

News

SCONUL launches new website

SCONUL's new brochure website has now gone live: www.sconul.ac.uk incorporating our new logo and colours. The new site has been developed so that it is much more browsable and easier to navigate and presents our work in a more coherent way. To access all the great resources on the website SCONUL members can register for a login for the new website via: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/register>. If you have previously logged in to our old site, you should have received an email to reset your password. Over the next few weeks, we will be adding further to the content, particularly the resources. Alongside this we are also pleased to announce that we have split our Access scheme off onto a student facing website that we intend to modernise over the next two years. The new Access website is available at:

www.access.sconul.ac.uk.

Vivienne Stern to deliver keynote at SCONUL members meeting, 15 July

We are pleased to announce that [Vivienne Stern MBE](#), Chief Executive at Universities UK, will deliver a keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and members meeting (11.30am – 1.30pm via Zoom) on Monday 15 July. With an election imminent, the discussion will look at the policy landscape we're currently navigating and the in-tray for a new government on HE. The AGM will include formal business including Executive Board elections and an opportunity for members to engage with SCONUL's work and get involved in shaping the community's future. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

SCONUL community of interest groups – register your interest

SCONUL is establishing a new set of community of interest groups as part of the new strategy. We are keen to hear from members who would like to take part in CIGs either as a member, as a co-chair or as an organiser, on the following potential subject areas:

- Higher-level apprenticeships
- The Future of the Systems Librarian
- Open-source solutions
- Academic Libraries and learning technologies
- AI and information literacy
- Library analytics

Further details can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/cpd-hub/community-of-interest-groups/> and you can register your interest by emailing sconul@sconul.ac.uk by 19 April.

Small and Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum, 17 April 10.30am

SCONUL will be holding its next SSI Forum on Wednesday 17 April, 10.30am-12pm. We will be sharing outcomes from the recent series of meetings with AI providers and discussing implications for the sector. We will also an update on the current review of the SCONUL statistics and invite members to share their

thoughts on how the statistics collection and reporting can be improved. Members are also invited to suggest topics or issues to cover. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

Rights retention policies webinar, 19 April 10am

SCONUL will be hosting a webinar to hear from institutions who have recently introduced rights retention policies. There are still a number of challenges associated with communicating the need for this type of policy at senior leadership level in universities, as well as scoping and developing a policy to suit the needs of your institution and this will provide an opportunity to share questions, experiences, and practice. We will also have an opportunity to consider the outputs from the Rumsey report on IRRP support (see below). E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

Use cases report for Jisc institutional rights retention policy (IRRP) support project

Following the first phase of [Jisc's institutional rights retention policy \(IRRP\) support project](#), Sally Rumsey produced a report on its community validated use cases and their prioritisation. A copy of the report can be found [here](#). You will need a member login to view this.

AI coffee mornings - Friday 26 April and then the last Friday of every month at 10am

There is a huge amount of interest across the community in AI developments. We are bringing together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month from 10am to 11.30am for the remainder of this year for an AI coffee morning. These will give an opportunity for library colleagues to come together, share experiences and ask questions so that we can explore these tools and techniques as a community. These are not expert forums but 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! At the first meeting on 26 April, members of the SCONUL AI team will share findings from the series of conversations that they have been holding with library service providers about their AI roadmaps. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

SCOPE 3 emissions requirements webinar, 3 May 2pm

SCONUL are bringing colleagues together to explore what the drive to reduce SCOPE 3 emissions means for institutions and how we can work with our supply chain, our spaces and our people to drive the change we all need to see. Led by the SCONUL project team on sustainability and the climate crisis, this webinar to provide an opportunity for those leading libraries to consider the implications of SCOPE 3 emissions requirements; to hear how colleagues in other libraries and sectors are approaching these challenges and to consider what actions we can take collectively to make change. There will an opportunity for colleagues to share practice and experience, to consider approaches and how potential barriers to change might be addressed. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

Controlled Digital Lending webinar, 8 May

Join colleagues from SCONUL, RLUK and Jisc to find out how libraries can take advantage of the opportunity offered by controlled digital lending to provide access to content not otherwise available in digital format; to allow us to provide accessible and inclusive readings to students; to provide remote access to special collections; or to supply out of commerce works. Attendees will hear from Jane Secker and Chris Morrison, authors of the report *Controlled Digital Lending in UK Higher Education: A Jisc briefing for HE member libraries* which has been supported by RLUK and SCONUL. This briefing, due to published this month, outlines the legal case for academic libraries to make use of CDL under UK law. We

will also explore use cases for CDL from Rachel Schulkins, Library Content Services Lead, University of Liverpool. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussions. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

Plan M, from principles to practice, and shaping the future event, London, 18 June

Believe it or not Plan M has been around for half a decade, and it feels like a good time to check in and see what the current “state of the nation” is. And to ask if we still have the same expected destination and imperative. Join leaders and practitioners at a day devoted to the current and future approaches to open metadata, linking to wider services, and challenging ourselves on the benefits or other opportunities emerging into this space. Attendees will hear from Simeon Warner, Associate University Librarian for Information Technology and Open Scholarship at Cornell University, Neil Grindley, Director of Content and Discovery Services at Jisc, Hannah Mateer, Head of Collections Services at University of Edinburgh and Stuart Hunt, Director of University Library and Collections, University Librarian, at Durham University. As well as keynotes setting the scene we will be breaking into groups where we will be exploring outputs that the sector can take forward. Dare we say putting the “plan” and actions into the Plan M principles? The event will be held at Jisc, 15 Fetter Ln, London EC4A 1BW and costs £45. Please note there is a limit of 60 tickets available on a first come, first served basis. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

SCONUL response to JISC's Critical Review on Transitional Agreements

Jisc released their Critical Review of Transitional Agreements in March 2024, with a webinar chaired by Ann Rossiter, Executive Director, SCONUL, to outline their key findings. The report is a comprehensive piece of work, that goes into great depth on the enduring impact of these deals on the UK and global scholarly communications landscape. SCONUL wishes to address a number of these points and has written [a statement](#), as well as our co-chair Libby Homer authoring [a piece for WonkHE](#). SCONUL hopes that our recent Content Forum and this report will enable our members to consider the next steps for academic content and that alongside Jisc, we can deliver real change for the sector. [Read more](#)

SCONUL endorses ICOLC Statement on AI in Licensing

SCONUL has endorsed the ICOLC Statement on AI in Licensing. As there has been a sense of urgency surrounding the addition of AI clauses into licensing terms and conditions, the ICOLC AI Task Force has brought a statement forward with guiding principles for AI Clauses which can be found at:

<https://www.icolc.net/statements/icolc-statement-ai-licensing>.

THE Digital Universities UK 2024

SCONUL is pleased to be an event partner of THE's [Digital Universities UK 2024](#), hosted in partnership with the University of Exeter on 16-18 April. THE's Digital Universities UK 2024 will bring together higher education, industry and policy leaders working at the intersection of academic innovation and technology to reimagine universities in the digital age. This event will be like never before, gathering over 500 attendees from across UK institutions, there will be keynotes, workshops, case studies... plus some amazing experiences hosted by the University of Exeter. SCONUL members can find further details about the event [here](#). There is also a 25% discount for members on tickets with the code: SCONUL25.

[Register here](#)

Metadata Source overview 2024 – input requested

To inform local decision-making and ongoing sector discussions relating to national metadata use and requirements, Jisc are inviting SCONUL libraries to share details of how they source metadata records for their library collections. Sharing information will allow individual libraries to see how others source their metadata. The information provided will enable libraries to get in touch with colleagues across the sector for further information when considering local options to ensure their metadata processes are as effective and efficient as possible. All SCONUL libraries are invited to take part, whether they contribute metadata records to the Library Hub ([Jisc Library Hub Discover](#)) or not. Jisc recognises that providing full details of metadata sources is time-consuming and may not be possible for all. Submitting any level of detail will be useful so do consider contributing to the spreadsheet even if you aren't able to provide full details. Please fill in the shared spreadsheet, referring to the 'Overview' tab and the examples provided by the Universities of Edinburgh and Imperial for further information, <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S3RIHTXdDrgCPDUJq5EHRxcOiCJwdCYNvEyd3e4Nfzo/edit?usp=sharing>. If you have any questions please get in touch with Alasdair MacDonald (Alasdair.Macdonald@ed.ac.uk) and Jenny May (j.may@imperial.ac.uk). The deadline for input is 30 April 2024.

Jisc's new purchasing system helps organisations buy digital preservation solutions.

Jisc has launched the digital preservation (DP) dynamic purchasing system (DPS) which offers a simple mechanism to encourage the take-up of digital preservation solutions. Based on sector requirements for data management, this new system will enable Jisc members to procure digital preservation tools through a fast, compliant, and competitive process. As a compliant process it also means reduced procurement risk. The digital preservation DPS will run for an initial three years to 3 March 2027 with the possibility of extending for a further year to 3 March 2028 and then to 2029. To learn more about what a DPS is, using the DPS, and participating suppliers, join Jisc for their introductory webinar: '[Procuring digital preservation CAN be quick & painless—introducing Jisc's dynamic purchasing system](#)', on 10 April 15:00 – 15:45. [Read more](#)

Jisc licensing banding review

Jisc are in the process of a banding review. Jisc bands are used to determine your subscription fee for the negotiation and licensing service. Any changes to your band as a result of this review will not come into effect until August 2025. Once complete, Jisc will consult on a proposal with their strategic member groups. An agreed implementation plan will be shared with members by September 2024. To minimise fluctuations for those affected, Jisc will aim to phase in price changes to relevant negotiations. Please note that any changes will only affect renewals and will not apply to any agreements already signed up to. Jisc last updated the higher education (HE) banding scheme in 2017, and subsequently delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions or comments in the meantime, please contact the [digital resources helpdesk](#).

Academic Libraries North Conference (ALN) 2024: Registration Open

Registration for #ALN24 is now open. The conference is themed on Generative AI and Emerging Technologies and will take place online on 12 June and in-person on 5 July at the St George's Centre in Leeds. With the increasing ubiquity of emerging technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing or generative AI into the tools we use everyday, it is time to consider how this will affect our day-to-day work. As these tools become embedded into search, collection development, research, writing and more we need to think about how we should be educating ourselves and our users about

them. This event recognises the breadth of activities and tools that are covered by the umbrella term of emerging technologies as well as the early stage at which some of our work and initiatives might be. [Read more](#)

Inviting a Book Chapter Proposals - UK Library Leaders

Editors [Maha Kumaran](#) (University of Saskatchewan) and [Beth McNeil](#) (Purdue University) are inviting UK library leaders to propose a chapter for their book tentatively titled, *Leading in Libraries*. A book contract has been signed with the American Library Association. They are seeking broad and deep topics and perspectives from library leaders with varied experiences, backgrounds, and leadership practices such as: lived experiences on equity, diversity, and inclusion; social justice leading; critical leadership practices or knowledges as BIPOC, women, or other marginalized identities within homogenous and male-dominated academic structural antagonisms; theorizing leadership in research, teaching, or practice through systemic or epistemic injustices lens; plurality of perspectives from personal, institutional, or professional experiences on leadership/administrative experience or sustenance. For further details including on how to submit a short proposal [click here](#).

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. Academic Libraries North <https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/>
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/news>
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.

Vacancy: Head of Library & Digital Support, University of Plymouth

This new role of Head of Library & Digital Support (LDS) will lead University library services plus develop wider initiatives across the Library & Academic Development directorate. The Library is a successful and well-regarded service delivered by a talented and dedicated team. As Head of LDS the post holder will be responsible for all aspects of library provision supporting teaching, learning and research. They will work in partnership with students, academic colleagues, professional services and stakeholders to create, promote and maximise effective use of library services resulting in demonstrable impact on the outcomes of end users. **Closing date 4 April** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Open Research Advisor, University of Leeds

The University of Leeds Library is looking to appoint an Open Research Advisor. The post holder will take the lead on communicating the benefits of, and enabling open research practices across all disciplines at the University of Leeds. They will also coordinate the UK Reproducibility Network's (UKRN) Open Research Programme at the University of Leeds and will work in close (online) collaboration with UKRN colleagues at the University of Bristol, to accelerate uptake of open research practices. The post holder will make a significant contribution to the University of Leeds Research Culture strategy by supporting colleagues across Faculties and Professional Services, in ways that are appropriate to their discipline, to work openly and with the highest standards of integrity, whilst maximising the reach of its research.

Closing date 5 April [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Head of Open Research, King's College London

King's College London are recruiting for a Head of Open Research. The Open Research team is responsible for working with King's researchers in an exciting, complex, and fast-moving area. The team works to support the curation and dissemination of scholarly outputs – support for open access publishing, REF, research data management, and copyright; alongside the provision of an interlending service and wide range of subscription-based Library resources. The post holder will work to drive forward and promote the openness of King's world-class research. They will be a member of Libraries & Collections Senior Management Team, contributing to the overall strategic direction, providing operational leadership across their division and leading the Open Research team in developing and delivering services. The Head of Open Research will play a leading role in planning long-term transition from paywalled content to investing in open models of scholarly publishing. **Closing date 7 April** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Library Engagement Advisor, University of Birmingham

University of Birmingham are seeking to appoint a Library Engagement Advisor. This post will initially be supporting the College of Social Sciences. Library Engagement Advisors are responsible for providing an engagement service to Academic Schools and Professional Services. The ethos of the team focuses on collaborative working to ensure that all Schools receive a consistently high level of service from across Libraries and Learning Resources at all times. The post holder is required to have a good working knowledge of the range of services and information resources available to support academic staff, students and professional services. The post holder is also required to show strong capabilities in the areas of, organisational understanding, communication, and resource management. **Closing date 11 April** [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.

UKSG Annual Conference & Exhibition, Glasgow, 8-10 April

OASPA: The impact of Plan S: a discussion on findings so far, 9 April

CSGUK: Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End, Teesside, 12 April

Small and Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum, 17 April

Rights retention policies webinar, 19 April

CILIP Ireland LAI Annual Joint Conference 2024: Building for the Future, Newry, 24-25 April

LIBER Library Architecture Group seminar, Brussels, 24-26 April

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for knowledge exchange in HE and research in the UK, 25 April

LIRG's Research Methods Lunchtime Series: Statistical Analysis, 25 April

AI coffee mornings - Friday 26 April and then the last Friday of every month at 10am

Opening the Monograph: its future within an open scholarly landscape, Liverpool, 26 April

SCOPE 3 emissions requirements webinar, 3 May

Collaboration, Agency and Student Partnership, Manchester, 3 May

Controlled Digital Lending webinar, 8 May

NAG's Collection Development Seminar, London, 16 May

Beyond the Horizon 2024 CILIP North East Conference, 20 May

Jisc Change Agents' Network Conference 2024: The future of student engagement and student-staff partnerships to enhance higher education, Portsmouth, 20, 22 and 23 May

RLUK SPACE event: Library spaces as research and cultural infrastructure, 23 May

CILIP Online Copyright Conference, 23 May

Academic Libraries North Conference 2024: Generative AI and Emerging Technologies, 12 June (via Teams) and 5 July, Leeds

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for digital technology in higher education, 3 June

CILIPS Annual Conference 2024, 3-4 June, Dundee

SCURL Annual Conference, Stirling, 5 June

Public Policy Exchange: Protecting Local Libraries, 11 June

User Experience in Libraries 8: 'Curiosity & Empathy', Cambridge, 11-13 June

Plan M, from principles to practice, and shaping the future event, London, 18 June

ARLIS UK & Ireland Annual Conference 2024, London, 2-4 July

SCONUL members meeting and AGM, 15 July

Call for papers: Fantastic Futures Canberra 2024 Conference, Australia, October

44th Annual IATUL conference, New Zealand, 24-28 November