News

SCONUL Autumn conference, 19 November, Birmingham: Library Transformation

Registration for SCONUL's Autumn conference is open now, with 20 places remaining. Focusing on *Library Transformation: people and place*, the conference will include a keynote address from Flora Ng, Chief Information Officer and University Librarian, The University of Hong Kong, who will be showcasing the library transformation project she is leading. We will also have the results of the SCONUL Library Design Awards and sessions on driving digital transformation and creating vision and motivation within libraries, as well as workshops on the evolution of hybrid working; on effective collaboration for shared services and on Jisc's new Digital Transformation Library Lens. Speakers include Amina Shah, National Librarian and Chief Executive, National Library of Scotland, Wendy White from the University of Southampton and Emma Walton, from Loughborough University. 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. Read more

Town Hall on the outcomes of the 'Big Five' journal negotiations: 20 October 14.00 – 15.30

SCONUL and RLUK are holding a joint Town Hall meeting to discuss progress in the "big five" negotiations with Elsevier, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, Wiley and Sage, being conducted on the sector's behalf by Jisc. This will provide an opportunity to learn about the outcome of the consultation on the proposals to date and we'll hear from Anna Vernon, Head of Research Licensing, and Sarah Roughley Barake, Licensing Portfolio Specialist at Jisc. The session will also provide an opportunity for members to share feedback and to discuss next steps. The meeting is on Monday 20 October, from 2pm to 3.30pm. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL AI coffee morning, 31 October

The next SCONUL AI coffee morning on Friday 31 October will look at libraries' engagement with commercial suppliers and will hear from colleagues at the Bodleian Library on their collaboration with Open AI and from Rebecca Hirsch at Edinburgh on the contrasting approach being taken there. SCONUL's regular AI coffee morning brings together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries to share experiences and ask questions on the last Friday of every month from 10am to 11.30am. 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.

Call for speakers: November AI coffee morning, 28 November

The SCONUL AI and information literacy CIG is looking for contributors to the November AI coffee morning which is on the challenge of overcoming impostor feelings and anxiety about AI. Given the rapid pace of change in this space, many colleagues in the library community and those we are supporting (academics, researchers, students, etc.) are experiencing completely natural feelings of uncertainty and unease. The CIG is looking for either short presentations (5-10 minutes) or colleagues who might be

interested in a short panel discussion, followed by a wider discussion from the attendees. The AI coffee morning will take place on 28 November from 10am – 11.30am. To express interest or for an informal chat, please contact Erin Nephin at e.nephin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk before 31 October.

AI in the library supply chain webinar

SCONUL's AI working group held a webinar on 18 September around AI in the library supply chain. The webinar focused on the implementation and integration of AI technologies in library services, with presentations and discussions on AI chatbots, metadata enrichment, staff training, and ethical considerations. We heard from Dr Sandra Tury, Associate Director, Online Library Services at University of London, who shared insights on the AI chatbot implemented at Senate House Library to support distance learners. Elly Cope, Head of Access and Acquisitions, and Alison Hazelaar, Access and Acquisitions Manager for Metadata and Discovery at University of Leeds introduced the University's initiatives in using AI for metadata and discovery services. SCONUL members can access the recording, chat transcript and presentations here.

September AI coffee morning

Our September AI coffee morning followed on from the "Engaging with University Leaders on AI" webinar that took place on 16 July. We started the coffee morning with a panel discussion where our panellists shared experiences and strategies for engaging leadership and developing policies around AI usage. We heard from: Kate Courage, Head of Library Academic Engagement at University of Worcester; Dr Georgia Koromila, Study Adviser at University of Reading Library and Erin Nephin, Library Academic Support Team Manager at Leeds Beckett University. SCONUL members can access the recording and chat transcript here.

New deputies' groups on managing change

In response to demand, SCONUL is considering setting up one or more groups for those who are part of leadership teams within their library where there is significant change underway and who want to have a confidential space to share experiences and approaches. These groups would operate along the lines of existing SCONUL new directors and deputy directors groups which are confidential and self-organising – bringing together groups of 8-10 people to come together confidentially for mutual support. The SCONUL office will facilitate their set up and initial meetings as required. The suggestion is that they are time limited, operating for as long as required. If you are interested in taking part in such a group, please email jo.lambert@sconul.ac.uk. Please feel free to provide any context that would be helpful in bringing people together.

SCONUL new director groups – expressions of interest

SCONUL is putting out a call for expressions of interest in membership of a new directors groups. The SCONUL new directors groups provide informal support and advice both virtually and through face to face meetings. In general, groups meet once or twice a year and have between a dozen and twenty members. Each group has their own discussion list and conversations are generally assumed to be confidential unless otherwise agreed. The SCONUL office facilitates the group's first meeting, after which, the groups are expected to self-organise. If you think you would benefit from joining such a group, please email Noura.Mokhtar@sconul.ac.uk.

Launch of the UK Print Book Collection

SCONUL invites colleagues to join us for the launch of the UK Print Book Collection (UK PBC) – a national distributed collection of print monographs, securing access to content now and for the future. The UK PBC is a shared service supported by RLUK, SCONUL, and the British Library and is underpinned by the National Bibliographic Knowledgebase operated by Jisc and supported by funding from AHRC. Any Higher Education and specialist library in the UK is welcome to join the UK PBC and membership will help your institution to make confident local collection management decisions which will facilitate more effective use of finite space, and other resources. We are holding two virtual events for those that would like to find out more about the UK PBC. These events will include: An overview of the UK PBC and the benefits of membership; Insights and experiences shared by two UK PBC pilot libraries; An opportunity to ask questions or offer comments. Please note that you only need to sign up for one of these events as the content will be identical. You can register via one of the following links, Wednesday 22 October – 13:30-14:30hrs or Monday 10 November – 11:00-12:00hrs.

Digital transformation library lens: a strategic toolkit to empower academic libraries

Jisc have launched the Digital Transformation Library Lens following consultation with library leaders across the SCONUL community. This is a tool for libraries to amplify, enhance and evidence their role and impact in digital transformation, as well as ensuring the recognition of library and information professionals' expertise. It offers a library focused perspective on the established framework for digital transformation in higher education and highlights how library and archive services contribute meaningfully to institutional change across the six key areas of the framework: organisational digital culture, knowledge creation and innovation, knowledge development, knowledge management and use, knowledge exchange and partnerships, and digital and physical infrastructure. There will be a workshop on this at the SCONUL Autumn Conference. Read more

The Librarians documentary

The Librarians is a new documentary following a group of embattled librarians fighting for intellectual freedom amidst an unprecedented wave of book banning across America. The film was released in UK and Irish cinemas on 26 September and you can watch the trailer here. If you are interested in organising a screening at your institution, please contact SCONUL at sconul@sconul.ac.uk and we'll be able to put you in touch with the promotions team.

Survey on AI Applications in Libraries

The Centre for Digital Scholarship at the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford is conducting a survey on AI Applications in Libraries. They are seeking input from library professionals across a wide range of institutions and technical backgrounds. All experiences with Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Language Models (LM) in libraries are valuable – from extensive engagement to no direct experience. They are especially interested in insights into how library professionals are approaching, experiencing, and viewing the application of AI and LMs in conducting, supplementing, or supporting institutional library work. The results of this research will inform the Bodleian Libraries' decisions and will also be shared with the wider library community. The survey should take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete and you can access it here: https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/oxford/horizon-scanning-ai-in-libraries. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Oertel, Project Researcher charlotte.oertel@tss.ox.ac.uk, or Megan Gooch, Principal Investigator megan.gooch@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

Green Libraries Week 2025: Libraries across the UK sow the seeds of climate action

Green Libraries Week will run from Monday 27 October to Sunday 2 November and the theme for this year's national campaign is 'Seeds of Change – Make a Difference with Your Library'. The spotlight for 2025 is on encouraging libraries at all stages in their sustainability journey to celebrate their climate action - no matter how big or small. The week will be launched with the Green Libraries Conference, taking place on Monday 27 October at the British Library Knowledge Centre in London. This event will bring together library professionals, sustainability leaders and community partners to explore how libraries can lead on climate action. SCONUL members SCONUL members can benefit a £50 discount on the ticket price by selecting the ticket 'Green Libraries Conference 2025 - GLP partner' and entering the code 'GL25SCONUL' checkout. Read more

OfS proposes revised Teaching Excellence Framework to drive up quality

The Office for Students (OfS) is consulting on a new quality assessment system that would provide students with a clear view of the quality of teaching and learning delivered by every registered university and college. The OfS propose integrating some of their quality assessment activities and the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), which would rate every university and college on its quality of education on a cyclical basis. These ratings would come with strengthened incentives for institutions to improve students' experience and outcomes. They are keen to hear from staff at institutions, students and their representatives and others with an interest in quality, and are hosting a range of events where you can find out more about the proposals and share feedback. The survey can be found here and the deadline for responses is 11 December. Read more

Using AI in university research report

JISC has published a report, *Small Language Models for libraries and computational humanities: Practical opportunities and use cases for academic libraries and computational humanities researchers*. The report signposts effective work with language models, especially small models, in collections-based humanities research. The key findings section suggests practical activities to help practitioners make good decisions about using AI in university research. The implications of these technologies for librarians who support humanities (and potentially social science) research are discussed. Read more

New Boston Library Consortium report: Evaluation Criteria for Resource Sharing Software

The Boston Library Consortium (BLC) has published a report on *Evaluation Criteria for Resource Sharing Software*. This report details the ongoing efforts of BLC's ILL Systems Evaluation Working Group to develop a set of comprehensive and extensible practitioner-driven criteria to evaluate library resource sharing software and investigate the functionality of current options on the commercial marketplace. You can explore the evaluation criteria and full report at https://blc.org/evaluating-resource-sharing-software.

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

SCONUL is setting up a series of new groups to support the delivery of our strategy including Task and Finish Groups on Shared Services, and on Sustainability and Climate Change; and standing groups on Business Intelligence and on EDI. We will be sending out a call for members for these groups shortly. Membership will be an excellent opportunity to influence and shape the work of both SCONUL and the community. Please do look out for the call and consider putting yourself forward.

SCONUL has a working group on the HE Reference Models which are widely used across HE. This group is developing recommended changes to ensure that these accurately reflect the contribution of libraries and is working closely with UCISA colleagues on that change. We will be sharing the outcomes of that work with the community in due course.

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: Library Learning Advisor, University of Law
The University of Law are looking to recruit a Library Learning Advisor. This post will be based at the Manchester Campus. The post holder will be working across the entire Library & Study Skills Service to help students and staff explore collections, make use of learning spaces and engage with the skills support services. They will be answering student and staff enquiries, deliver workshops and undertake stock management activities. The Library Learning Advisor will be a key member of the team, enabling students and staff to develop strong information literacy, digital and academic skills through the provision of specialist training and support. **Closing date 3 October** Read more

Vacancy: Subject Librarian, University of West London

University of West London are looking for a Subject Librarian to join the UWL Library Services team to work with the School of Law, the Institute for Policing Studies and the School of Medicine and Biosciences. The post holder will be the main contact between the library and the three schools mentioned. The role will cover designing and teaching information literacy classes to students and develop additional material, including video tutorials. The post holder will provide enquiry support for students and staff, both online and in person, including one-to-one appointments. They will be responsible for collection management for the subject areas with a focus on creating an inclusive library collection. **Closing date 5 October** Read more

Vacancy: Associate Director (Education), University of Surrey

University of Surrey are seeking an Associate Director (Education). The role forms part of the Library and Learning Services Senior Leadership Team, along with two other Associate Directors and the Director of Library and Learning Services, to whom this post reports. Whilst we expect the three Associate Directors to work closely together, this role will have a particular focus on setting strategic direction for education within the library context, ensuring that the learning development team provides the highest levels of support for students, working collaboratively with various stakeholders in the Surrey community. **Closing date 8 October** Read more

Vacancy: Enquiry and Disability Services Librarian, UWE Bristol

UWE Bristol are seeking to appoint an Enquiry and Disability Support Librarian. 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. They 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. **Closing date 12 October** Read more

Vacancy: Library Assistant, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

The Library Assistant will assist library customers to access and use library resources, services and facilities in support of their learning, teaching and research activities; all Library Assistants are members of the Customer Services team providing a welcoming and knowledgeable frontline service to users online and onsite. Library Assistants are also assigned to provide dedicated support in one or more service portfolios which currently include: Information Point & Outreach Coordinator; Teaching & Learning; Open Research; Library Systems; Content & Metadata Management; Clinical Support; and Heritage Collections. **Closing date 15 October** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Cultural Collections, Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester Metropolitan University is seeking a Head of Cultural Collections to help shape the future of their nationally significant collections. The post holder will lead the development and impact of the collections in the North West Film Archive, Manchester Poetry Library and Special Collections. Balancing management and care of the collections with creativity and ambition, they will ensure they inspire discovery, generate knowledge and transform lives. **Closing date 19 October** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Digital Services and Transformation, Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester Metropolitan University are seeking a Head of Digital Services and Transformation to deliver transformative change across their service and user experience. The post holder will lead the current and future development and delivery of user focussed digital systems, platforms and services, and drive digital transformation in Library and Cultural Services. **Closing date 19 October** Read more

Vacancy: Open Research Librarian, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dublin
RSCI are looking for a librarian with experience of supporting researchers, knowledge of repository management and open access. Based at St Stephen's Green, Dublin and working as part of RCSI Library's Education, Research & Clinical Support team, the Open Research Librarian leads the operation and development of the RCSI Repository, Open Access promotion and training, advice and support for Open Access publishing, research impact and metrics. **Closing date 22 October** Read more

Vacancy: Open Research Manager, University of Sheffield
The University of Sheffield Library is recruiting for an Open Research Manager. Working across the University and nationally with the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN), the post holder will support projects to accelerate open research practices, embed an open research culture, and enhance research transparency, reliability, and reproducibility. **Closing date 22 October** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Library Content and Digital Environment, Buckinghamshire New University
Buckinghamshire New University are seeking a Head of Library Content and Digital Environment to join Library and Archives. This is a new role and the post holder will be leading a newly created team, they will ensure the collections and systems meet the needs of the learning community, overseeing the acquisition and management of physical and digital resources, open access, and library systems. The post holder will lead a team of library staff, empowering them to deliver excellent customer-focused services and championing inclusive practices. As part of the Library and Archives Management Team, the Head of Library Content and Digital Environment will contribute to strategic planning, budget oversight, and cross-institutional projects, fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation. **Closing date 26 October** Read more

Vacancy: Library Assistant, University for the Creative Arts
University for the Creative Arts are seeking a part-time Library assistant at their Epsom campus. The University Library Assistant supports the daily operations of the University Library by assisting students and staff in accessing resources, managing library materials and providing excellent customer service. The role includes administrative duties, resource organisation and technical support to ensure an efficient and welcoming library. **Closing date 27 October** 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.

NLISN: Adjustments in the LIS Workplace for Neurodivergent Staff, Leeds, 6 October

ISKO UK 2025 Conference "Knowledge Organization in the Age of AI: Innovation, Integration and Impact", 7 October

LearnWise: AI in UK Higher Education: Leadership Insights on Strategic Adoption, 8 October

Open Science Conference 2025, Hamburg, 8-9 October

Jisc: Student experience experts group meeting, 14 October

Open and Engaged 2025, 20, 21, 23 October

Public Policy Exchange: Supporting Local Libraries: Anchoring libraries as cultural hubs and engines for social mobility and cohesion, 30 October

Online Ed 2025, 4 November

OAI14 – Open Science in a changing world, 10-14 November

National Acquisitions Group Webinar Week 2025, 17-21 November

SCONUL Autumn conference, Birmingham, 19 November

CILIP Supplier Showcase, Manchester, 21 November

CSGUK Annual Conference, Birmingham, 28 November

 Fantastic Futures 2025, London, 3-5 December

Call for Papers: RCN Nursing Librarianship Conference 2025 'Change, react, adapt: Future-proofing nursing library services', 10 December

Copim Conference, 26-27 February 2026

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

Call for topics: UKSG Annual Conference, Glasgow, 30 March–1 April 2026

Call for presentations: LILAC 2026, Sheffield, 30 March – 1 April 2026