News

Exploring technology-enhanced library spaces webinar, 20 February

SCONUL will be holding a webinar on 20 February from 1.30pm-3pm exploring the different ways libraries are evolving to adopt digital and emerging technologies. We will showcase three different libraries who have taken these steps and the impact it has had so far. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about: The design and delivery process of these spaces including determining user requirements and the tools used to do so; The development of the business case for the projects and how they have engaged their stakeholders; and How their institutions plan to deploy, or is deploying, their space and how they are approaching impact data for evaluation. Attendees will hear from Ciara McCaffrey, University of Limerick; Fiona Greig, University of Winchester; and Vicky Grant and Graham McElearney, University of Sheffield. This webinar marks the launch of a new project: *Technology enhanced library spaces*. The project will explore and surface examples of technology-enhanced library spaces with the aim of sharing practice on development, delivery and evaluation with the library community, and promoting these developments to stakeholders. Read more

How to get ahead in libraries: job shadowing, secondments and job swaps

SCONUL's Organisational Development Strategy Group is exploring how staff at all levels can 'get ahead in libraries' and how SCONUL might be able to help. One area we are keen to explore is job shadowing, secondments and job swaps. This is not without challenges but some organisations (and some groups of organisations) have created successful programmes to deliver this form of staff development. We are keen to hear about examples of good practice and to develop a check list of how to do this effectively. If you have been successful and want to share your experience with brief details of how the programme works, please send information directly to Jenelle Negraeff Jenelle.Negraeff@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL and COPIM: exploring practical problems and potential strategies to fund equitable OA book publishing – recording available

On 25 January SCONUL and COPIM held a webinar bringing together UK library leaders to share their perspectives on their library's role in OA book funding and publishing. Chaired by Andrew Barker, attendees heard from Phil Brabban, University Librarian and Group Director of Learning Resources at Coventry University, Elaine Sykes, Head of Open Research at Lancaster University, Peter Barr, Head of Content & Collections at University of Sheffield and Dominic Broadhurst, Head of Content & Discovery at University of Salford. A summary by Kira Hopkins (Birkbeck, University of London/Opening the Future) together with the recording and chat transcript can be found here: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/copim-and-sconul-webinar-25-january-2024

SCONUL review of benchmarking statistics

Our benchmarking consultation survey, advertised last month, is now in its final week and we are keen to get your responses before Friday 9th February. A link to the survey has been sent to members along with a PDF of the survey questions. We are seeking one return per institution. David Baker Consulting will also be hosting workshops as part of this work on the following dates. The first and third workshops are aimed at senior leaders and the second workshop will look in greater depth at library content issues and themes:

- Wednesday 21 February, 2-4pm
- Thursday 22 February (Content) 10-12pm
- Tuesday 5 March, 2-4pm

The workshops will explore many of the survey themes in greater detail and get some institutional examples ahead of SCONUL revamping the statistics in the summer. There will also be a workshop looking in greater detail at the content questions and you may wish your collection manager or equivalent to come along to this one. In addition, the task and finish group, who are exploring potential new platforms for the statistics will be running an additional workshop in March, which will be more focused on the infrastructure and technical requirements, as well as what visualisation tools would be

useful. If you or someone from your team would like to attend any of these workshops, but your diary prevents this, please get in touch as we are looking to be flexible on dates where possible. Contact Lisa McLaren Lisa.McLaren@sconul.ac.uk for further information.

Leading change on race equality workshops, 10 and 24 April

SCONUL is pleased to announce that it has once again partnered with AdvanceHE to bring members subsidised development workshops on 'Leading Change on Race Equality' as part of our ongoing commitment to increasing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the sector. The workshops have an updated structure to include a six-day challenge between two interactive sessions which will help to embed understanding and bring more impact from the training. Session 1 will be held on 10 April (AM) and will strengthen understandings of the core issues relating to 'race' equality in academic libraries and explore strategies for tackling racism and racial inequality. Session 2 on 24 April (AM) will further prepare participants for leading change, with a focus on the knowledge, behaviours and skills required to be effective leaders of race equality work. Building on the work of the two modules, participants will work together to plan approaches to key priorities for action through creative problem-solving. The sessions will be facilitated by AdvanceHE Senior Advisors Dr Lindy-Ann Blaize Alfred and Jennifer Fearon who are both experienced in anti-racism training and working with and within universities. The course fee is £115pp to attend. You can register by completing the form here. Please note that you will need to create an account first (or log in to an existing account) on the web portal: My Advance HE (https://my.advance-he.ac.uk/) before accessing the registration link. The workshops are limited to two people per institution and designed for those in leadership roles.

THE Digital Universities UK 2024

SCONUL is pleased to be an event partner of THE's Digital Universities UK 2024, hosted in partnership with the University of Exeter on 16-18 April. The event will bring together higher education, industry and policy leaders working at the intersection of academic innovation and technology to reimagine universities in the digital age. This event will be like never before, gathering over 500 attendees from across UK institutions, there will be keynotes, workshops, case studies… plus some amazing experiences hosted by the University of Exeter. SCONUL members can register here for a 25% discount on tickets with the code: SCONUL25. Read more

CILIP launches Future Libraries

CILIP has published its horizon-scanning report and toolkit: 'Future Libraries', a two-part initiative that will challenge and engage librarians and library leaders to reimagine public libraries in a world of evolving living and working patterns in the context of a rapidly changing world. CILIP commissioned the Future Libraries project to address a central question: *What kind of public library network will England need to support its social, economic, and industrial development over the remainder of this century?* Part one is a horizon-scanning report, *Come Rain or Shine: Preparing public libraries for the future in an age of uncertainty* and envisions the challenges and demands that public libraries will face from now until 2040. The report provides an in-depth analysis of future scenarios that can impact public libraries to help library staff and leaders to become more agile in their strategies and activities. *Come Rain or Shine* is accompanied by a 'do-it-yourself' *Future Libraries toolkit* to help libraries imagine possible future uses of their spaces with practical insights into generating and testing different scenarios for public libraries. Read more

Call for papers: Academic Libraries North Conference

ALN have issued a call for papers for their conference *Generative AI and Emerging Technologies* which will be held online on 12 June and in person on 5 July at the St George's Centre, Leeds. With the increasing ubiquity of emerging technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing or generative AI into the tools we use everyday, it is time to consider how this will affect our day-to-day work. As these tools become embedded into search, collection development, research, writing and more we need to think about how we should be educating ourselves and our users about them. How do these emerging technologies impact ethics, information literacy instruction, or research to name but a few? How should libraries adapt to these challenges? What initiatives and discussions could (need) to be put in place to forecast shifts in ways of working and prepare staff for novel ways of working that embed these emerging technologies? This event recognises the breadth of activities and tools that are covered by the umbrella term of emerging technologies as well as the early stage at which some of our work and initiatives might be. Further details on the call for papers including details of possible themes and types of contribution can be found here: https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/aln-conference-2024

AI ready library collections; the practicalities, 8 February

Following on from their November webinar, *Making your collections AI ready*, Peter Findlay from Jisc will chair a further discussion on 8 February to encourage the library community to be bold in providing machine ready collections, in support of research. Peter will be joined by colleagues from the University of Manchester Library, Ian Gifford, Head of Digital Development, and Jane Gallagher, Head of Digital Special Collections and Services. They will explore the opportunities, risks and challenges inherent in curating these collections as data. The webinar will go on to explore how machine ready collections can be described. For further information and to register click here: https://www.jisc.ac.uk/events/ai-ready-library-collections-the-practicalities

Clore Fellowship 2024

Applications are now open. The Clore Fellowship is a programme of tailored leadership development for a cohort of exceptional leaders in the cultural sector. Around 24 Fellowships are awarded each year to leaders in areas such as the visual and performing arts, museums, libraries, archives and heritage, film and digital media, and cultural policy and practice. The Fellowship Programme is for leaders with ambition and vision who can show how they might take their leadership to the next level. The programme is learned through experience, not taught, and is grounded in contemporary leadership theories and approaches. The Fellowship Programme is generously supported by a range of funding partners and the cost of all Fellowships, with the exception of self or employer funded Fellowships, are fully funded. New for 2024 are the Culture & Climate Leaders Fellowship and Curator Fellowship. Clore Leadership will be hosting a series of Q&A sessions on Zoom, where they'll share some helpful tips and insights into the application process and you'll also have the opportunity to put your questions to the team and some of the alumni. The closing date for stage 1 of applications is 12 noon, Thursday 8 February. 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.

Vacancy: Quality & Planning Coordinator, University College Cork

University College Cork are looking for a Quality & Planning Coordinator to join their team in UCC Library. The ideal candidate will be proactive and innovative, maintaining the reputation and standards for which UCC Library is known and recognised. This is an opportunity for the right person to join UCC Library as it embarks on a phase of development underpinned by a Library Vision & Plan. The Quality & Planning Coordinator will be responsible for leading and coordinating planning, quality, and assurance activities within the library. They will champion a culture of innovation and service improvement, supporting effective business processes across the library. **Closing date 13 February** Read more

Vacancy: Learning & Teaching Team Lead, University College Cork

University College Cork is looking for a Learning & Teaching Team Lead to join and lead UCC Library's Learning & Teaching team through its next phase of evolution. The ideal candidate will be proactive and innovative and will assume responsibility for the strategic development and management of UCC Library's support for and engagement with academic colleges and partners. They will lead on the strategic development of the Library's skills offerings to students in the areas of information, digital and

media literacy, and contribute towards a Centre for Excellence in the area. They will drive the Library's strategic initiatives in academic integrity and emerging issues in the higher education landscapes such as generative artificial intelligence, and its impact on learning. **Closing date 13 February** Read more

Vacancy: Library Manager (Faculty of Music), Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance are seeking to appoint a Library Manager to lead the team and operations of the Jerwood Library of the Performing Arts, which supports teaching, learning, performance and research within the Faculty of Music. Working under the direction of the Head of Libraries, the post holder will contribute to institutional strategic planning and hone and enhance the operations of the Jerwood Library for optimal service provision. They will be responsible for the day-to-day oversight and operational management of the space, services, facilities, systems and staff within the library. The post holder will have responsibility for library user education within the Faculty of Music, coordinating, devising and delivering sessions across all programmes. They will also play a key role in promoting the library. **Closing date 25 February** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Library Collections, Metadata and Discovery, University of St Andrews
University of St Andrews Libraries & Museums are seeking to appoint a Head of Library Collections, Metadata & Discovery. The University Strategy sets ambitious goals for digital transformation, and as such, the Unit is currently at the planning stages of an ambitious development of its digital services, beginning with a procurement of a new Library Management System. The postholder will lead their teams in the delivery and ongoing development of these services. **Closing date 1 March** 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.

Open Research London: The Discoverability of Open Research, London 12 February

International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC24), Edinburgh, 19-21 February

OpenAthens: Access Lab 2024, 26 and 27 February

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for the Research Excellence Framework, 5 March

LILAC 2024, Leeds, 25–27 March

UKSG Annual Conference & Exhibition, Glasgow, 8-10 April

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for knowledge exchange in HE and research in the UK, 25 April

Jisc Change Agents' Network Conference 2024: The future of student engagement and student-staff partnerships to enhance higher education, Portsmouth, 20, 22 and 23 May

CILIP Online Copyright Conference, 23 May

Academic Libraries North Conference 2024: Generative AI and Emerging Technologies, 12 June (via Teams) and 5 July, Leeds

CILIPS Annual Conference 2024, 3-4 June, Dundee

User Experience in Libraries 8: 'Curiosity & Empathy', Cambridge, 11-13 June