News

SCONUL new Deputy Director

SCONUL is delighted to announce that Jo Lambert has been appointed as SCONUL's new Deputy Director. Jo is currently Head of Licensing Data and Intelligence at Jisc. In her current role, Jo leads a team that underpins Jisc's negotiation and licensing activity, helps to monitor performance and assess value, supports evidence-based decision making and provides data to drive products delivered by Jisc and its partners to members. With a background in libraries, and extensive experience supporting development and delivery of shared services such as JUSP, she has a strong foundation in user-centred service development, collaboration and community engagement. Read more

Public statements by SCONUL

SCONUL's Executive Board has considered when and how it should take public positions including making public statements in relation to matters of national or international significance. It has developed a consultation paper and the Board is seeking member institutions' views on this in advance of the AGM on 14 July. Further details about the proposed policy can be found here: *Public statements by SCONUL: a consultation paper* and the feedback survey is here: https://forms.gle/FrSdhgzWgro1ok4P7.

Professor Sue Hartley OBE to deliver keynote at SCONUL members meeting, 14 July

SCONUL is pleased to announce that Professor Sue Hartley OBE, Vice-President for Research & Innovation at The University of Sheffield, will deliver a keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and Members meeting (11am–1pm, via Zoom) on Monday 14 July 2025. Professor Hartley will speak about the intersection between libraries and academics on the conversation about open research. The AGM will include formal business including Executive Board elections and an opportunity for members to review SCONUL's work from 2024-2025 and engage with plans for next year. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL Autumn conference, 19 November

SCONUL is pleased to announce that it is bringing members together in Birmingham on Wednesday 19 November for a one-day face-to-face conference. The theme of the conference is *Library Transformation: people and place* and will include the announcement of the results of the SCONUL Library Design Awards. The event will be held at EcoSmart accredited venue The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham, B2 5EP on 19 November. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Libraries and Access and Participation plans webinar, 19 June

This session will look at how libraries can be involved in the development and delivery of access and participation plans. Libby Homer, Director of Student and Library Services at Anglia Ruskin University, will discuss her role in writing her institution's plan and library activities that are funded by it. Pete Maggs, Director of Libraries and Learning Resources at Nottingham Trent University will discuss working on the interventions within the plan and developing a theory of change to measure outcomes and impact.

Andrew Barker, Director of Library Services & Learning Development at Lancaster University, will discuss how funding from access and participation has enabled the library to develop projects which have subsequently been rolled out across the institution. This will be followed with a Q&A. The webinar will take place on Thursday 19 June 2025 from 11.30am – 1pm. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

AI coffee morning, 27 June

SCONUL's regular AI coffee morning brings together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month from 10am to 11.30am. The theme of the next meeting on Friday 27 June will be on AI and discovery. At these meetings library colleagues come together, share experiences and ask questions as a community. These are not expert forums but are for sharing information and experiences as practitioners and they are open to all, whatever your role or level of expertise. Please bring your own coffee and biscuits! For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Engagement with university leaders in AI conversations webinar, 16 July

SCONUL is holding a webinar on engaging senior leaders with conversations around AI on 16 July 2025 from 1.30pm - 3pm. We will hear from Gavin Boyce and Graham McElearney from the University of Sheffield on the creation of a Library GenAI statement and associated stakeholder engagement work; and from Robert Curry from Oxford Brookes University, who chairs their institutional AI working group, on collaborative institutional projects. Our final speaker is Mark Hughes of Cardiff Metropolitan University, who will talk about his experience of chairing the University AI group. This webinar will be useful for library staff who are looking to gain a greater understanding of how they can engage senior leaders in their AI work. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Small and Specialist Institutions Forum webinar: recording and resources

On 30 April, SCONUL's Small and Specialist Institutions came together to discuss a range of issues linked to SCONUL services. The webinar explored the SCONUL Technology survey and its potential uses and discussed the forthcoming Organisational Development Knowledge Base that will house job descriptions and organisational charts from across the sector and its particular usefulness to this group of stakeholders. We finished up with a discussion on AI and the myriad of uses for this technology, including policy development. SCONUL members can access the recording and other useful resources here.

CPD for libraries: scoping current and future needs

SCONUL has published *CPD for libraries: scoping current and future needs.* This is the first output from its review of CPD across the academic library sector. The report examines what training and development is currently on offer in our sector, including which are most popular; gaps in the training offer; barriers to training and development, at both institutional and personal levels; and ways in which such barriers could be mitigated. We are holding a symposium with other national and regional library consortia across the UK and Ireland in September to explore next steps, and are also keen to hear from all members and stakeholders. Please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk with your thoughts. Read more.

UKRI Research Data policy update

UKRI are holding some cross-sector workshops over the summer to understand the potential implications of their new draft Research Data policy. There are some representatives from SCONUL invited to this

and we are asking for your feedback around the policy so we can best represent your views. Please email lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk with any comments you want to make. You can find the policy here.

Shared services

Universities UK has published a report from its Transformation and Efficiency Taskforce looking at the scope for further shared services and collaboration between HEIs in the UK which is available here: *Transformation and Efficiency-Towards a new era of collaboration*. The taskforce has identified seven opportunities to drive transformational change and references Falmouth Exter Plus as an example of innovative collaborative structure which includes a shared library service. It identifies a set of actions for sector bodies and government and SCONUL will be meeting stakeholders including Jisc and UCISA shortly to discuss these further. Later this month, SCONUL will be publishing the outputs of its own shared services roundtable which will explore the libraries' view of the opportunities in this space.

Launch of the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH) Registry & Forum

The European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH) Registry & Forum is a new community network designed to connect, support, and enhance collaboration among organisations involved in Diamond Open Access (OA) publishing across the European Research Area. Joining the Registry is free and you can sign up here. In addition to the Registry, members of registered organisations gain access to the EDCH Forum, a dedicated virtual space for discussion, knowledge-sharing, and problem-solving. The Forum provides an opportunity to exchange insights with peers, ask questions, and engage in conversations about key challenges. For further information, please contact the team via registry@diamas.org.

Open Access Book Policy-a-thon: Taking action to expand the PALOMERA Knowledge Base

The PALOMERA Knowledge Base contains hundreds of funder and institutional policy documents from 39 countries in the European Research Area. The Open Access Books Network (OABN) is hosting an online policy-a-thon, on 12 June, where you can set time aside to explore the Knowledge Base and add new or updated policies, with experts at hand to help you if you get stuck. If your institution has updated their OA policy to include longform, or you've implemented an institutional rights retention policy that includes books, or are interested in finding out more, you can register here.

TownsWeb Archiving Digitisation Grant 2025

Applications for this year's Archiving Digitisation Grant will open on Monday 16 June. There are three grants of £3,000 each available. Since launching the grant, TWA have awarded over £150,000 to support the digitisation of more than 120 collections. Now entering its eighth year, the grant continues its work supporting organisations across the UK in safeguarding their invaluable heritage materials. Please do share this grant opportunity with your heritage colleagues and networks. Read more.

Final Call for Applications: Oxford Cultural Leaders Programme

Applications for the Oxford Cultural Leaders (OCL) residential leadership programme will close on Monday 16 June. Delivered by the University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM) in partnership with the Saïd Business School, Oxford Cultural Leaders is a flagship residential programme designed for senior leaders working in the cultural sector. This year's residential programme will take place from 21-26 September in Oxford. Now in its 10th year, the programme equips participants with the strategic insight, entrepreneurial mindset, and adaptive skills needed to navigate the evolving landscape of the cultural and creative industries. Through a combination of expert-led sessions, peer learning, and reflective practice,

participants will explore innovative approaches to leadership, organisational change, and sector transformation. Read more

Scottish Universities Press unveils new open access textbook programme for 2025

Scottish Universities Press (SUP) has launched an open access textbook programme which commenced in May 2025. This development builds on the success of SUP's open access monograph and edited collection publishing that launched in 2024. SUP are seeking to address the significant need for more affordable and accessible educational resources across the UK higher education landscape. SUP is a library-led initiative, organised by SCURL and operates collaboratively by member libraries on a not-for-profit basis. It is dedicated to advancing open access publishing, making high-quality scholarly research and educational resources available to a global audience without barriers to knowledge, and increasing the impact of academic work. Read more

IReL Principles for Negotiations

The Irish Research e-Library (IReL) has published its new IReL Principles for Negotiations. In light of evolving policy and emerging international consensus, the IReL Advisory Committee has reviewed and redrafted IReL's principles. This process has been informed not only by international discussions but also by feedback from stakeholders and the hands-on experience of the IReL Negotiation Group, who is charged with ensuring that such principles are implemented. These renewed principles will inform IReL negotiations from 2025 onwards and help to guide the IReL Negotiations Group in deciding on where best to invest existing and finite funds. Read more

Launch of the Beta version of the new English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC)

The Beta version of the new English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), the most comprehensive resource available for the output of the printing press in the English-speaking world before 1801, has been launched. ESTC is now part of the Consortium of European Research Libraries' (CERL) ecosystem and accessible for free at https://datb.cerl.org/estc/. For the first time since October 2023, ESTC is fully accessible again. This Beta version provides basic and advanced search facilities with further features, including browsing, facets and an editing interface for contributors, to be deployed later this year. Read more

CILIP launches £1.2 Million Green Library Hubs project

CILIP has launched the Green Library Hubs programme. The three-year programme, delivered in partnership with the British Library, Julie's Bicycle and CAG Consultants, along with 10 libraries across the UK, will establish 10 Green Library Hubs – spaces rooted in local libraries that act as catalysts for community awareness, behaviour change and grassroots action on climate change. The project is an integral part of the Green Libraries Campaign, of which SCONUL is a partner, and activities delivered through the Green Libraries Hubs will support the campaign as it enables climate action in local communities through a network of coordinated library services. Read more.

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

SCONUL held a roundtable for library leaders on Friday 23rd May to discuss the appetite for, and feasibility of, shared services in the sector. We focussed on the high-level advantages of this approach, both for institutions and the wider sector, and we explored a number of potential opportunities for

collaboration and how we might implement these. Whilst financial savings is a key driver at the moment, other benefits included building resilience, mitigating risk and opportunities for greater innovation. SCONUL will be producing a report with the main points from the day in the next month. SCONUL's Technology and Markets Group will also be undertaking a workshop to scope the feasibility of platform sharing between members.

> ### Making the most of your SCONUL membership
>
> - **Sign up to lis-sconul** to participate in discussions with your peers as well as hear about news and events.
> - **Join** the SCONUL community on **LinkedIn**.
> - **Register** to access all the resources on the SCONUL website.
> - **SCONUL mentoring scheme** supporting emerging and newly appointed leaders.
> - **Join** a SCONUL **Directors or Deputies Group**.

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. Academic Libraries North https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/
2. Cilip https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/IP_news
3. CONUL https://conul.ie/news/
4. LIBER https://libereurope.eu/news/
5. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries https://www.m25lib.org.uk/about-the-consortium/newsletter-archive/
6. Mercian Collaboration https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news
7. RLUK https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/
8. SCURL https://www.scurl.ac.uk/news
9. ucisa https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views
10. 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: Academic & Teaching Partner, University of East Anglia
University of East Anglia are recruiting for a full time Academic and Teaching Partner. This is a new role created to focus on the design and delivery of digital skills to students, researchers and academics. The successful candidate will join a new team of Academic and Teaching Partners working collaboratively to develop a suite of teaching sessions for delivery across all faculties, as well as developing topic specific support. Applicants will need to demonstrate confidence delivering digital skills through a variety of

means including in-person teaching sessions, teaching online, and developing online learning materials and objects. **Closing date 5 June** Read more

Vacancy: Digital Development Librarian, University of Sussex

An opportunity has arisen for a Digital Development Librarian to join University of Sussex's newly combined Library, Culture and Heritage Division. This role will take a lead on the optimisation and implementation of our digital systems and support Senior Managers developing innovative solutions within the Division. The role will involve user-centred decision making and building strong relationships with colleagues, suppliers, and stakeholders. **Closing date 8 June** Read more

Vacancy: Executive Officer (Finance Department) National Library of Ireland

The Executive Officer in the Finance Department of the NLI plays a key operational role in supporting the effective financial management of the organisation. Reporting to the Higher Executive Officer within the Finance Department, the Executive Officer contributes to the day-to-day financial operations, ensuring compliance with public sector financial procedures and providing accurate and timely reporting to internal and external stakeholders. **Closing date 13 June** Read more

Vacancy: NHS Librarian, City St George's University of London

City St George's University of London are looking to appoint librarian to join the Library's NHS Team to contribute to their highly customer focused service to a wide range of users (students, University staff, NHS staff and visitors). The successful candidate will work closely with local NHS staff to identify, develop and deliver the services they need to ensure excellent patient care as well as to support their workplace and development needs. The post holder will develop and deliver Information Skills training, support materials and the mediated literature search service. **Closing date 11 June** Read more

Vacancy: Enquiry and Disability Support Librarian, UWE Bristol

UWE Bristol are seeking to appoint two Enquiry and Disability Support Librarians. Working as part of a team of Enquiry and Disability Support Librarians, led by the Enquiry and Disability Services Librarian, the post holder will provide direct enquiry support for a diverse range of library users both online and in person. The post holder will act at a line manager for staff, monitoring and allocating work, supporting the induction and training of new staff and carrying out performance development reviews. The role will also be vital in building relationships with other colleagues and services at the University, sharing information and ensuring that students have the best possible journey during their time at university. **Closing date 15 June** Read more

Vacancy: Digital Asset Manager (Audiovisual), Science Museum Group

To support the care of their growing digital corporate records and collections the Science Museum Group are looking for a Digital Asset Manager to help plan for further Digital Asset Management solutions, on a fixed-term basis for 9 months. The post holder will be working on scoping and contributing to a business case and implementation plan for digital storage and access and dealing with enquiries for the digital corporate content. This is a Group-wide role and can be based any of the sites in London, Bradford, Manchester, York or Wroughton. **Closing date 15 June** Read more

Vacancy: Graduate Library Trainee, University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh are offering a traineeship aimed at people from an ethnic minority background who are interested in pursuing a career in the information and library profession and has a strong desire to learn. This 12-month fixed term traineeship is an excellent opportunity for aspiring library professionals to join a friendly and welcoming Library team and aims to provide an individual with the experience required to undertake a postgraduate qualification in library or information studies. The UK library profession currently identifies as 92% white and University of Edinburgh have created this opportunity to help underrepresented individuals get a head start in their library career. It's an opportunity to be part of a dynamic team and to get first-hand experience of delivering a wide range of high-quality services in a large and diverse academic library. This post is advertised under Section 158 of the Equality Act 2010. **Closing date 16 June** Read more

Vacancy: Library Officer, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is recruiting a Library Officer. The Defra Library team provides library services and resources to support all staff in Defra, APHA, and Natural England in having the evidence base to perform their business functions. The library also provides services to a number of other government agencies within Defra group including the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Office for Environmental Protection, Marine Management Organisation, and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and works closely with library and information services across Defra group and the wider Civil Service. The Library Officer will join a distributed team providing library services to Defra group customers including enquiry mailbox services, document delivery, literature searches, subject bulletins and alerts, providing access to subscription resources, resource description and discovery. **Closing date 16 June** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Library and Museum, Royal College of Nursing

The Royal College of Nursing is seeking a Head of Library and Museum to support them in the delivery of all aspects of its Library and Museum including planning, delivery, and assessment. This is a job full of possibilities where the post holder could get involved in anything from developing collections, internal and external promotion of RCN's offer and creating and implementing the service strategy. The ability to foster strong professional relationships and encourage close collaboration between departments is at the heart of this leadership role. **Closing date 19 June** Read more

Vacancy: Learning and Teaching Librarian, The Open University

The Open University's (OU) Library Service has a new job opportunity available, working within the Learner and Discovery Services (LDS) Team. The Learning and Teaching Librarian will support learning and teaching activities, including the development of students as independent learners. The post holder will work in collaboration across the OU's Learner and Discovery Services portfolio to support the growing digital capabilities agenda and integrate Library content systematically into the curriculum. **Closing date 22 June** Read more

Vacancy: Open Access Advisor, University College London

UCL is currently offering an opportunity for a part-time Open Access Advisor to join their Open Access Team. The post focuses on dynamic and fast-moving aspects of open access, including research funders' policies, Gold open access, transformative agreements and rights retention. The pos tholder will play a key role in supporting UCL's 6,000+ academics, who between them produce more than 17,000 publications a year, advising them on key aspects of open access. **Closing date 22 June** Read more

Vacancy: Project Curator (Cataloguing Lead), SOAS, University of London

SOAS Library is recruiting a Project Curator (Cataloguing Lead). Reporting to the Project Lead, the post holder will lead the cataloguing strand of a major digitisation project focused on SOAS Library's rare books and manuscript collections. They will play an active role in cataloguing, contributing directly to the creation of high-quality metadata. In addition, they will manage a team of cataloguers, ensuring that all outputs adhere to international standards such as DCRM(B), MARC, and RDA. The Project Curator will be responsible for developing and refining cataloguing workflows, implementing quality control procedures, and maintaining clear documentation to support project delivery. They will also collaborate with colleagues in conservation, imaging, and Special Collections to ensure effective coordination across all phases of the project. **Closing date 29 June** 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.

International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) annual conference, Leeds, 2-5 June

Open Science & Scholarship Festival 2025, London and online, 2-6 June

Scaling up Diamond Open Access Journals, 3 June

16th International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries, Liverpool, 3-4 June

50th Annual Conference of IASSIST, Bristol, 3-6 June

NAG: Shrink to Fit: sharing practical and strategic approaches to managing library budget reductions, 4 June

Edinburgh Open Research Conference 2025, Edinburgh and online, 4 June

Authorship in the era of AI, 6 June

UCL Press 10th Anniversary: Open Access Monograph Panel, 10 June

SLA Conference 2025 – AI in Libraries: Friend or Foe, London, 10 June

CILIP Health Libraries Group Annual General Meeting, 10 June

User Experience in Libraries 9: 'Trust the Process', Liverpool, 10-12 June

Student Engagement, 12 June

Annual Conference of the Cathedrals Archives, Libraries and Collections Association (CALCA), 17–19 June

Academic Libraries North Conference 2025 Sustainable innovation: moving forward in challenging times, 18 June online and, Manchester, 11 July

Introducing the LIBER Action Plan on Improving Access and Reuse of Research Results, 18 June

SCURL Annual Conference, Aberdeen, 19 June

M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries Annual Conference, London, 24 June

Copim and acquisitions librarians present… Beyond buying books: Rethinking content acquisition in unstable times, 25 June

Knowledge Futures Symposium, Leeds, 27 June

ARLIS UK & Ireland annual conference 2025, Limerick, 1–3 July

Recruitment and Progression in the Library Sector, 2 July

CILIP Annual Conference, Birmingham, 2–3 July

CILIP Supplier Showcase (Midlands), Birmingham, 3 July

LIRG AGM and Assessing and Recognising Research Excellence session, 11 July

SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 14 July

CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group (RBSCG) Conference 2025, 3–5 September

Fedora Camp, Vienna, 10–12 September

OASPA Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing 2025, Leuven, 22–24 September

Call for contributions: Open Science Conference 2025, Hamburg, 8–9 October

Call for papers: CILIP Metadata & Discovery Group Conference 2026, Bristol, 11–13 March 2026