

News

The Library Technology Landscape: Results of the SCONUL Technology Survey 2024

SCONUL has launched the results of its first Library Technology Survey. This provides a comprehensive analysis of the technology landscape for academic and research libraries covering 26 library technology functional spaces. It provides detailed profiles of the products and services used in those spaces, as well as assessments of their functionality and value for money. It should act as a valuable reference guide for libraries allowing you to undertake scoping work for a new system with a full understanding of the market. This is one of the primary uses of the data and we are keen to hear feedback from SCONUL members on ways in which the survey can be refined and improved for its next iteration. This will run in Autumn 2026.

<https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/library-technologies/the-library-technology-landscape/>

The future of the systems librarian report

This report summarises the findings of a survey conducted by SCONUL on the future of the systems librarian. This is a strategically important role for libraries which are heavily automated and digitised environments relying on a very wide range of technologies to support their students and academic colleagues. The report can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/library-technologies/the-future-of-the-systems-librarian/>

SCONUL Spring Conference 3 March The British Library

The SCONUL Spring conference looked at *The library and digital transformation* and was attended by around 150 delegates. Speakers included Professor Mark Thompson, Professor of Digital Economy at University of Exeter who gave an inspirational and challenging talk about collaboration and shared services in HE; engaging lightening talks on innovative uses of data in libraries; thought-provoking discussions about the library technologies, workflows and strategies, as well as the launch of the two reports mentioned above. Presentations will be made available on the SCONUL website shortly.

Walking away: what happens next? webinar, 7 March

With negotiations with five of the largest academic publishers underway amid concerns about the value for money and ethics of the "big deals", many SCONUL members will be considering their options and strategic approach. If the publishers do not recognise the need for reform and the challenging financial situation facing UK HE, many institutions will of course consider walking away. What happens within an institution in the run-up to making this decision, and what happens next? We are joined by speakers from three institutions which have taken this step: Anna Clements and Pete Barr from University of Sheffield; Paul Johnson from University of Surrey; and Kirsty Lingstadt and Sarah Thompson from University of York. Please note that this webinar is being held under Chatham House Rule. It will be held on Friday 7 March 2025 from 11am – 12.30pm. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Sylla demo and briefing webinar, 18 March

Colleagues may be aware of the new approach to surfacing open and affordable learning resources which the company Sylla has been developing, and the potential of this to provide savings for the sector. Jisc has been working with Sylla to develop a pilot agreement for HE and FE and this webinar will explore Sylla's offer to the sector and the scope for this to generate savings. The webinar will be held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 from 2pm – 3.30pm. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Building a UK OER movement, 24 March

Join colleagues from across the UK to discuss building a movement to drive forward to the development and uptake of OERs in the UK. Led by Dominic Broadhurst from Salford and David Beales from Brunel, and joined by colleagues from the Open Education Network, this event will look at how we can work together to build on the strong commitment of UK libraries through the development of an active community of practice. The UK library community has a clear interest in the development of sustainable open solutions, not least to help address the widespread pricing and supply issues we are all facing in the UK e-textbook space. Member libraries have expressed a desire to explore routes to the development of OERs, including through diverting financial resource from current commercial provision to driving more open sustainable options, ideally through partnerships and cross working across our sector. The proposed community of practice would provide a focus for us to explore a range of joint initiatives in this space bringing together HE libraries who have a real passion and commitment to deliver change for our students, academic colleagues, and institutions. The webinar will be held on 24 March 2025 from 11am – 12.30pm. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Building effective partnerships webinar, 27 March

Building effective partnerships with colleagues across the institution and beyond is a core skill for anyone contributing to the leadership of a library service and this webinar will provide an opportunity to explore approaches to building partnerships. We will hear from three expert speakers: Regina Everitt from the University of East London and editor of recently published Facet collection Privileged Spaces: Academic Libraries in University Estates Strategy; Adrian Ellison, Pro Vice-Chancellor, People and Digital at the University of West London and Anna O'Neill from University of Warwick. The webinar will be held on Thursday 27 March 2025 from 2pm – 3.30pm. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

HE consortia call on Clarivate to drop its proposals on ending perpetual access

Consortia representing libraries, finance directors and IT directors across HE have issued a [joint letter](#) calling on Clarivate to reverse its decision to discontinue the option for perpetual purchase of academic resources, as recently announced. Perpetual access to scholarly content – in both physical and electronic forms – is a cornerstone of libraries' mission to provide long-term, reliable access to knowledge. The signatories urge Clarivate to call an immediate halt to its plans while it takes account of the voices of its customers in the UK and worldwide. [Read more](#)

SCONUL and UCISA respond to the UK government Copyright and AI consultation

SCONUL and UCISA have entered a joint response to the UK government Copyright and AI consultation, which closed on 25 February, after surveying their members. The government received over 2,500 submissions, with other bodies, such as CILIP, Jisc and EARE, also submitting sector wide responses. [Read more](#)

Library sector finances 2025

SCONUL conducted a survey of member finances in December and January which provides a sobering snapshot of the financial position facing the sector. The headline findings are that around three quarters of libraries across UK HE (73%) are making cuts to their budgets this academic year in response to the financial challenges facing UK universities, with a mean cut is 8.2%. Cuts range from less than 1% (0.6%) to 30% of total budget. We estimate UK HE libraries will be spending an estimated £51 million less this year than last year. These cuts are, in most cases, far too extensive to meet through further efficiencies and are already having a significant impact on services and staffing across the sector. The detailed analysis is available to members on the SCONUL website [here](#). Please note that you will need to log in to access it. This was also reported in the THE and the article can be found [here](#):

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/uk-university-libraries-ps51-million-worse-last-year>.

SCONUL Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics report 2022-23

SCONUL has published its annual statistics report into the ethnicity of our workforce. This is the second year of data collection and we hope the findings will be of interest to the sector. Thanks go to Sonya White, who analysed the data independently and wrote the majority of the statistical analysis. [Read more](#)

Share your time and experience and become a SCONUL Mentor

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 from across SCONUL who want to be a part of this highly valued scheme. Benefits of becoming a mentor include: offering your insight and advice to someone looking to navigate the next stages of their career, a one-to-one client-focused relationship, supporting emerging and newly appointed leaders, add to your CV. Click [here](#) to discover more about how the scheme works, and you can find more information for mentors and how to apply [here](#).

Controlled Digital Lending survey

Chris Morrison and Jane Secker are running a survey as part of a Jisc research project to understand the extent to which UK higher education institutions are adopting Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) based services. The findings will be published in a report to be made available to SCONUL members in summer 2025. The identity of individuals and institutions will not be disclosed, but we will capture and share information about the types of institution responding. We are also looking for a small number of representatives from academic libraries to take part in follow up interviews to help us understand more about how CDL is being implemented in UK academic libraries. If you are willing to take part you can provide your contact details at the end of the survey. The survey closes at 23:59 on Friday 4 April 2025. You can access the question set and the previous report undertaken on CDL from [our website](#).

Publication of new resources to support open access for monographs

UKRI have published new resources to support the implementation of their open access policy for monographs, book chapters and edited collections. The updates can be found in the UKRI news item at [Progressing open access for books at UKRI](#). This includes the publication of case studies on [Researchers' experience of publishing academic books open access](#) which includes a project led by RLUK, SCONUL, and ARMA on developing strategies for open access in research organisations plans to use these materials. UKRI has also updated the policy FAQs to reflect the status of transformative journals which

are no longer eligible for UKRI open access funds and provided more information about supporting open access for monographs via Diamond models, which do not incur a publishing fee. [Read more](#)

Ebook market literature review

Fixing the eBook Market: supporting innovation and growth is a literature review funded by Knowledge Rights 21, commissioned by CILIP and delivered by Inflect. The report reviews the positive return on investment found by academic studies for all types of libraries. It evidences how ebooks are changing the ownership models and cost structure that our libraries face and considers how these impacts are affecting both the economics of libraries and their capacity to achieve their economic, social, and educational roles. The publication of the literature review and 'case for support' is the first step in the Unlocking eBooks project, which will look to garner widespread support for change – both politically and across the sector. [Read more](#)

Defining and Implementing AI Literacy

Ithaka S+R has announced a new cohort project focused on helping libraries meet the challenge of AI literacy and is looking for potential partners including from the UK. As generative AI usage skyrockets, how are colleges and universities teaching students to think critically about their own adoption of this technology and its wider role in society? This project will bring together 15 colleges and universities as they refine their AI literacy goals, investigate the expectations, experiences, and needs of faculty and students on their campuses, and work collaboratively to ideate on new service offerings and revise existing programs. If you're interested in learning more about the project or participating in it, please contact Ruby MacDougall ruby.macdougall@ithaka.org. [Read more](#)

Journal Checker Tool survey

Journal Checker Tool (JCT) user survey is now live and will remain open until the 21st March 2025. The survey can be accessed from the [JCT home page](#) and [via their survey tool](#), and is available in both English and French.

CONUL Bursary Opportunities

CONUL has announced that the application period for this year's CONUL Conference Bursary Awards is now open. This year's CONUL Conference takes place on 28-29 May in The Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore. The theme will be 'Shaping Tomorrow: Reflections and New Directions', in honour of CONUL Conference celebrating 10 years of innovation and collaboration. The bursary categories are as follows:

- LIS students currently studying an LAI course
- LIS graduates who have graduated from an LAI accredited course in the last five years – sponsored by Bibliotheca
- Someone in the library sector who does not hold an LIS qualification – sponsored by UCD

Details on how to apply and what the awards include can be found on the CONUL website at: <https://conference.conul.ie/bursary-opportunities/>. Closing date for applications is 14 March.

Call for papers: ALN Conference 2025, "Sustainable innovation: moving forward in challenging times", 18 June (Online) and 11 July (Manchester)

As institutions are rising to the challenge of continuing to thrive while across the sector, finances and staff time are tight. How do we choose what to focus on, what to drop, and how to manage our teams to get them through difficult times? ALN's conference asks how we might continue to move forward, to

innovate, and to share the positive changes we've made in these challenging times. Further details of the conference theme and sub-themes can be found [here](#). ALN are inviting submissions exploring any aspect of the topic. Papers are welcome from all colleagues working within any institution, whether they are ALN member institutions or not. Proposals should be submitted via [this form](#) by 14 March. For any queries about submitting a proposal, please contact alnconferenceteam@gmail.com. [Read more](#)

Libraries Week: Libraries Change Lives in June and Green Libraries Week in October

CILIP will lead two separate annual campaigns with partners promoting the impactful work delivered by all information professionals. The new annual programme for campaigns is: Libraries Week: Libraries Change Lives, Monday 2 June – Sunday 8 June 2025 and Green Libraries Week, Monday 27 October – Sunday 2 November 2025. Green Libraries Week brings together a campaign and celebration to focus on climate change and sustainability. 2025 sees the return of the Green Libraries Conference. [Read more](#)

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

This month SCONUL has been attending a round table in the House of Lords on the **ebooks market**; holding a **meeting with UUK on library finances** and the scope for shared services; and hosting **the Libraries EDI Coordinating Group**. The SCONUL team are also working with our collaborators on two new sets of **case studies** on How to get Ahead in Libraries; and on Technology-enhanced library spaces which will be with members shortly. We're also delighted to have received 16 applications for the **library design awards**, and great interest from across the sector in the **Sustainable Development Goals case studies**.

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.

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.org.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. 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: Head of Libraries and Archives Service, University of Westminster

The University of Westminster is seeking to appoint a Head of Libraries and Archives Service. As a member of the Student and Academic Services Leadership Team, the post holder will ensure that the services align with the University's strategic priorities and sector developments. They will be responsible for strategic planning, management, development and reporting of activities and budgets, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation. **Closing date 4 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Archivist, London South Bank University

London South Bank University are recruiting for the post of Archivist in the Information Resources Management (IRM) team of their Library, Skills, and Customer Service (LSCS) department. This position will provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to manage and make available the records of the LSBU Group in the archives. This includes records from the university, its predecessor institutions, further education institutions (South Bank Colleges), and secondary schools (South Bank Academies). The Archivist's duties also encompass research data management support and the curation of library special collections. The service has full Archives Services Accreditation. **Closing date 6 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Librarian (Japan and Korea), SOAS University of London

The Librarian (Japan and Korea) will support research, learning and teaching and manage the full collection lifecycle. This includes selection and preparation of materials and maintenance of the collections. The post holder will work on development and exploitation of electronic and print resources and will be the key liaison with faculty, students and researchers for study and research using the Japan and Korea collections. **Closing date 6 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Head of Special Collections, National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland is excited to be accepting applications for the position of Head of Special Collections. Reporting to the Director of the National Library of Ireland, the Head of Special Collections will be a member of the NLI's senior management team. This critical role is responsible for leading and overseeing the management of a major department of the NLI as well as contributing to its strategic planning and overall management. **Closing date 7 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Graduate Learning Resources and Skills Advisor, London South Bank University

London South Bank University are recruiting for a Graduate Learning Resources and Skills Advisor in Library Skills and Customer Services. The post is suitable for graduates interested in a career in higher education, libraries, or IT support. The post holder will spend several months working with each team across the Customer Service department based in the library at the Southwark campus. The role includes training and development opportunities including external library visits, participation in HE/FE sector learning events and CILIP membership for the duration of the post. **Closing date 9 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Clinical Skills and Simulation Assistant Technician, London South Bank University

London South Bank University is recruiting for the post of Clinical Skills and Simulation Assistant Technician within their Technical Support Services division (TSS). This position will provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to assist with the upkeep and preparation of several specialist teaching facilities in the Clinical Skills and Simulation Laboratories. The area comprises of two Schools, the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the School of Allied Health and Social Care. As an integral member of this team, the post holder will assist the presentation and demonstration of key technologies, facilitate practical sessions, and play a key role in ensuring that the environments and technical equipment run smoothly. **Closing date 9 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Collections Inventory Assistant, Wellcome Collection

The Wellcome Collections Systems Transformation Project is a major initiative aiming to replace and modernise our current library, archive and collection management systems. The Inventory Assistants will play a key part in this process through inventory and audit of our collections, data clean-up and catalogue reconciliation tasks. The Wellcome Collection are looking for four Inventory Assistants to join their team for a fixed term of 18 months as part of the project. As an Inventory Assistant the post holder will be responsible for data creation, data clean up, inventory tasks and reconciliation, working with data both within existing databases, but also within new library and collections management systems. **Closing date 9 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Learning and Teaching Librarian, University of Suffolk

The Learning & Teaching Librarian (Customer Services) will develop subject-specific information resources and support for learning and teaching in a designated School and or subject area. This will include the development and delivery of face to face and online resources, advice and guidance, workshops, and one-to-ones, in relation to information and digital literacies. As the lead on customer services for our library services the post holder will manage and lead the provision and development of customer services across the library. This includes evaluation and analysis of user engagement and experience, identifying and leading on process improvements and ensuring the front of house team are working effectively and efficiently. **Closing date 11 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Subject Librarian, Edinburgh Napier University

Edinburgh Napier University is seeking candidates with experience and well-rounded knowledge of nursing and allied healthcare disciplines for a Subject Librarian role in our School of Health & Social Care. The Subject Librarian role provides vital support to students, academic staff, and researchers. The post holder will manage resources, deliver user education, and support research, enhancing digital literacy and the overall student experience. **Closing date 16 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Head of Subscriptions and Publisher Relations, University of Manchester

The University of Manchester Library is currently recruiting for the new post of Head of Subscriptions and Publisher Relations to provide strategic leadership for the management of subscriptions and publisher relations. The postholder will report to the Director of Collection Strategies and work closely with other teams within the directorate and wider library. This role will have oversight of the management of the Library's content budget and provide advice to the Director of Collections and the University Librarian on issues affecting the provision of subscribed content for the staff and students of the University. The postholder will provide management and leadership for the Subscriptions Team within the directorate of

Collection Strategies and be expected to participate in the management of the Directorate and of the wider Library. **Closing date 17 March** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Open Research Manager (Research Data, Repository and Theses), University of St Andrews

University of St Andrews are looking for an Open Research Manager (Research Data, Repository and Theses) to join their Open Research team in Libraries & Museums . This role will focus on research data management and doctoral theses, and the ideal candidate will have experience of repositories and at least one of these areas of specialism. The purpose of this role is to focus on advocacy and outreach for Research Data Management and Theses, managing operational elements of the infrastructure, staff and services which support the University's culture of Open Research. **Closing date 19 March** [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.

The Oxford Forum of Open Scholarship (OxFOS 2025), Oxford, 3-13 March

AI and Libraries: Literacy, Ethics, and Responsible Use, 13 March

Librarians Change Lives: The Library Profession in 2025, Oxford, 18 March

RLUK Conference, Liverpool, 19-21 March

Beyond Paywalls: Librarians Re-imagining Open Access, 20 March

NLISN: Recruitment and Neurodivergent Library and Information Staff, 26 March

UKSG 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition, Brighton, 31 March-2 April

LILAC 2025, Cardiff, 14-16 April

UKSG Licensing Skills for Librarians Online Seminar 2025, 29-30 April

UKSG Open Educational Resources online seminar 2025, 7 May

Call for papers: NAG 15th Collection Development Seminar and Public Library Forum, Leeds, 15 May

Call for speakers: Beyond the Horizon 2025 - CILIP North East Conference, 19 May

DARTS9 'Opening Doors: Empowering Librarians to conduct and support research', Swindon, 21-22 May

CONUL Conference 2025, Tullamore, 28-29 May

Call for papers: 16th International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries, Liverpool, 3-4 June

50th Annual Conference of IASSIST, Bristol, 3-6 June

User Experience in Libraries 9: 'Trust the Process', Liverpool, 10-12 June

SCURL Annual Conference, Aberdeen, 19 June

Save the date: ARLIS UK & Ireland annual conference 2025, 1-3 July

CILIP Annual Conference, Birmingham, 2-3 July

Open Science Conference 2025, Hamburg, 8-9 October