News

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 AI and Information literacy CIG meeting, 5 September

The AI and Information literacy CIG is a community of practice bringing together those with an interest in leading on the provision of advice to library users of AI tools and techniques. Their next meeting will take place on 5 September at 11am, and topics include an update from Mark Hughes, Head of Library Services at Cardiff Metropolitan University on the SCONUL AI working group, updates and emerging issues for Semester 1, and a discussion around the November AI coffee morning themed 'Imposter feelings around AI'. 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. You are also welcome to join the community at ai-info-lit-cig@jiscmail.ac.uk to be kept informed of this and future events.

AI in the library supply chain webinar, 18 September

The SCONUL AI working group is hosting a webinar exploring the role of AI in the library supply chain including implications for service development and design, we will hear from the following speakers on their experiences:

- Dr Sandra Tury, Associate Director, Online Library Services at University of London, who will share their experience of implementing and using an AI chatbot at Senate House Library

- Elly Cope, Head of Access and Acquisitions, and Alison Hazelaar, Access and Acquisitions Manager for Metadata and Discovery at University of Leeds, will talk about AI in relation to metadata including the offer from Ex Libris. They'll share what they have tried, the progress that they have made and what they want to look at next.

The webinar will take place from 2pm to 3.30pm on Thursday 18 September. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL Academic Libraries and Learning Technologies CIG meeting, 25 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

25 September at 3pm 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. You are also welcome to join the community at libs-learning-tech-cig@jiscmail.ac.uk to be kept informed of this and future events.

SCONUL AI coffee morning, 26 September

SCONUL's September AI coffee morning will follow on from the "Engaging with University Leaders on AI" webinar. The session will include a panel discussion and attendees will hear from Kate Courage, Head of Library Academic Engagement at University of Worcester, Erin Nephin, Library Academic Support Team Manager at Leeds Beckett University and Dr Georgia Koromila, Study Adviser at University of Reading Library. As always, we'll issue a number of provocations for the second half of the session, to invite interesting discussions with the audience. The AI coffee morning will take place at 10am on Friday 26 September. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

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

Jisc will be sharing the results of the recent consultation on the offers received from the big five publishers on 20 October. SCONUL and RLUK will be holding a joint Town Hall meeting for members to hear the results and to provide an opportunity to ask questions about the results and to consider next steps. If you wish to attend, please hold the date and we will share registration details shortly.

AI Evaluative Framework for researchers, and licencing guidance

At SCONUL's May AI coffee morning, James Barnett, Research Skills Advisor, and Lisa Bird, Copyright and Licensing Advisor, at University of Birmingham gave a presentation on frameworks for evaluating AI tools, emphasising the importance of AI literacy for researchers and librarians. During the session they mentioned plans to produce web guidance around support for helping researchers to responsibly select AI tools and to support researchers and librarians with reviewing the terms and conditions of these tools. They have now had approval for their web guidance to be made live: Responsible AI tool selection for researchers – to help a researcher critically assess a tool before using it. AI tools licensing review guidance – a quick review checklist (aimed at researchers evaluating the terms and conditions of a tool), and a full review aimed at supporting anyone formally purchasing an AI tool for a group of users (this could be researchers or eResources/Licencing librarians). The documents have been made available under a CC BY licence to make it easy for others to re-use the materials within their institutions.

SCONUL Statistics 2023-24 – available on the Reporting Tool

The 2023-24 annual library statistics data is now available online via: https://access.sconul.ac.uk/reporting-tool. The Reporting Tool allows you to compare and benchmark data from across institutions and particular mission groups. The Reporting Tool: A brief how to, highlights the basic process as well as some of the features. Notes concerning the content of the database used for the Reporting Tool can be found here, The SCONUL Database of Academic Library Statistics. If you do not already have a login for the reporting tool, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

UK Print Book Collection (UK PBC) website

The UK Print Book Collection (UK PBC) website is now live: https://ukpbc.uk/. The UK Print Book Collection is a national distributed collection of print monographs, securing access to content now and for the future. The success of the UK PBC depends on as many libraries as possible signing up to supporting a national distributed collection of monographs based on a minimum number of 7 retained copies across the member libraries. The full UK PBC launch is planned for this autumn, with further details and resources to be added to the website. If your institution is interested in joining, please email ukpbc@bl.uk to register your interest. In preparation for launch, a revised version of the 583 retention statement, aligned with updated international standards, is now available. This can be adopted immediately to support UK PBC participation or used independently to support collection management.

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

NHS Wales / WHELF: Open Access Feasibility Study

The Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum (WHELF) and NHS Wales representatives are collaborating to appoint an external consultant to lead a strategic review on the future for health and care Open Access publishing in NHS Wales and Higher Education institutions in Wales. The study has two aims: Identify whether a Diamond Open Press for the publication of medical, health and social care works would support accelerating the shift towards Open Access for NHS and HE institutions in Wales. Take a deep dive into the current publishing practices across NHS Wales' seven Health Boards, three Trusts and two Special Health Authorities and identify whether local or a national Open Access Policy, Institutional Repository and/or Open Press would benefit NHS Wales to increase their research profile. Further details are at View notice - Sell2Wales Tender Return: 19 September.

Jisc digital transformation library lens (DTLL) pilot programme

Jisc is piloting the digital transformation library lens (DTLL): library pathways into Jisc's Framework for digital transformation in higher education: https://www.jisc.ac.uk/guides/framework-for-digital-transformation-in-higher-education. If you would like your institution to be considered as a pilot, please complete the online *form Request to participate: Piloting the digital transformation library lens*. Deadline for applications is 5 September. For further information or queries about the DTLL programme please email paola.marchionni@jisc.ac.uk.

DOAJ added and withdrawn change log - have your say

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) has been manually maintaining a change log of journals added and withdrawn from the Directory for over ten years. They are considering retiring these two lists since most of the information contained in them is available in their metadata feeds. DOAJ are seeking

input from the community, via a short survey: https://forms.gle/XvusQ1bqWhbSD4tw7, to help understand how much the change log is used and how the information in it is used. Read more

Usage of longform publications in HEI repositories

Information Power Ltd are conducting a survey on longform content in institutional repositories. This is part of a study commissioned by The British Academy to help understand how universities handle the deposit, discoverability, and use of this material in UK institutional repositories. It is specifically focused on longform publications (e.g. scholarly monographs, edited volumes and individual book chapters). By completing this survey, you will help shape and inform future recommendations for funders, institutions, and policy makers and will be especially important in SHAPE subject areas. They are seeking one response from every UK organisation with an institutional repository, including organisations in the GLAM sector. The survey can be found here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/longform1. Deadline for responses is mid-September. Please email info@informationpower.co.uk if you require an extension.

Help Shape the Future of Metadata Sharing: Survey Invitation

The Metadata Futures Task Force, convened by Core (a division of the American Library Association) and the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC), invites you to participate in a survey on current metadata sharing and reuse practices across libraries and consortia. This survey is part of a broader effort to develop community-informed guidelines that support equitable, transparent, and sustainable approaches to metadata governance. Multiple individuals from the same institution are encouraged to participate. The survey will take around 20-30 minutes to complete and can be found here. Deadline for responses is 30 September. If you have any questions about the survey or the work of the Task Force, please reach out to the co-chairs of the Metadata Futures Task Force: Mary Beth Weber (mbfecko@libraries.rutgers.edu) and Rosalyn Metz (rosalyn.metz@emory.edu).

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.

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

August saw the first meeting of the working group to review the HE Reference Models being widely used across HE to ensure that these accurately reflect the contribution of libraries. We have also be holding a series of conversations with stakeholders taking forward the proposals outlined in our Shared Services in Academic and Research Libraries report which have generated a lot of interest among potential partners.

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: Senior Managers, Collections Management (Two posts), University of Oxford
An opportunity has arisen to join the new senior team in Collections Management at The Bodleian Libraries, Oxford University. University of Oxford are transforming how they work to better deliver the needs of library users and reflect the changing environment of the sector. This has opened up two new senior manager positions, a Content Procurement Senior Manager and a Resource Discovery Senior Manager, to drive the new direction and strengthen team alignment. **Closing date 3 September** Read more

Vacancy: Academic Services Librarian, University of East London
University of East London is seeking to appoint an Academic Services Librarian. Based across both the Docklands and Stratford campuses, the post holder will design and deliver inclusive, engaging learning resources in a variety of formats to support both synchronous and asynchronous teaching of critical information skills. The Academic Services Librarian will collaborate closely with the Digital Services team to develop and maintain collections that are discoverable, relevant, and inclusive. They will also work with the Scholarly Communications Manager to support research activities within Schools. **Closing date 5 September** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Content and Digital Transformation, Aston University
Aston University is seeking a Head of Content and Digital Transformation. In this strategic leadership role, the post holder will oversee the development and delivery of the library's content and discovery services,

ensuring alignment with Aston's 2030 Strategy. This role will play a key part in shaping the library's digital transformation, always with a focus on enhancing the user experience. As a member of the leadership team the Head of Content and Digital Transformation will contribute to cross-service initiatives and the implementation of the library's strategic plans. Their leadership will be instrumental in nurturing an inclusive, agile, and omni-channel approach to service delivery. **Closing date 8 September** Read more

Vacancy: Assistant Librarian - Psychology, University of Cambridge

Cambridge University Libraries is seeking an Assistant Librarian to join their Biological Sciences Libraries Team in a job-share role. The position involves fostering relationships between the library and academic departments, supporting library users, and contributing to the learning, research, and teaching activities of the Department of Psychology. This fixed-term role encompasses a diverse range of responsibilities, fostering relationships between the library and academic departments, directly supporting library users, and actively developing professional skills. **Closing date 10 September** Read more

Vacancy: eResources & Serials Team Leader, University of Birmingham

University of Birmingham are currently recruiting for an eResources & Serials Team Leader within Libraries and Learning Resources. The eResources and Serials Team manages the full lifecycle of electronic information resources and print serials from acquisition through to renewal or removal, and ensures these resources are fully discoverable and accessible to users. The post holder will have day to day responsibility for the management of the team and will play a key role in reviewing and developing processes to ensure a high standard of service delivery is maintained. The post holder will make a significant contribution to achieving best value for money in the acquisition of e-resources and print-serials and ensuring library users are able to find and access them. **Closing date 11 September** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Library Content Services, University of Liverpool

University of Liverpool are seeking a Head of Library Content Services to join their Research Content and Discovery division. Reporting to the Associate Director of Research, Collections and Discovery, the post holder will develop and lead content strategy and supporting activity and services across the department. They will ensure that content and supporting services are managed and delivered in a timely and efficient manner in line with University policies, and to enable the teaching and research ambitions as an institution. **Closing date 12 September** Read more

Vacancy: Academic Liaison Librarian, Brunel University London

Brunel University London is currently recruiting for the post of Academic Liaison Librarian (LAW). The post will provide academic engagement, support research and collaborate with stake holders to manage stock selection and collection development. Academic Liaison Librarians also have a functional cross-team role which contributes to the overall operation of the Library and ASK Services. **Closing date 12 September** Read more

Vacancy: Acquisitions and Digital Content Manager, Liverpool Hope University

Liverpool Hope University is seeking to appoint an Acquisitions and Digital Content Manager to join their Library Services team. This role reports to the Head of Library Services and leads a team responsible for provision of Library content in all formats, working closely with a large number of external suppliers and the University Finance Office. The post holder will also lead on collection, interpretation and reporting of analytics which drive our decision making on collections. As a senior manager in the Library team the post

holder will also be expected to lead Library wide projects and initiatives which support the Library and University goals. **Closing date 15 September** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Collection Stewardship and Research, University of Liverpool

University of Liverpool are seeking a Head of Collections Stewardship and Research (maternity cover) to join their Cultural Heritage team including the Victoria Gallery and Museum (VGM), the Garstang Museum of Archaeology and Egyptology, and Special Collections and Archives based at the Sydney Jones Library. The post holder will work closely with the Deputy Director, and as part of their leadership team will take a holistic approach to service, and be responsible for supporting, developing and influencing a range of professional and support staff. **Closing date 16 September** Read more

Vacancy: Art and Exhibitions Curator, University of Liverpool

University of Liverpool are seeking an Art Curator to join their Cultural Heritage team, based at the Victoria Gallery and Museum (VGM), and working closely with colleagues across the Garstang Museum of Archaeology and Egyptology and Special Collections and Archives based at the Sydney Jones Library. The post holder will report to the Head of Exhibitions and Public Programmes ensuring collections can be used to their full potential, engaging with audiences and raising the profile and reputation of the University. They will be responsible for developing the exhibition programme, supporting volunteers and student interns, advising on new acquisition opportunities, and both documenting and promoting the collection. **Closing date 17 September** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Exhibitions and Public Programming, University of Liverpool

University of Liverpool are seeking a Head of Exhibitions and Public Programmes to join their Cultural Heritage team including the Victoria Gallery and Museum (VGM), the Garstang Museum of Archaeology and Egyptology, and Special Collections and Archives based at the Sydney Jones Library. The post holder will work closely with the Deputy Director, and as part of their leadership team will take a holistic approach to service, and be responsible for supporting, developing and influencing a range of professional and support staff. This newly created role will require the post holder to take a strategic approach to the development of audiences, embedding evaluation in all programming, and aligning our offer to our research environment goals. **Closing date 17 September** Read more

Vacancy: Open Research Lead, Loughborough University

Loughborough University is seeking an Open Research Lead to join their Library Leadership Team. The post holder will lead the strategic development and management of the Library's support for Open Research, working across the University to further institutional ambitions. The Open Research team, which the post holder will lead and manage, also includes the Archivist and Copyright and Licensing Manager, ensuring that this role can explore opening up research from a variety of angles. Reporting to the Deputy Director of Library Services, the Open Research Lead will be a member of the collaborative Library Leadership Team helping to shape services for the future. **Closing date 17 September** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Service Delivery, National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) is seeking to appoint a Head of Service Delivery. The Head of Service Delivery holds strategic responsibility for the service delivery function for researchers at the NLI. The post holder will be responsible for leading service delivery, across our physical and online spaces and

for onsite, hybrid and digital resources; and for cross-functional engagement to identify models and innovative approaches for overall service delivery, to meet strategic objectives to make NLI collections accessible to all. **Closing date 19 September** Read more

Vacancy: Deputy University Librarian, Imperial College London

The newly created post of Deputy University Librarian offers a rare opportunity to help shape the future of Library Services at a transformative time for the university. As well as deputising for the University Librarian & Director of Library Services, the post holder will provide strategic leadership for information literacy and teaching programmes, champion deeper academic engagement across the university, and develop a bold and inclusive vision for how the library spaces, services, and collections will support the academic journey. They will oversee seven academic libraries and manage a team of 60 FTE staff, which represents half of the Library Services workforce. **Closing date 21 September** Read more

Vacancy: Senior Strategy Advisor (Maternity Cover), UKRI

UKRI are seeking a Senior Strategy Advisor to join their Open Research team. This is a high-impact role supporting the implementation and strategic development of UKRI's open research and open access agenda – particularly for monographs, book chapters and edited collections. The post holder will play a key role in delivering bold and collaborative change across the research and innovation landscape. They will lead projects and engage with diverse internal and external stakeholders. Fixed Term until September 2026 (applications for secondments will be considered). **Closing date 1 October** Read more

Vacancy: CARL Executive Director

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) is seeking its next Executive Director. Based in Ottawa, this senior leadership role is responsible for advancing CARL's mission, guiding its strategic initiatives, and representing the association nationally and internationally. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of Canada's research library community by fostering collaboration, advocacy, and innovation. **Closing date 1 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.

CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group (RBSCG) Conference 2025, 3-5 September

Working with and understanding neurodivergent colleagues webinar, 8 September

AI in Action: Integrating AI Solutions into Daily Research Administration, 11 September

Fedora Camp, Vienna, 10-12 September

Neurodivergent Library and Information Staff Network (NLISN) Annual General Meeting, 19 September

OASPA Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing 2025, Leuven, 22-24 September

Data rescue and sustainability, 25 September

UKSG webinar: Usage metrics for OA, AI, and more: building on solid foundations, 26 September

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

Open Science Conference 2025, Hamburg, 8-9 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

SCONUL Autumn conference, Birmingham, 19 November

CILIP Supplier Showcase, Manchester, 21 November

CSGUK Annual Conference, Birmingham, 28 November

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