

News

Advocacy in practice: case studies

SCONUL has published a [set of advocacy case studies](#) highlighting how library leaders are responding creatively to the challenges facing the sector – from reorganising services to pioneering new forms of practice. Whether restructuring or innovating, each example shows libraries adapting to institutional priorities while relying on the strength and expertise of their workforce. The collection offers an honest look at the realities of leading academic libraries today, with lessons relevant across a sector increasingly shaped by mergers and change. SCONUL would like to thank the contributors, and interviewer Amy Staniforth, for sharing their experiences to support and inspire colleagues facing similar challenges. SCONUL is keen to develop further case studies on this theme and would like to hear from members willing to share their experiences either in responding successfully to change and / or demonstrating the value of their service – please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk. [Read more](#)

UUK Transformation and Efficiency briefing and SCONUL AGM, 16 July

SCONUL is pleased to announce that [Peter Mason](#), Transformation and Efficiency lead at Universities UK, will deliver a keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and members meeting on Thursday 16 July. Peter Mason will provide a briefing on the [transformation and efficiency programme](#) being undertaken by UUK which is designed to help the UK HE sector respond to the challenging financial environment through collaboration and shared services. This includes mergers between institutions as well as other forms of sharing and collaboration. The AGM will include formal business, including Executive Board elections, and will provide an opportunity to review SCONUL's work from 2025-26 and engage with plans for next year, and with the development of the SCONUL strategy 2027-2030. We are keen to hear your views on priorities for the sector and there will be an opportunity as part of the discussion to feed in to planning for the new strategy. For registration details, please email [SCONUL](#).

SCONUL Executive Board elections

SCONUL is holding elections to its Executive Board. There are five candidates standing for two places on the Board. SCONUL institutions are being asked to vote electronically for up to two Board members. Institutions are entitled to one vote and it is up to each member institution to decide who will vote on behalf of their institution and formally represent them at the AGM on 14 July. You will need to be the chosen SCONUL representative for your institution to vote, or that person must have successfully submitted a signed proxy form naming you as the person nominated to vote. Voting will close at 23.59 on Wednesday 15 July. For further details including on how to vote, please email [SCONUL](#).

SCONUL Deputy Director

Jo Lambert has recently taken the decision to step down from her role and while we are sorry to see her leave, we of course respect her decision and wish her well. We would like to thank Jo for her work with the team and for her support to SCONUL during her time with us. We will be recruiting for her replacement in the coming months. For further information, please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL Autumn Conference, 13 November, Birmingham

SCONUL is pleased to announce that it is bringing members together on Friday 13 November for a one-day face-to-face conference at The Studio in Birmingham. The conference will offer high-quality plenary presentations and lightning talks as well as a chance for delegates to take part in workshops. This will be an excellent opportunity for colleagues to connect and network. Further details including registration will be available shortly.

SCONUL AI coffee mornings

SCONUL's regular AI coffee morning will pause for the summer break and will be back on Friday 25 September at 10am where we'll hear from Hannes Lowagie, Metadata Librarian at the Royal Library of Belgium. Hannes Lowagie will talk about metadata creation with AI. The coffee mornings brings together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month. SCONUL members can register for future AI coffee mornings [here](#) and access recordings and resources [here](#).

The Future of the Systems Librarian CIG meeting, 17 September

The next meeting of the Future of the Systems Librarian CIG, *Different ways of working*, will look at how the role can sit outside the library and how this can work effectively. Also reflecting on the importance and visibility of the role. The CIG meeting will take place on 17 September, 13:30- 15:00hrs. For registration details, please email [SCONUL](#).

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions Forum, 5 November

SCONUL brings together this group of members to share experiences, information and best practice. It is open to all those leading SCONUL member institutions who define themselves as specialist or small and their senior teams plus invited guests. Members are also invited to suggest topics or issues to cover. Join us next on Wednesday 5 November from 10:00 – 11:30hrs. For registration details, please email [SCONUL](#).

HE Reference Models webinar series

SCONUL is holding a series of three webinars exploring the HE Reference Models and their relevance to libraries.

Engaging with the HE Reference Models, 25 November

There are clear advantages for those leading library in having a good working knowledge of the HE Reference Models and their uses in the wider institutional context as they can be a powerful advocacy tool, making visible the myriad ways in which the library supports wider capabilities within the institution, and providing a tool for demonstrating the value of the library to the institution's missions. This third webinar in the series on the HE Reference Models will provide an opportunity to hear from SCONUL members who have successfully engaged with the use of the models within their institution and to explore how these can be to support the library's engagement with the institutional leaders and to advocate for the library. This webinar will take place on 25 November from 14:00 – 15:30hrs. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Recordings and resources from the previous two webinars are available:

- [Everything you wanted to know about the HE Reference Models but were afraid to ask](#)
- [HE Reference Models as a tool for institutional transformation](#)

If you don't yet have access to the HERMS documentation and would like a copy, please contact the SCONUL team at sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Sustainability round table

Colleagues from SCONUL, Oxford University, University of the Arts London, CILIP, SUPC, APUC and Jisc recently convened a Chatham House roundtable with representatives from the library, procurement and publishing communities to explore shared sustainability challenges and opportunities across the library supply chain. The discussion highlighted a strong shared commitment to making progress but also underlined the complexity of the current landscape. Participants noted that sustainability reporting requirements are often inconsistent, difficult to interpret and resource-intensive for both libraries and suppliers. A key theme was the need to move beyond simply asking for more data, towards a clearer understanding of what information is useful, how it will be used, and how it can support meaningful carbon reduction and wider sustainability action. As next steps, the group will explore opportunities to widen the conversation with the SCONUL community and relevant procurement and sustainability colleagues. For more information, please contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

Open Access for long-form: priorities and practicalities survey

A sector-wide survey has been launched to assess priorities and practicalities for long-form open access and SCONUL members are invited to take part. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete, and we are particularly keen to hear from colleagues involved in: library strategy and scholarly communications; research support and research management; open access services; research policy and administration; university publishing and institutional repositories. This is part of a project led by RLUK, in partnership with SCONUL, ARMA, and UKRI, investigating how UK research institutions are responding to the rapidly evolving landscape for open access books, book chapters, and other long-form publications. Your experience will help test understanding of the sector's strategic priorities for long-form OA and identify areas where additional guidance, collaboration, and investment could have the greatest impact. By participating, you will help ensure that future support, guidance, and policy development are grounded in the realities faced by institutions across the UK. The survey can be found [here](#) and the deadline for responses is 15 July.

Progress and challenges in open research data

The UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) has today published Working Paper 12: The Sustainable and Transparent Research Data (STAR) Study, a new report examining progress and challenges in open research data (ORD) across UK higher education. Based on in-depth interviews, workshops and policy analysis involving 21 universities, the report finds that UK institutions have made substantial progress in building the infrastructure, policies and expertise needed to support open data. However, the study also highlights a significant gap between capability and practice. While open data is increasingly possible and supported, it remains an exceptional activity rather than a routine part of research. The STAR report identifies a range of barriers to wider adoption, including workload pressures, limited recognition and reward, unclear costing of data stewardship, and disciplinary differences in how "data" is understood. The report is available [here](#).

UK and Ireland Libraries EDI update

SCONUL facilitates the Libraries EDI Coordinating Group, which serves as a forum to share information on EDI related activity across the participating organisations. The group meets three times a year and produces a news update for the community following each meeting. You can find the latest June newsletter and previous ones [here](#).

SCONUL Mentoring Scheme

SCONUL's mentoring scheme supports emerging and newly appointed leaders, by partnering them with more experienced colleagues, who can guide them in their professional growth. The scheme is seeking mentors and mentees from across SCONUL who want to be a part of this highly valued scheme. Click [here](#) to discover more about how the scheme works. Information on becoming a mentor and how to apply can be found [here](#). If you would like to sign up as a mentee you can find further information [here](#).

Calling research professionals based in libraries

Research Professional Futures (RPF) is a UK-wide Research England Development (RED) Fund programme exploring how research professional roles are recognised, supported and developed across the sector. Work is now underway to gather insight from across the research professional community, including those working within and alongside research libraries, to inform the project's outputs. At this stage, there are two key ways research professionals can get involved:

- [Complete the RPF Individual Survey](#) – an opportunity to share experiences and perspectives, helping to build a strong and representative evidence base that will inform how research professional roles are supported and developed across the sector.
- [Express interest in interviews and focus groups](#) – RPF are inviting research professionals to take part in more in-depth discussions to explore roles, career pathways and development needs.

To find out more and get involved, visit rpfutures.co.uk and follow the project on [LinkedIn](#) for updates.

Wiley acquires Emerald Publishing in £337m deal

Wiley has acquired Emerald Publishing from Cambridge Information Group (CIG) in deal valued at £337 million (USD \$452 million), expanding its journal portfolio to approximately 2,500 titles. [Read more](#)

Appeal for Support: Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine

EBLIDA is asking the European library community to stand in solidarity with one of its members, the [Yaroslav Mudryi National Library](#) of Ukraine in Kyiv. During one of the largest missile attacks on Ukraine in recent months the library's historic buildings suffered significant damage. The affected buildings are protected cultural heritage monuments and form part of Ukraine's national cultural infrastructure. According to the library, the attack damaged the roof, the glass dome above the central staircase, doors, windows across approximately 8,000 square metres, and sections of the building facades. Initial estimates place the cost of emergency repairs at around 5 million Ukrainian hryvnias. These institutions are more than buildings. They safeguard knowledge, cultural memory, and democratic access to information. When a library is damaged, an entire community loses part of its shared heritage. The Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine has launched a fundraising campaign to support urgent repair work. [Read more](#)

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/events/>
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. 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. These vacancies can also be found on our website at: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/jobs-bank/current-roles/>

Vacancy: Liaison Librarian, University of Cambridge

University of Cambridge has an opportunity for a Liaison Librarian to work with the Cambridge West Team. This role will support library services across designated departments with responsibilities for teaching, research support and collection development, contributing to the needs of a diverse academic community within an innovative and forward-looking setting. **Closing date 5 July** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Deputy Librarian, University College Cork

UCC seeks a Deputy Librarian to support the University Librarian in delivering integrated Library services aligned with the University's strategic goals. The postholder will lead the library's staff professional learning and development strategy and manage a functional area, currently the library's contribution to Learning, Teaching and the Student Experience. The role is a key member of the Library Leadership Team, providing shared strategic oversight of services, staff and functions. **Closing date 7 July** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Library Content Developer, Birmingham City University

Birmingham City University are seeking a Library Content Developer to develop online content and learning objects to engage students in their library learning and research, and to promote library services and resources in an interactive and inclusive manner. This role plays an important role in supporting the Library and Learning Resources (L&LR) Strategy in stimulating intellectual curiosity in their students through information and digital academic literacies, and the University's agenda in promoting innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in higher education. **Closing date 10 July** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Team Leader, Collections and Discovery Services, University of Roehampton

University of Roehampton are recruiting for a new Team Leader Collections & Discovery Services. The Collections and Discovery Services team are responsible for managing the acquisition and delivery of content. This includes content acquisition, including eResource management, document delivery, metadata services and the management and development of the systems supporting these activities. The post holder is responsible for the planning, development and performance management of the team and services, and reports to the Director of Student Life. The role supports a positive user experience by contributing to the smooth day-to-day operation of systems and services, maintaining service standards, and supporting the wider team in delivering an efficient and responsive service across the University.

Closing date 12 July [Read more](#)

Vacancy: HEO Project Manager, National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland, in association with the UCD School of History, are currently inviting applications for the Archival Studentship. This is an opportunity for a graduate who wishes to gain experience of archival work preparatory to applying for the MA and to commence UCD's archives course in 2027. The studentship holder must have an interest in history and wish to pursue a career as a professional archivist. The student will work in the Manuscripts Department (Special Collections) of the National Library of Ireland. **Closing date 24 July** [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.

LIBER Annual Conference, Trondheim, 1-3 July

ARCLIB Conference, Liverpool, 1-3 July

Copim Community workshop: How to 'Market' Open Access, 2 July

World Cafe on Subject Analysis, Edinburgh, 3 July

ALN Conference: Reimagining Openness in Academic Libraries, Manchester, 6 July

ARLIS Conference 2026: Challenging Collections, Leeds, 6-8 July

RLUK Research Shift Programme: 2.4 Impactful, 14 July

AI and the Digital Commons: Perspectives from online collections & archives, Hilversum, 15 July

14th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, Glasgow, 14-16 July

Call for contributions: NLISN (Neurodivergent Library and Information Staff Network) Conference, Leeds, 16-17 July

UKSG Open Educational Resources online seminar 2026, 29-30 July

CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group conference, Cambridge, 9-11 September

Call for submissions: AI4LAM Fantastic Futures 2026: Trust in the Loop, Washington, 15-17 September

OASPA Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing 2026, 21-23 September, Zagreb

The European Print Initiative Collaboration conference, London, 30 September – 2 October

46th Annual International Association of University Libraries (IATUL) Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 November

Call for papers: CGUK Annual Conference, Bristol, 27 November