ALN

Update from ALN EDI Action Group

The group launched the 2025 EDI Innovation Fund in March. Before the end of the submission period, they held an 'Ideas Bazaar' which provided ALN members with the opportunity to share their ideas for possible projects and listen to what colleagues from other institutions were proposing. This led to collaboration and partnerships between institutions which may not otherwise have been possible. They received 4 submissions for projects, all of which were approved following analysis of the proposals by a sub-team of the Action Group. All the projects have been assigned a link person from within the sub-team and are now underway. The project topics this time are on calm spaces (Sheffield Hallam & Huddersfield), inclusive academic reading (Man Met and Sheffield Hallam), accessible library induction guides (Chester) and a cross-institution support toolkit for Sanctuary associate members (Hull).

The Action Group is due to meet in June to plan future activity, including events and the further sharing of resources.

Update from ALN Accessibility Group

The group chairs have been surveying members to ascertain how the group would feel best supported and have agreed to run short 1-hour themed meetings (group meetings were previously 2-hours) and to have themed discussions on distinct topics. They are also exploring how to increase engagement with their mailing list as a way of sharing practice across members. Membership of the group has shifted, with fewer frontline staff and more second line staff attending in the past year. They will be looking for opportunities for the group to work with the Frontline Forum to ensure conversations around accessibility and EDI are part of the programme.

Global Equity Network (GEN)

The Peer Learning Network (PLN), developed by the Global Equity Network (GEN) and funded by a UKSG Innovation Award, was designed to support UK ethnic minority professionals in the library, information, and knowledge sector. Launched alongside GEN's #TIYC24 Conference in July 2024, the PLN offered a structured space for peer support and action learning across seven sessions. Following some initial challenges, the PLN's activity was briefly delayed; the revised model proved successful, culminating in a celebratory in-person event at Leeds City Museum in April 2025. The event featured reflective activities, future planning, and a book gifting initiative, reinforcing community bonds and professional growth. Feedback highlighted the value of shared lived experience, peer connection, and the potential for future cohorts. The PLN's evolution demonstrates GEN's commitment to inclusive, adaptive and sustainable social innovation. The experience underscores the importance of listening, learning, and co-creating with members.

Conference – #ALN25

ALN's summer conference will again be delivered over two days – one online on Wednesday 18 June (on MS Teams) and one in-person on Friday 11 July. There will be presentations and workshops from a wide range of ALN and non-ALN members on a variety of sub-themes, including EDI-related activity as well as sponsored places and encouragement to under-represented and marginalised communities and sectors to attend.

CILIPS

2025 Annual Conference

Our 2025 Annual Conference featured several EDI-themed sessions, including a keynote on audiobook production, a parallel session led by the Accessible Formats Service at the University of Glasgow, and a panel workshop exploring how libraries can celebrate Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month this June.

Green Libraries Scotland Grant Fund

Grounded in climate justice, our Green Libraries Scotland Grant Fund is once again open to applications, with a particular focus on projects that support and strengthen the link between literacy and sustainability.

CILIPS's programme of library-led feminist events

Inspired by Winspiration, CILIPS's programme of library-led feminist events, I am lucky enough to be editing a new Facet title, *Feminist Librarianship* (2026) which features a range of EDI-rooted contributions, from library-led eco-feminism and menstrual literacy to how our sector can help to tackle toxic masculinity and more.

RLUK

Upcoming RLUK Inclusive Collections, Inclusive Libraries (ICIL) events

Inclusive Collections, Inclusive Libraries is an RLUK programme of events that aims to foster conversation around decolonisation and inclusive practice in collecting, describing, presenting, and engaging with content in research library collections. It seeks to raise awareness about the opportunities and challenges of dealing with, contextualising, and engaging with offensive collections while also identifying and sharing examples of good practice.

Towards equity and inclusion through special collections and archives on 24 June

This event draws inspiration from the recently published position paper, 'On Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: a position paper by RLUK's Special Collections and Heritage Network'. This position paper includes five objectives which underline the collective commitment of professionals in the network to EDI. The paper can also be used as a framework for helping institutions meet their EDI goals.

'Re-entangling the visual archive': lessons from working with visual artists at Cambridge University Libraries on 23 September

This talk will provide practical reflections on a [recent project](#) which brought together a group of visual artists from Zambia to explore methods of creative intervention and new ways to engage with archival material, particularly problematic colonial-era collections.

Find out more and register at https://www.rluk.ac.uk/icil/ .

CALC2025 Conference

Christina Kamposiori, RLUK's Executive Programme Officer recently presented on "Embedding diversity and inclusion in research library recruitment practices." at the CALC2025 (Critical Approaches to Libraries) conference in May. The talk explored how issues around equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) were represented in the job descriptions of RLUK member institutions.

The slides are available [here](#).

SCURL

SCURL EDI Network toolkit

The review of the SCURL Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network Toolkit is nearing completion, with most content areas now updated on the website. The Network is developing a set of inclusive principles which will be agreed by member institutions and will provide a strategic overview linked to the Toolkit.

Reading group launch

The Network will launch a reading group at the SCURL Conference in June following extensive piloting. The reading group aims to provide a space for staff to educate themselves through discussion. The group has identified 5 focus areas: decolonisation, white privilege, accessibility, trans rights and intersectional feminism.

SCURL Annual Conference

The SCURL Annual Conference will take place in Aberdeen on 19 June with a broad theme of inclusivity. The event features a broad range of speakers including keynotes from Dr Rachel Shanks, Interdisciplinary Director for Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity at the University of Aberdeen, and Beth Hellen-Montague, Head of Library and Information Services at The Frances Crick Institute and author of *Practical Tips for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries*.

UKSG

EDI Working Group

UKSG has formed an EDI Working Group comprising of representatives across libraries, publishers, and intermediaries. After an initial meeting, the working group has decided to initially focus on a prioritisation exercise and a review of available data.

WHELF

New EDI Group Chair

The WHELF (Wales Higher Education Library Forum) EDI Group has bid a grateful farewell to previous Chair, Catherine Finch, who instituted many positive changes in the Group, including regular topical conversations. Charity Dove (Cardiff University) has stepped in as the new Chair following two years of working closely with Catherine.

Transitioning into a Community of Practice

The WHELF EDI Group is navigating further structural changes as they transition into a Community of Practice. In the first instance, this involves reducing formal meetings to 2-3 times per year, whilst instituting monthly optional and informal short catch-ups. This year, WHELF has also launched a new Events Group to manage teachmeets, conferences and training across all WHELF Groups. Part of the re-envisaged EDI Group's new remit will be to collate the good practice and resources shared in the topical discussions and monthly catch-ups and feed these back to the Events Group for consideration in future events.

Cataloguing Code of Ethics

In addition to the above, the EDI Group is currently partnering with the WHELF Metadata Group to create a page on the WHELF website dedicated to the Cataloguing Code of Ethics. This new page will include an official statement of adoption by the overarching WHELF organisation, as well as good practice examples of how the Code of Ethics has been used by WHELF member institutions. There will also be links to useful resources for anyone looking to find out more about the Cataloguing Code of Ethics and implement it in their own institutions. The official statement and draft webpage content will be submitted to the WHELF Board for their meeting in early July, and once approved and the webpage is live, this will be promoted on social media.

Building a new Terms of Reference and more

Looking ahead, the EDI Group will be collaboratively building a new Terms of Reference and content for their page on the WHELF website, and then will begin work on developing a dedicated Equality Impact Assessment to be used on all WHELF projects and promoted to WHELF member institutions. The EDI Group is also investigating the most sustainable and inclusive way to capture and share our EDI good practice and resources.