been at the University of Essex for just over two years, first as an Assistant Director and now as Director of Library and Cultural Services and University Librarian. During my career, I have had the pleasure of working across the education and research sectors in the UK, including in both teaching focussed and dual-mission universities. I believe that this experience has given me a well-rounded understanding of the sector, which I can draw upon when working across organisational boundaries.

The opportunities I have had in collaborative working across the sector, have given me first-hand experience and understanding of how effective cross-boundary partnerships work and deliver on objectives. In the past, I have been a committee member of the CILIP Career Development Group and I was part of the web team for the CILIP Information Literacy Group. In these groups, collaboration delivered tangible outcomes for the sector, which made long-term differences to people’s professional lives. In my current role, I am working collectively with library directors from across the Southern 10 (S10) universities group to establish a new partnership. Our aim is to develop joint positions on key issues, through which we can advocate and influence, both within our universities and nationally. I also have board-level experience, and I am currently a board member for the Southend-on-Sea Forum Management Ltd, which is partnership between the University of Essex, a city council and an FE college, to operate a joint academic, public and FE library.

I am grateful for this opportunity to stand for election to the Executive Board of SCONUL and if elected I would work hard for our members and the sector. I would relish the opportunity to work with other Board members to implement the new strategy and to ensure that SCONUL continues to be the key uniting sector body we all extract maximum benefit from.”