

## News

### SCONUL AGM and members meeting 2021, 15 September

SCONUL is pleased to announce that the OfS Head of Strategy, Josh Fleming and OfS Strategic Policy Adviser, Lara Bird will be our keynote speakers at the SCONUL members meeting on 15 September. Both were among the architects of Sir Michael Barber's 2020 Digital Teaching and Learning Review and will be talking about how the past 18 months' experiences will reshape UK higher education. The meeting includes our AGM which is an occasion to review SCONUL's work from 2020 – 2021 and engage with plans for next year. Alongside formal business, including Executive Board elections, there will be an opportunity for members to discuss, from your own pandemic-driven experiences, how higher education will evolve in the coming years. To register click here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IBVjv2-PSEuFz\\_B3DpWMMKw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IBVjv2-PSEuFz_B3DpWMMKw)

### Libraries after Lockdown: Blended Learning and the Shape and Design of Library Services, 29 September

This next event in the Libraries after Lockdown project will look at developing thinking across HE on delivering blended learning and teaching. We will hear perspectives on the implications for libraries from those leading the sector's thinking on these issues including Mary Curnock Cook OBE, UPP, James Clay, Jisc, Josh Fleming, OfS and Meg Price, UPP. This will be followed by a plenary session. You can find out more and register [here](#).

### Libraries after Lockdown event recordings

Recordings of all previous Libraries after Lockdown events are available to view on the event platform. If you were unable to attend or to stay online or simply want to re-visit the various discussions, login to the event site with your existing credentials. You will also find materials referenced, including transcripts of the event chat with your comments and questions on the event page under 'resources'. The Libraries after Lockdown programmes are open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. You can find out more and register [here](#).

### SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions' Forum, 14 October

SCONUL is setting up a forum for small and specialist institutions to come together to share experiences, information and best practice. The first meeting will be held on Thursday 14 October from 11 am to 12 noon. This follows the successful webinar held on 15 July. While small and specialist institutions have a wide range of missions and experiences, the discussion identified the significant value there is to members in sharing these experiences and working collaboratively on common challenges. It is open to all those leading SCONUL member institutions who define themselves as specialist or small and their senior teams plus invited guests. The focus of this discussion will be on plans for, and experiences of, delivering services for the next academic year. We will also have a short discussion about the Forum's aims, membership and focus. Click here to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqdeGtpzIjH9EXDOxAQCu7H6eUzKJec151>

### SCONUL community of interest groups

SCONUL has set 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). Membership is open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. If this is of interest and you would like to get involved please register your interest via: [Join-SCONUL-CIG](#). The next set of meetings will be taking places as follows:

- Organisational development, 30 September 14:00-15:30:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArceqppz0oHt1jhHJzHeqcPGCKRFuN2ZX7>

- Embracing disruption, 6 October 14:00-15:30:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8983998510>
- Delivering blended learning, 13 October 10:00-11:30:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9893998510>

### **Statement of Solidarity with Librarians and Archivists in Afghanistan**

SCONUL alongside CILIP and Research Libraries UK have issued a statement of solidarity with librarians and archivists in Afghanistan. We are gravely concerned at the threat to the safety and security of librarians and archivists resulting from the change of regime in Afghanistan and call on the new regime to guarantee their ability to carry out their professional duties without threat or coercion. The full statement can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/news/statement-of-solidarity-with-librarians-and-archivists-in-afghanistan>

### **SCONUL Statistics 2019-20**

SCONUL is pleased to announce that the 2019-20 Statistical Data is now available to members on the website at <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/sconul-annual-library-statistics-2019-20> (you'll need to log in to view this page – <http://www.sconul.ac.uk/user>). The Reporting Tool, which allows users to compare and benchmark data from across institutions and particular mission groups is also available on the website and a guide with instructions and examples for using the Reporting Tool can be found [here](#). SCONUL has also provided additional analysis alongside its 2019-20 Annual Statistical Data entitled 'The Covid-19 library' (2021). This report looks at the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the UK HE sector and considers how this may shape the academic libraries of the future.

### **SCONUL Annual Statistical Return 2020-21**

The SCONUL statistics survey for 2020-21 is due to be released by the end of September. Additional time has been taken to consider and include a new group of questions related to libraries' experiences and service delivery during the pandemic. In this regard we hope to continue reflecting and providing key reference data to members on the changing face of library and information services.

### **UKRI announces new Open Access Policy**

UKRI has published its open access policy. The updated policy requires immediate open access for peer-reviewed research articles submitted for publication from 1 April 2022. It also includes a new requirement for monographs, book chapters and edited collections published from 1 January 2024 to be made open access within 12 months of publication. [Read more](#)

### **Plan B - what's the big deal?**

On Wednesday 18 August the RLUK Collections Strategy Network (CSN) held an event which explored many aspects of 'Plan B' planning for content access and brought together key pieces of work going on across the sector. The meeting discussed alternative access methods including interlibrary loan and OA discovery, modelling and data gathering including the use of Unsub, and communication and academic engagement. RLUK have shared the event recording with SCONUL members which can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/partner-events>

### **The Professional Service Directors' Programme 2022**

The Association of Heads of University Administration (AHUA) has launched the sixth iteration of its development programme targeted at new heads of service to help develop their leadership skills. The Professional Service Directors' Programme, which has been informed by collaboration between AHUA, SCONUL and a number of other professional associations, will start in January 2022. The programme has been designed to enhance and develop the existing leadership skills, knowledge, experience and mindset of early-career directors and heads within higher education professional services, to achieve greater personal impact and influence. Through a range of tailored activities including individual sessions, action learning and whole group workshops featuring specialist guest contributors, participants will explore what's needed to become more effective in their roles from a variety of different perspectives. The deadline for applications is 26 November 2021. [Read more](#)

### **AHUA online governance programme**

AHUA have announced a new Online Governance Programme comprising six, 90-minute, monthly, online workshops starting on 13 October. The programme has been devised as a Masterclass introduction to governance – starting with the fundamentals, and moving on to identify the key building

blocks of a high-quality system of governance. The course is targeted at professionals occupying a governance role in their institution. It will also be of interest to other HE professionals who want, or need, to know more about governance including colleagues working in related areas such as library, legal, finance, risk, audit, regulation, compliance, HR, corporate affairs. The deadline for applications is Friday 1 October 2021. [Read more](#)

### **Pre-call announcement: AHRC-RLUK Professional Practice Fellowship Scheme**

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Research Libraries UK (RLUK) have made a pre-call announcement regarding the forthcoming launch of a Professional Practice Fellowship Scheme. A Townhall meeting to accompany this pre-call will be held on [Wednesday 22 September](#) at which potential applicants can ask questions about the scheme. Full applications will open on Monday 4 October and will close on Friday 3 December 2021. Decisions and awards will be announced in early February 2022. [Read more](#)

### **UKeIG announces the call for nominations for the Jason Farradane Award 2021**

The UK e-information Group (UKeIG) has announced a call for nominations for the Jason Farradane Award 2021. The Jason Farradane Award is given in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the library and information profession. It will be awarded to an individual or a team in recognition of exemplary and innovative practice. This may take the form of a specific project, a piece of research or the development of a service or resource, for example. The Award celebrates creativity and enterprise across the library and information profession in its widest sense. UKeIG also recently announced a call for nominations for the Tony Kent Strix Award which is awarded for a major, sustained or influential contribution to the field of search/information retrieval.

### **Retirement of Lorraine Estelle as COUNTER Project Director**

COUNTER have announced that Lorraine Estelle will be retiring in Spring 2022 after six years as the COUNTER Project Director. During her time Lorraine has overseen some of the most important developments in COUNTER's history as well as inspired dozens of volunteers on a range of committees to contribute their knowledge and expertise to make COUNTER what it is today and to ensure it is robust and reliable going forwards. COUNTER will be starting the process to recruit a successor in September 2021, with a view to having the new person in place in March or April 2022.

### **Updates from our peer organisations:**

1. Academic Libraries North <https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/newsletters>
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/>
8. ucisa <https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views>
9. WHELP <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](mailto:SitMui.Ng@sconul.ac.uk).

### **Vacancy: Special Collections Librarian, Birmingham City University**

Birmingham City University are seeking to appoint a Special Collections Librarian for the Library and Learning Resources (L&LR) Directorate. Reporting to the Head of Collection Management and Engagement (CME) this role will deliver on L&LR strategic objectives to ensure that their special collections and archives are more visible and accessible, and therefore better able to support the needs of learners, teaching and researchers. The Collections include The University Archive, The Royal College of Organist's collection, special collections of rare books, the John Lane Paper, and the Ginsberg Archive. **Closing date 19 September** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Electronic Resources Manager, University of Salford**

University of Salford are seeking to appoint an Electronic Resources Manager to deliver and support digital resource acquisition, creation, and curation in line with strategic content priorities. The post holder will be required to juggle multiple competing priorities and tight deadlines and will lead the collections work on delivering, analysing and assessing transformative agreements working in close collaboration with colleagues from our library research team applying the innovative model we have developed at Salford. **Closing date 19 September** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: LIBER Quarterly Chair of Editorial Board**

LIBER are seeking a candidate to take on the voluntary role of Chair of the Editorial Board of LIBER Quarterly. They are looking for a Library & Information Services (LIS) professional or LIS academic with experience and/or a keen interest in LIS publishing. The post holder will play a key role in the development of a leading international journal. **Closing date 20 September** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Head of Research & Learning Information Services, University of Aberdeen**

University of Aberdeen are recruiting for a brand new senior strategic post to work with the University Librarian & Head of Library Services in developing Library services in line with the University's Aberdeen 2040 strategic plan. The post will lead on the management and development of the Library's professional activities in support of teaching, learning and research and will be pivotal in service realignment and the strengthening of relationships with academic and professional partners. **Closing date 20 September** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Digital Archivist, RCSI Dublin Ireland**

RCSI, University of Medicine & Health Sciences, Dublin is seeking a Digital Archivist. This is a new role which will be key in maintaining, developing and delivering RCSI digital heritage collections. The post holder will contribute significantly to promotional and public engagement activities, online and onsite, which use heritage material to support RCSI organisational goals. Working with internal and external stakeholders they will acquire and process historically and institutionally significant digital collections for the benefit of RCSI and future users of the collections. **Closing date 22 September** [Read more](#)

### **Vacancy: Assistant Director, University of St Andrews**

University of St Andrews is looking for an Assistant Director (Academic Engagement and Student Experience) to develop Library spaces and services, championing an approach based on service excellence and continuous improvement. The successful candidate will have a combination of leadership ability, management experience, strategic thinking, and expertise in at least one of the areas covered by the Academic Engagement and Student Experience teams. Working across the University, they will be able to shape the post-pandemic future of Library spaces and services at St Andrews, and the strategy and plans of an active and ambitious Libraries and Museums team. **Closing date 27 September** [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](mailto:sitmui.ng@sconul.ac.uk)

### **Current COVID resources**

- Government guidance for English universities on Covid-19 (updated 17 August): <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: <https://gov.wales/higher-education-coronavirus>
- The Scottish government's guidance for universities, colleges and community learning and development providers to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 (updated 7 September): <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-universities-colleges-and-community-learning-and-development-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](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>
- 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>.
- All events this academic year (2021-22) will 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

If you would like SCONUL to include any events that may be of interest to directors, please e-mail [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

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

**Libraries after Lockdown: Blended Learning and the Shape and Design of Library Services, 29 September**

**THE and Adobe: Maximising outcomes with blended learning: Present and future strategies for taking a student-centred approach, 30 September**

**New Librarianship Symposia Series, Autumn 2021**

**SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions' Forum, 14 October**

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

**Call for papers: CSGUK Annual Conference, 26 November**