

News

SCONUL Groups: Help shape the future of our community

SCONUL is [looking for new members for its groups](#) across a range of strategic areas for libraries. All of these groups have an important role to play in shaping the future of our sector and advocating for the valuable role that libraries play delivering their institutions' missions. This is an excellent opportunity to work closely with colleagues to tackle our shared challenges together. There are roles available which will suit a wide range of experience and areas of expertise. In addition to seeking new members of our established Strategy Groups on Content, Organisational Development, and Technology and Markets, we are setting up new Task and Finish Groups on (a) Shared services and (b) Climate change and sustainability, as well as expanding the current Advocacy and Service Development Task and Finish Group. In addition, we are creating two new standing groups to support members on (a) Business Intelligence and (b) EDI. We also have vacancies for officers for three of our community of interest groups. Further detail on the work of each of the groups can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or want to discuss any aspect of this call, please email ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk. The deadline for responses is Friday 21 November. [Read more](#)

SCONUL Autumn conference, 19 November, Birmingham: Library Transformation

Registration for SCONUL's Autumn conference is open with a few places remaining. Focusing on *Library Transformation: people and place*, the conference 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, as well as workshops on the evolution of hybrid working; on effective collaboration for shared services and on Jisc's new Digital Transformation Library Lens. 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. [Read more](#)

Small and Specialist Institutions Forum, 7 November

SCONUL's Small & Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum provides an opportunity for institutions which define themselves as small or specialist (or both) to come together to share knowledge and experience. The next meeting will provide members with an update on the following topics: changes made to the Organisational Development Knowledge Base following feedback at the last SSI Forum; work on the [HE Reference Models](#) to ensure that libraries are properly represented; the new SCONUL groups being created, and an update on the Jisc's "Big 5" negotiations and sector finances. Members are also invited to suggest topics or issues to cover, these can be emailed to noura.mokhtar@sconul.ac.uk. The SSI Forum will take place on 7 November at 14.00hrs. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Leading and developing AI services and teams webinar, 13 November

The SCONUL AI working group is hosting a webinar exploring "Leading and developing AI services and teams". Previous webinars have explored tips for engaging with university leaders about AI, and on libraries adopting commercially provided AI tools into their work. This webinar will focus on libraries that are leading development on AI tools within their institutions, and will explore some of the experiences and learning around leading teams and projects that are developing and adopting AI services and platforms. Attendees will hear from the following speakers: Ciaran Talbot, Director of Artificial Intelligence and Ideas Adoption at University of Manchester Library; and Gary Elliott-Cirigottis, Director of Library and Knowledge Services at the Open University. The webinar will be held on Thursday 13 November at 14.00hrs. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL AI coffee morning, 28 November

SCONUL's AI and information literacy CIG will be leading the next AI coffee morning on Friday 28 November at 10am. Given the rapid pace of change in this space, many colleagues in the library community and those we are supporting (academics, researchers, students, etc.) are experiencing completely natural feelings of uncertainty and unease and this session will look at the challenges of overcoming impostor syndrome and anxiety about AI. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk. SCONUL's AI coffee mornings brings together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month. SCONUL members can access recordings and resources at: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/ai/ai-coffee-mornings/past-ai-coffee-mornings/>.

Rebecca Lawrence standing down as Chief Executive of The British Library

The British Library Board has announced that Rebecca Lawrence has stepped down as Chief Executive. The Board has confirmed that Dr Jeremy Silver will cover the role of Interim Chief Executive for the time being, following Rebecca's departure. Jeremy has been a British Library Board member since 2019 and was re-appointed for a second term in 2023. [Read more](#)

New deputies' groups on managing change

In response to demand, SCONUL has established a new group for those who are part of leadership teams within their library where there is significant change underway and who want to have a confidential space to share experiences and approaches. The group will operate along the lines of existing SCONUL new directors and deputy directors' groups which are confidential and self-organising – bringing together groups of 8-10 people for mutual and confidential support. The SCONUL office will facilitate their set up and initial meetings as required. The suggestion is that they are time limited, operating for as long as required. If you are interested in taking part in this group, please email jo.lambert@sconul.ac.uk. Please feel free to provide any context that would be helpful in bringing people together.

SCONUL new director groups – expressions of interest

SCONUL is putting out a call for expressions of interest in membership of a new directors' groups. The SCONUL new directors groups provide informal support and advice both virtually and through face-to-face meetings. In general, groups meet once or twice a year and have between a dozen and twenty members. Each group has their own discussion list and conversations are generally assumed to be confidential unless otherwise agreed. The SCONUL office facilitates the group's first meeting, after which, the groups are expected to self-organise. If you think you would benefit from joining such a group, please email Noura.Mokhtar@sconul.ac.uk.

Call for contributions: Academic Libraries and Learning Technologies CIG meeting, 3 December

SCONUL's Academic Libraries and Learning Technologies CIG is a community of practice bringing together those with an interest in learning delivery and related technologies. The next meeting will have in an interactive format based on the issues raised by members. There will be break-out rooms on specific topics whereby a speaker will either share their experience and invite discussion or set the scene for a problem and invite input from others. We expect the sharing by each speaker to be short and informal, 5-10 mins and need not to be in presentation mode. It is the active exchange of knowledge and ideas among all the participants that counts: Do you have any stories to tell? Do you have any local problems to chew on? To express interest or for an informal chat, please contact bertha.low@bcu.ac.uk. The CIG meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 December at 11.00 – 12.30hrs. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

The Future of the Systems Librarian CIG meetings 2026

The next three meetings of the Future of the Systems Librarian CIG will each explore current themes in system librarianship. The group officers welcome and invite contributions or suggestions from anyone who would like them to address particular topics – please [get in touch!](#)

Session 1: Challenges and opportunities for systems librarians

Presenters talking about current developments in systems librarianship with time for questions and discussion. Including:

- Nicolas Moretto, Library Digital Services Manager, Royal Holloway University of London – Reflections on entering a HE library systems role, and some tips for early success.
- Natalie Wakefield, Librarian (Discovery and Access Systems), University of Nottingham – Talking about implementing systems at overseas campuses

Session 2: People, recruitment, and progression

To include a further look at the name of the Systems Librarian – is this still the most relevant name for the role? Including:

- Matt Cox, Head of Content Delivery and Discovery, Anglia Ruskin University – Reflections on a 5-year challenge to recruit a Systems Librarian
- Sue Egleton, University Librarian, University of Reading – Looking at entry level roles

Session 3: Different ways of working

Looking 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.

Town hall meeting on the 'Big Five' negotiations

SCONUL and RLUK were joined by over 380 colleagues for a town hall meeting, held under Chatham House Rule, on 20 October to hear about progress in the negotiations with the big five publishers and to learn about the outcome of the consultation on the proposals and further responses from the publishers. Sarah Roughley Barake, Licensing Portfolio Specialist, and Anna Vernon, Head of Research Licensing at Jisc, provided a comprehensive overview which was followed with session for members to share feedback and to discuss next steps. Please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk if you wish to access the recording, presentation, and Q&A.

Case studies exploring libraries' contributions to delivering the UN Sustainable Development Goals

University libraries play an important role in supporting the success of their institutions directly through their contribution to teaching, learning and research missions, but also through a range of activities which bring wider societal benefit. One way in which this has been measured in recent years is through contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At its Autumn Conference on 19 November, SCONUL will be publishing a set of case studies showcasing the role of academic libraries across the UK and Ireland in advancing institutional missions aligned with the UN SDGs. The collection of 21 case studies will offer powerful and inspiring examples of libraries as partners for sustainable and equitable development. Please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk for more information.

Controlled digital lending in UK higher education: a landscape review

Controlled digital lending in UK higher education: a landscape review written by Jane Secker and Chris Morrison offers a follow-up to the briefing paper published by Jisc, SCONUL and RLUK in 2024 *Controlled digital lending (CDL) in UK higher education: a Jisc briefing for libraries*. Controlled digital lending can support access to content not otherwise available in digital format, enabling libraries to provide accessible and inclusive readings to students, provide remote access to special collections or to supply out of commerce works. Published in September 2025, the latest report builds on earlier work to assess the current state of controlled digital lending (CDL) in UK academic libraries. Data gathered in spring 2025 through a national survey of 58 institutions, interviews with seven institutions, one vendor and a consortium solution provider underpin the report. It considers the status of CDL implementation in academic libraries, the use cases driving adoption, technical requirements for implementation and currently available solutions. The report also considers the benefits, costs, barriers and legal implications of CDL, whilst concluding with some practical recommendations for institutions and library leaders as well as for Jisc, SCONUL, RLUK and other sector-level bodies. [Read more](#)

Launch of the UK Print Book Collection (UK PBC)

RLUK, SCONUL, Jisc, and the British Library have launched the [UK Print Book Collection \(UK PBC\)](#), a national initiative designed to preserve and provide access to scarce print monographs across the UK. The launch event, held on Wednesday 22 October, attracted around 130 attendees from a wide range of libraries. A recording of the event can be [watched here](#). A second session (with the same content) will take place on Monday 10 November, you can sign up for this event [here](#). The UK PBC is a shared service administered by the British Library and underpinned by the National Bibliographic Knowledgebase (NBK), operated by Jisc. 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 seven retained copies across the participating libraries (seven libraries with a copy). Any Higher Education and specialist library in the UK is welcome to join. There is no fee. The only prerequisite is to contribute your bibliographic data to the NBK and refresh it regularly (support is available for any libraries needing assistance). Further information can be found here: <https://ukpbc.uk/#mem>. To become a member, please email ukpbc@bl.uk.

Jisc Library Hub Community Advisory Board – Collections Categorisation Survey

Jisc's Library Hub Community Advisory Board (LHCAB) would like to find out more about how libraries use or are planning to use categories such as 'heritage', 'legacy', and 'finite' in their collection management practices. With the launch of the UK Print Book Collection (UK PBC) highlighting the value

of shared data on holdings nationally Jisc's LHCAB are keen to improve their understanding of local categorisation and how it operates. Their survey can be found at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/hBj8EvGz5Q> and the deadline for response is 21 November.

Leading for libraries: a new dynamic for all staff

Library staff are being invited to take part in a research study on leadership within the sector, conducted by Ayub Khan and Stella Thebridge. Your input will help shape research for an upcoming book on leadership in the sector provisionally entitled 'Leadership in the Library Sector'. Your results will be anonymised, unless you would like to be attributed. Please do take a few minutes to complete the anonymous survey at: <https://forms.office.com/r/WJBhR5nwDV>. You can give multiple responses to some questions. Deadline for responses is Thursday 15 January 2026.

Call for Participation - ENABLAR

ENABLAR (ENABling Library and Archive participation in digital Research co-learning communities) is a new Jisc-funded project from Programming Historian that will bring library and archive practitioners into dialogue with digital humanities researchers, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, skills development, and network building. We're gathering a cohort to join our online programme of webinars, workshops, and writing sprints, from December 2025 - July 2026. Those interested in taking part can learn more in our blogpost: tinyurl.com/enablar-blog, join our information webinar on 14 November: tinyurl.com/enablar-info to ask questions, and apply to participate via our form by 30 November: tinyurl.com/enablar-application.

LILAC 2026 bursaries available

Applications are now open for the [LILAC 2026 conference bursaries](https://www.lilacconference.com/lilac-2026/bursaries-1). LILAC: The Information Literacy Conference will take place from 30 March - 1 April 2026 at University of Sheffield. In addition to 'LILAC bursaries', which provide a full conference place for people from under-represented groups and sectors, 'Local to LILAC' day delegate bursaries are being offered for people who live or work near to the conference venue. Further details can be found at: <https://www.lilacconference.com/lilac-2026/bursaries-1>. Closing date for applications is Friday 21 November (17:00hrs).

Call for Applications: LIBER Journées for Library Directors 2026

LIBER Europe invites applications for participation in its fifth Leadership Journées Programme taking place on 27 - 29 May 2026 at the Copenhagen University Library/Royal Danish Library in Denmark. The Journées is a tailored scientific programme designed for 20-25 Library Directors who are already in leadership positions in their institutions and who are looking ahead at delivering strategic change as libraries and institutions redefine themselves in an ever-changing information and social environment. The programme brings participants together with eminent global speakers for a stimulating, interactive, and strategic programme, addressing major challenges that face us all. Deadline for applications is 15 December. [Read more](#)

IFLA selects London to host the 2027 World Library and Information Congress

IFLA [has announced](#) that the World Library and Information Congress will take place in London and across the UK in August 2027 after a successful bid by a partnership led by CILIP. 2027 is IFLA's Centenary year, marking 100 years since the original 15 library associations came together to create the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. This will also be the year that marks the

150th anniversary of the UK hosts, CILIP, own founding as the Library Association. While the multi-day Congress will take place at the Excel Centre in East London, there will be events held across the capital and all four UK Nations. [Read more](#)

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

SCONUL has completed the first stage of its work on the [HE Reference Models](#) which are widely used across HE. The working and review groups have agreed a set of proposed changes to the core Capability Model so that this more accurately reflects libraries' contributions to institutional capabilities across the Board. These proposed changes have had a positive initial reception from the UCISA-led review group and we look forward to seeing them reflected in changes to the next iteration of the model. We have also agreed to lead a consultation with library colleagues internationally, seeking their input into the proposed changes; and are considering possible changes to other elements of the HERMS library of materials; how members might be supported to deploy the model; and will be inputting into the new Service catalogue that is due to be developed in 2026.

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: Research & Infrastructure Lead, Oxford Brookes University

Oxford Brookes University are advertising for the newly created role of Research and Infrastructure Lead to join the Directorate of Learning Resources. The post holder will report directly to the Associate Director Content & Scholarship and shape the development and delivery of the Directorate's services in support of research and the library's digital systems, providing strong leadership and line management for the Open Research and Digital Infrastructure and Discovery Teams. **Closing date 5 November** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Open Research Culture Engagement Officer, Teesside University

An exciting opportunity has arisen to recruit an Open Research Culture Engagement Officer to support the development, promotion and embedding of open research culture practices across the University. This is a fixed-term full-time position, which will coordinate current open research plans, projects, events and training and scope and develop opportunities to enhance engagement with the open research culture. **Closing date 5 November** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Library Adviser, University of Roehampton

University of Roehampton are seeking a Library Adviser to join their Library Services team. The post holder will play a vital role encouraging students, staff and visitors to explore and make use of all the services, supporting all in achieving their full potential. As a member of the Library Services team, the Library Adviser will play a key role in supporting students and staff in making the most of our print and digital collections. They'll provide guidance on using library systems, self-service points, and offer friendly, knowledgeable support for a wide range of library enquiries—helping students thrive in their academic journey. **Closing date 6 November** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Assistant Librarian (weekends), Royal Horticultural Society

The Royal Horticultural Society is seeking a part-time Assistant Librarian to work weekends at the library at Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. The successful candidate will take responsibility for the library during weekend hours, providing a welcoming and accessible service to a wide range of visitors. They will supervise weekend library volunteers, assist with recruitment and training, respond to enquiries, support lending services, and contribute to collection management tasks including book and journal acquisitions and cataloguing. **Closing date 12 November** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: User Support Coordinator, Oxford Brookes University

Learning Resources at Oxford Brookes University are looking for a User Support Coordinator to lead their front-line library support team and help shape the future of user experience in their libraries. Based at our Headington campus and reporting to the User Support Manager, the post holder will manage the team of Library Assistants. They will work closely with Library Advisors to coordinate the library enquiry service across the Headington and Swindon campuses. This role is ideal for someone who enjoys variety,

values continuous improvement, and wants to make a meaningful contribution to the academic journey of students. **Closing date 25 November** [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.

OAI14 – Open Science in a changing world, 10-14 November

NLISN: Neurodivergent Reading Practices in Swedish Educational Contexts, 11 November

National Acquisitions Group Webinar Week 2025, 17-21 November

EDI and libraries: learning from each other to make real change, London, 18 November

SCONUL Autumn conference, Birmingham, 19 November

Sherif – Shelving the Paywall: Championing OERs, 20 November

CILIP Supplier Showcase, Manchester, 21 November

CSGUK Annual Conference, Birmingham, 28 November

RLUK: Embedding EDI principles in research library spaces and practices, 2 December

UKSG Forum 2025, Brighton, 3 December

Fantastic Futures 2025, London, 3-5 December

Call for Papers: RCN Nursing Librarianship Conference 2025 'Change, react, adapt: Future-proofing nursing library services', 10 December

Call for papers: AI in the HE Creative Curriculum, Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, 8 January

Copim Conference, 26-27 February 2026

Call for contributions: OxFOS 2026 Conference, 2-6 March 2026

CILIP Metadata & Discovery Group Conference 2026, Bristol, 11-13 March 2026

Call for topics: UKSG Annual Conference, Glasgow, 30 March-1 April 2026

Call for presentations: LILAC 2026, Sheffield, 30 March – 1 April 2026

CILIP Data Protection Conference, 3 June 2026

CILIP Online Copyright Conference, 4 June 2026

UXLibs10, York 2, 9-11 June 2026

18th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference, Romania, 26 and 29 May 2026