

News

Shared services in academic and research libraries

SCONUL has published a report exploring the opportunities for new shared services in the library space. The report is the outcome of a roundtable meeting of SCONUL library directors at the end of May 2025, and it includes: a general assessment of the benefits of shared services for libraries; seven opportunities for further shared services, including benefits, barriers and suggested next steps; and a list of existing shared services in the library space. The SCONUL Board and Strategy Groups will be taking this debate forward, including talking to members, peer organisations and stakeholders about priorities and focus.

[Read more](#)

SCONUL Autumn conference, 19 November, Birmingham: Library Transformation

SCONUL's Autumn Conference on *Library Transformation: people and place* 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. 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.

SCONUL Executive Board

SCONUL is pleased to announce that at its AGM on 14 July Lorraine Beard (Liverpool Hope University), Mark Hughes (Cardiff Metropolitan University), Janet Peden (Ulster University), Phil Brabban (Coventry University) and Katy Woolfenden (University of Manchester have been elected and re-elected respectively to the [Board](#). SCONUL is also grateful to Liz White, Director of Library Partnerships at the British Library who is co-opted representing national libraries, Allison Kavanagh, Head of Library Services at Technological University Dublin who is co-opted representing libraries in Ireland, Martina McChrystal, Director of Library Services at University of Glasgow who is co-opted representing libraries in Scotland, Amy Straker, Library Manager at Norwich University of the Arts who is co-opted representing the interests of small and specialist institutions and Gary Steele, Head of Library Services at Glasgow Caledonian University who is co-opted to represent SCONUL in the content space. Congratulations to all concerned. With many thanks to James Anthony-Edwards, Andrew Barker, Libby Homer, Liz Jolly and Kate Kelly who are standing down.

SCONUL's support for members

SCONUL has published its *Annual report and audited accounts* for 2024. This gives a useful overview of its activity over the last year and sets out our future plans. The report can be found at:

https://www.sconul.ac.uk/media/imterlwq/sconul_annual_report_and_audited_accounts_2024.pdf

SCONUL Statistics 2023-24

SCONUL is pleased to announce that the *SCONUL Annual Library Statistics 2023-24* has been published and is available to members on our website at <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/services-for-members/benchmarking-statistics/sconul-annual-library-statistics-2023-24/> (you'll need to log in to view this page). SCONUL has also provided additional analysis alongside its 2023-24 Annual Statistical Data entitled *Spotlight: The new library landscape post Covid: challenges and opportunities* (2025). This report looks at how academic libraries have adapted their ways of working over recent years in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the accelerated shift to online learning. The 2023-24 data will be available on the Reporting Tool shortly.

NSS results for libraries

The NSS results, published 9 July, show continuing high levels of student satisfaction with university libraries' support for students. The results for question 20 "How well have the library resources (e.g., books, online services and learning spaces) supported your learning?" give an average score across the UK of 90.1, up on last year's score of 89.8 and showing the second most positive rating for any aspect of student satisfaction covered by the NSS after Q1 on the quality of teaching. Congratulations to the top three institutions who scored over 97%: Northern School of Contemporary Dance (100%); Royal College of Music (97.7%); and University of Oxford (97.4%). [Read more](#)

SCONUL Academic Libraries and Learning Technologies CIG meeting, 15 September

The Academic Libraries and Learning Technologies CIG is a community of practice bringing together those with an interest in learning delivery and related technologies. Their next meeting will take place on 15 September at 11.00hrs and the theme will be on digital skills for students, academics and library staff. What are the methods or tools for identifying necessary digital skills among different cohorts? What is the design of the training? What are the challenges in equipping different cohorts in digital skills? etc. The meeting is open to all, whatever your role or level of expertise, and we welcome the sharing of different perspectives and practices. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk. To join the community and to be kept informed of this and future events please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk to sign up the mailing list.

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 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](#)

Jisc Publisher Negotiations Expert Group: seeking HE representative member

Jisc is pleased to announce an opportunity to join their [Publisher Negotiations Expert Group](#). This plays a vital role in shaping their strategic direction and ensuring effective publisher negotiations. The big five negotiations are currently a significant focus of the group's work. Jisc are currently seeking an HE

representative member and welcome applications from individuals in roles such as: Library Directors; Associate and Deputy Directors; and Research and Collections Management professionals within libraries. In ongoing efforts to ensure broad and inclusive participation this would ideally from a band not currently represented within the group and which enhances the geographical diversity of the group: see the group's [webpage](#). To express your interest in joining the group please contact Wendy.Jupp@Jisc.ac.uk providing details of your role and the skills and experience which you would use to contribute to the work of the group by close of business on 27 August. For further information please contact [Wendy Jupp](#) (Wendy will be on leave from 11– 25 August, during this time please contact sarah.roughleybarake@jisc.ac.uk, licensing portfolio specialist for research licensing).

Town hall meeting on the 'Big Five' negotiations

SCONUL was joined by over 430 colleagues for a town hall meeting on 18 July to hear about the latest developments in the negotiations with the big five publishers. Sarah Roughley Barake, Licensing Portfolio Specialist, and Anna Vernon, Head of Research Licensing at Jisc, provided a comprehensive overview of the offers from Elsevier, SAGE, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley, including key terms, pricing, and open access commitments. They outlined the structure and process for the upcoming consultation, including documentation, timelines, and support resources. SCONUL members can email sconul@sconul.ac.uk if they wish to access the recording, presentation and Q&A.

Engagement with university leaders in AI conversations webinar

SCONUL held a webinar on 16 July with Gavin Boyce, Head of Faculty and Partnerships and Graham McElearney, Digital Commons Digital Makerspace Manager, at the University of Sheffield, Robert Curry, Associate Director – Learning and Digital Development at Oxford Brookes University, and Mark Hughes, Head of Library Services at Cardiff Metropolitan University. The webinar focused on how university libraries and academic leaders are responding to the challenges and opportunities presented by AI, particularly generative AI, by developing guidance, building institutional capacity, and collaborating with senior leadership to ensure ethical, agile, and effective integration of AI in academic environments. SCONUL members can access the recording, chat transcript and presentations [here](#).

NLISN neurodivergent library staff survey

The neurodivergent library and information staff network ([NLISN](#)) are undertaking a survey to try and gauge the representation of neurodivergent staff within Higher Education library workplaces. Could you please forward [this survey](#) to your staff and encourage them to fill it in? It takes roughly 5 minutes to complete and (anonymous) results are expected to be available later this year.

UK Print Book Collection (UK PBC)

The board for UK PBC has been established and includes representation from SCONUL, the British Library, Jisc, RLUK and legal deposit libraries. Following a series of successful pilot projects with a range of libraries, UK PBC will officially launch this autumn. UK PBC will be in touch soon with full details, including a memorandum of understanding for participating libraries and information on membership levels. In the meantime, if you're reviewing your print collections over the summer, it would help if you could use [Jisc Library Hub Compare](#) to check whether a print monograph is among the last seven known copies in the UK. If it is, please keep it for now. If you can upload the new retention statement, we encourage you to do so. A new version of [retention statements](#) (583 field) has been developed based on recently revised international standards. This allows libraries to indicate that they are committed to retain

the relevant item for a specified timeframe. These new guidelines for monographs can also be used independently of UK PBC. If you have any questions about the use of the 583 fields, please contact nbk@jisc.ac.uk.

‘There is no political power without power over the archive’

Richard Ovenden OBE, Head of GLAM, Bodley's Librarian and the Helen Hamlyn Director of the University Libraries at the University of Oxford, has written a piece for *The Observer*. Titles banned, data deleted, the nation's librarians sacked without explanation – Donald Trump's war on books is a threat to democracy across the world, writes the head of Oxford University's libraries. [Read more](#)

Call for proposals: LIBER Architecture Group Seminar 2026, Dublin

Submission for papers, are invited, for the LIBER Architecture Group Seminar 2026 “Invest – Involve – Inspire: Shaping the next generation of Library Buildings”. The event will take place on 6-8 May 2026 and will be hosted by Technological University Dublin which is currently completing its new Academic Hub & Library at its [Grangegorman campus](#). This seminar will bring together library professionals, architects, designers, and other stakeholders in the library architecture and design field to share insights and explore the challenges and opportunities in shaping the future of libraries. All submissions will undergo a peer review process. Selected authors will be invited to present their work at the LIBER Architecture Group Seminar in Dublin. [Read more](#)

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

SCONUL has put together a working group to review the [HE Reference Models](#) being widely used across HE to ensure that these accurately reflect the contribution of libraries and the first meeting of the group will be taking place this month. Over August the Board will be discussing how they want to take forward the important work identified by the Shared Services report mentioned above, as well as picking up the conversations arising with our core stakeholders.

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/>

Bibliographic Services Manager, Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University Belfast are seeking a Bibliographic Services Manager (Job Share - 0.5 FTE). In this role, with your Job Share partner, the post holder will lead the Bibliographic Services team, responsible for acquiring and cataloguing the Library's electronic and print content, and for managing and providing access to this content, whether purchased, licensed or open. This is a part-time permanent role, working in a job share capacity at 18.5 hours per week. **Closing date 4 August** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Subject Librarian, Goldsmiths, University of London

Goldsmiths, University of London are seeking a Subject Librarian. The post holder will be part of a team of Subject Librarians, ensuring liaison and business relationship management for all Goldsmiths academic schools and flexibly supporting all subjects and disciplines. They will design and deliver inclusive learning resources and workshops that support academic, digital, and research skills, both within the curriculum and through co-curricular activities. **Closing date 10 August** [Read more](#)

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Vacancy: Special Collections and Archives Librarian, University of Worcester

University of Worcester are seeking to appoint a Special Collections and Archives Librarian to join their research and content teams. This newly created post will support the establishment of a University archive service. The post holder will lead the development of the University archive and existing special collections, including the National Basketball Heritage Collection (NBHC). Managing stakeholder relationships and promoting the innovative use of the collections and university archives to support library services strategic objectives in relation to learning and teaching, research and community engagement will be key aspects of the role. **Closing date 10 August** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Library and Digital Technology Assistant, University of East London

The Library and Digital Technology Assistant plays a vital role in delivering exceptional front-line services to students, ensuring they have a positive experience while using library and IT resources. This position involves providing a friendly presence to address a wide range of inquiries—not only those related to library services and offering support that encourages independent learning. The post holder will be key in providing excellent customer service to the diverse student body and the research community. They will work within the customer services team and collaborate with other teams to maintain a high standard of service. **Closing date 11 August** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Academic Librarian and Library Manager, Loughborough University London Campus

Loughborough University is seeking an Academic Librarian and Library Manager to join their London campus and Library teams. The post manages the London campus library collection, space and service in collaboration with University Library colleagues. It also delivers learning, teaching and research support to the students and staff of Loughborough University London, acting as the main contact between the London campus and Library services in Loughborough. The post-holder will work closely with professional services staff in London as well as with a range of teams and staff on the Loughborough campus. **Closing date 17 August** [Read more](#)

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

City St George's University of London are looking to appoint an NHS Librarian to join the City St George's Library Team and 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 our local NHS staff to identify, design, develop and deliver the services they need to ensure excellent patient care as well as to support their workplace and development needs. **Closing date 17 August** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Library Supervisor, Goldsmiths, University of London

Goldsmiths, University of London is seeking a part-time Library Supervisor (0.5 FTE) to join their team. The Library Supervisor plays a vital role in shaping the experience of students and staff at Goldsmiths, delivering high-quality, customer-focused library services. This position is a campus role and is currently based within the Systems and Content team. The postholder will maintain in-depth knowledge and subject expertise in the standard operating procedures of the Systems and Content area. They will be responsible for overseeing the work of Senior Library Assistants and line managing Library Assistants to maintain consistency across areas. They will also act as a daily supervisor, liaising with stakeholders to ensure the smooth running of service points and day-to-day library operations. This is a permanent post. **Closing date 17 August** [Read more](#)

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ensure the smooth running of service points and day-to-day library operations. This is a fixed-term post until 10 May 2026. **Closing date 17 August** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Head of Special Collections & Archives, University College Cork

UCC Library is seeking a Head of Special Collections & Archives to provide strategic leadership in the development, preservation, discovery, and promotion of UCC Library's distinctive collections. Collections include rare books, manuscripts, archives, photographic collections and other unique or historical materials. This role is pivotal in supporting the University's teaching, learning, and research priorities through stewardship of these resources and by fostering their integration into teaching, learning and research activities. The Head of Special Collections & Archives will lead a team of specialist staff and will contribute to strategic planning, service innovation, and major projects for the area. With a focus on enhanced access, engagement, and long-term preservation, the role will collaborate across the Library and wider University to ensure that Special Collections & Archives remain visible, relevant, and accessible to diverse audiences, now and in the future. **Closing date 19 August** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Senior Library Assistant (4x 1 FTE posts), Goldsmiths, University of London

Goldsmiths, University of London are seeking candidates for four Senior Library Assistant posts. This is a newly-created role and an exciting opportunity grow and gain experience in a dynamic library service. Each post sits within a key area of the Library: Academic Enrichment & Skills Development, Library Experience, Open Research, or Systems & Content. The post holder will be expected to build knowledge and expertise in their area, including administrative responsibilities and supporting our Library Assistants, while also acting as a daily supervisor and helping to deliver inclusive frontline library services. **Closing date 31 August** [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.

"You deserve to take care of yourself": Experiences of ND Librarians, 2 September

Open Fifth: Library Open Source Software Shared Practice and Experience Forum, London, 7 August

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

Open Science Conference 2025, Hamburg, 8-9 October

SCONUL Autumn conference, Birmingham, 19 November

CSGUK Annual Conference, Birmingham, 28 November

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