

## News

### Delivering the SCONUL strategy

SCONUL has shared an update with SCONUL members on progress in delivering the [SCONUL Strategy](#), providing details on projects being undertaken by the [Strategy Groups](#). These cover a huge range of areas of interest to members from building an organisational development knowledge base for libraries to engaging with library providers on their AI roadmaps. The update included an announcement of a series of forthcoming events covering sustainability and the climate crisis; approaches to rights retention; controlled digital lending and changing our relationship with library suppliers including links to register. The update also provides news on the next iteration of the SCONUL Library Design Awards; new community of interest groups; plans for our Small and Specialist Institutions Forum and for AI coffee mornings, plus updates on the redevelopment of the SCONUL Statistics, Access Scheme, SCONUL website and the launch of our new Technology Survey. [Read more](#)

### Free places available at the 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. We have **three complimentary places which we are making available to staff from SCONUL member libraries from under-represented groups**. This is for attendance at the conference only and does not include travel and accommodation. Please do share this with your team and ask that if they would like to attend to send an email to [ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk), using the email subject 'THE Digital Universities UK 2024 – complimentary place' and include the information below. Deadline for this is Friday 8 March.

- Name, job title, name of institution and contact email.
- A short paragraph on why they feel that attending the event will be beneficial to their career development.

There is also a 25% discount for members on tickets with the code: SCONUL25. [Register here](#)

### Small and Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum, 17 April

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](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk) for the registration details.

### Rights retention policies webinar, 19 April 10am

The development of Rights Retention policies remains an ongoing area of interest for SCONUL members, and we are hosting a webinar to hear from institutions who have successfully introduced such policies and to provide an opportunity to share questions, experiences, and practice. Attendees will hear from: Jen Bayjoo and Emma Thompson, Manchester Metropolitan University; Bethany Logan, University of Sussex; and Suzy Cheeke,, University of Bristol and member of GW4 Alliance. We hope this webinar will be helpful to the institutions who are keen to develop a policy, but are unsure how to get started, with practical advice from all speakers. We will be working with Jisc throughout 2024 to develop further documentation and guidance on this subject. E-mail [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk) for the registration details.

### 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. In addition to a programme of webinars focused on particular aspects of AI, we are also 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](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk) for the registration details.

### **SCOPE 3 emissions requirements webinar, 3 May 2pm**

Explore what this means for our institutions and how we can work with our supply chain, our spaces and our people to drive the change we all need to see. E-mail [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk) for the registration details.

### **Exploring technology-enhanced library spaces webinar recording**

On 20 February SCONUL held a webinar to mark the launch of a new project: Technology-enhanced library spaces. Over 200 attendees tuned in to hear about innovative and exciting new approaches universities are taking to embedding innovative technology into their libraries. The event focused on presentations from three universities, University of Limerick, University of Winchester and University of Sheffield. The webinar discussed the challenges and successes of introducing technology-infused spaces in libraries, including staffing, funding, risk assessments, and building a case for investment. A summary together with the recording, chat transcript and presentations can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/exploring-technology-enhanced-library-spaces-webinar-20-february-2024>

### **SCONUL community of interest groups – register your interest**

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

- **Higher-level apprenticeships:** for those who are interested in sharing practice on the development of a higher-level apprenticeship for your own library, including funding and business cases.
- **The Future of the Systems Librarian:** for those interested in exploring the role of the systems librarian in supporting the evolving needs of the library and looking at challenges around recruitment and succession planning the systems themselves continue to evolve.
- **Open-source solutions:** for those interested in the development of open-source solutions for libraries own systems and for partnerships with both teaching/learning and research at our institutions.
- **Academic Libraries and learning technologies:** for those managing learning technologists and those interested in developing in this area.
- **AI and information literacy:** for those leading on the provision of advice to library users of AI tools and techniques.
- **Library analytics:** for those with an interest in exploring the use of library data and analytics for service improvement.

Register your interest by emailing [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk) by 19 April.

### **Leading change on race equality workshops, 10 and 24 April**

SCONUL is pleased to announce that it has once again partnered with AdvanceHE to bring members subsidised development workshops on 'Leading Change on Race Equality' as part of our ongoing commitment to increasing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the sector. The workshops have an updated structure to include a six-day challenge between two interactive sessions which will help to embed understanding and bring more impact from the training. The sessions will be facilitated by AdvanceHE Senior Advisors [Dr Lindy-Ann Blaize Alfred](#) and [Jennifer Fearon](#) who are both experienced in anti-racism training and working with and within universities. The course fee is £115pp to attend. You can register by completing the form [here](#). Please note that you will need to create an account first (or log in to an existing account) on the web portal: My Advance HE (<https://my.advance-he.ac.uk/>) before accessing the registration link. The workshops are limited to two people per institution and designed for those in leadership roles.

### **SCONUL seeking assessment panel for the Library Design Awards 2025**

SCONUL is seeking expressions of interest from colleagues who would be like to be part of the assessment panel for the Library Design Awards. SCONUL's Library Design Awards have been running every three years since 1973, with the most recent winners being announced in 2019. As a result of the pandemic, the awards were paused and we are now returning to them with updated and new categories to reflect post-pandemic realities. The next round of awards will take place in 2025. We are retaining a category focused primarily on space: excellence and innovation in library space planning and design. This category will include repurposed, refurbished, rebuilt and new build spaces, with a continued

emphasis on creativity and impact on users, rather than purely architectural merit. We are also introducing a new category: excellent and innovation in library service planning and design with a similar focus on creativity and impact for users, rather than on back-office functions, efficiencies or other functions. If you are interested in being part of the panel please submit a short statement highlighting your areas of experience and engagement in library design and how you would both contribute and benefit to the Library Design Awards panel. Statements should not be more than 300 words and can be sent as emails to [ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk) . **The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest is 29 March.** [Read more.](#)

### UK Distributed Print Book Collection

SCONUL is working with RLUK and Jisc to review the distribution of print monographs across libraries in the UK. The aim is to facilitate stock editing of widely duplicated materials, whilst providing a mechanism to safeguard and retain access to print monographs that are rare. This project is called the UK Distributed Print Book Collection (UK DPBC) and is based on the bibliographic data held in Jisc's National Bibliographic KnowledgeBase. The project team has been exploring a number of practical considerations as a result of the initial testing and plan to run a pilot including SCONUL institutions at the end of April/early May. Whilst work with the data continues the team are also considering the nature of the long-term infrastructure and administration requirements for the UK DPBC.

### UK and Ireland Libraries EDI update

EDI leads from SCONUL and other regional and national consortia meet three times a year to discuss how to effectively coordinate our EDI activity and share information and resources. A newsletter on our current EDI commitments can be found [here](#)

### British Library ILL Practitioner Survey Report

In October, the British Library ran an online survey of inter-library loan practitioners based in UK Higher Education Institutions in association with SCONUL and Research Libraries UK. The aim of this research was to provide a detailed picture of resource sharing and inter-library loan activity in UK HEIs to inform the British Library's strategy development. Staff from 80 UK HEI libraries completed the survey, and this report presents the results, covering: systems, workflows and networks; trends in collection management, resource-sharing and inter-library loan; changes in student and academic researcher behaviour; and what practitioners think about the services they use, including British Library On Demand. A copy of the report can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/publication/inter-library-loan-practitioner-survey>

### 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. WHELFB <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: Project Archivist - Michael Davitt Papers, Trinity College Dublin

The Library of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin is seeking to appoint a Project Archivist. This post will be specifically engaged in working on the Michael Davitt Papers in the Library of Trinity College Dublin. They will ensure visibility and accessibility of the collection in order to support and enable the teaching, learning and research needs of staff, students and visiting scholars. The project is

included in the Virtual Trinity Library programme under the “Ireland’s Religious and Political Evolution” theme. **Closing date 11 March** [Read more](#)

#### **Vacancy: Project Archivist - Michael Davitt Papers, Trinity College Dublin**

The Library of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin is seeking to appoint a Project Conservator specifically engaged in conserving the Michael Davitt Papers. The post holder will conserve items in the Davitt archive, primarily papers and letters, prioritizing those which will be made immediately accessible for research us, and ensuring all items are ready for digital imaging. They will be responsible for establishing the project timelines and reporting on milestones, and will work closely with the Davitt Project Archivist and Digital Systems staff to ensure the goals of the project are met. **Closing date 11 March** [Read more](#)

#### **Vacancy: Project Photographer - Michael Davitt Papers, Trinity College Dublin**

The Project Photographer, Michael Davitt Papers, will join the team of Digital Photographers responsible for the digitisation of Library collections for inclusion in the Digital Collections repository <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie> and for exhibition and digitisation requests. Imaging/photography activities take place using a variety of digital capture software and hardware to relevant archive standards including preservation standards. The role reports to the Digital Content Creation Manager. **Closing date 11 March** [Read more](#)

#### **Vacancy: Deputy Head, CMOS, Acquisitions & Metadata, Trinity College Dublin**

The Library of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin is seeking to appoint a Deputy Head, Content Management & Open Scholarship (CMOS), Acquisitions & Metadata. The Deputy Head, CMOS, Acquisitions & Metadata leads the strategic development of the Library’s acquisitions and bibliographic metadata processes. This includes monographs and journals; print and digital; legal deposit, web archiving, donation, purchase, and e-resource licencing. The post-holder is responsible for the Library’s main bibliographic database, its adherence to international content and metadata standards, compatibility with aggregators (including union catalogues), fitness to enable users find and discover the Library’s resources, and suitability for collection analysis, collection management and stock moves. The post-holder plays a key role in developing the Library’s collections to facilitate teaching, learning and research in the University and beyond. **Closing date 13 March** [Read more](#)

#### **Vacancy: Special Collections and Archives Manager, Goldsmiths, University of London**

Goldsmiths are seeking a Special Collections and Archives Manager in Library Services. The successful candidate will lead, motivate and direct the Special Collections and Archives team across Goldsmiths Library and the Constance Howard Gallery. The post holder will maintain and develop the service for current and future researchers, academics and students and art practitioners, ensuring its integration into academic life. The team maintain stewardship of a growing number of special collections and archives which reflect Goldsmiths’ research activities, including the Goldsmiths Textile Collection and Constance Howard Gallery, the Daphne Oram Collection and the Women’s Art Library. **Closing date 2 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](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

**WHELF Learning and Teaching Group Teachmeet: Harnessing AI for innovative learning and teaching, 19 March**

**CILIP ILG: Information Literacy and AI – Roundtable, 20 March**

**Academic & Special Libraries Conference (Library Association of Ireland), Dublin, 21 March**

**LILAC 2024, Leeds, 25–27 March**

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

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

**Rights retention policies webinar, 19 April 10am**

**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**

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

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

**SCOPE 3 emissions requirements webinar, 3 May 2pm**

**NAG's Collection Development Seminar, London, 16 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**

**CILIP Online Copyright Conference, 23 May**

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

**CILIPS Annual Conference 2024, 3-4 June, Dundee**

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

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

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