News

Moving the dial on OER in the UK and Ireland: SCONUL OER CoP webinar, 22 January

Join colleagues on 22 January from 14.00 – 15.30hrs to hear the latest developments with the OER Community of Practice for the UK and Ireland and to hear from libraries and academics who will share current best practice in the sector. This webinar will also highlight solutions and discuss how SCONUL libraries can get more involved in driving OER initiatives in their libraries. We will hear from: Barb Thees, Director of Community Engagement at Open Education Network; Irene Barranco Garcia, Copyright and Scholarly Communications Librarian at Imperial College London and Celine Peignen, Head Librarian at Technological University of the Shannon; academic OER authors Professor Jan Grabowski from University of Lancaster and Dr Alex Best from University of Sheffield; Darrin Sabourin, Account Executive at Pressbooks; and Sue Hodgson, Strategic Advisor, Content Strategy at Sylla. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL AI coffee morning, 30 January

SCONUL's first AI coffee morning of the year will be on Friday 30 January at 10am when we will hear from Natalie Lafferty from UCISA. 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/

Controlled Digital Lending webinar, 12 February

Join colleagues from SCONUL, RLUK and Jisc to find out how 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. We will hear from Jane Secker and Chris Morrison, authors of the report *Controlled digital lending in UK higher education: a landscape review* which 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*. The latest report assesses 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. The webinar will take place on 12 February 2026 from 11.00 - 12.30hrs. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

The Future of the Systems Librarian CIG meetings

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, 20 January, 11:00 –12:30hrs

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

- 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, 30 April, 13:00-14:30hrs

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

- 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, 17 September, 13:30- 15:00hrs

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.

For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk

Business Intelligence CIG meeting, 4 February

Members of the SCONUL community are warmly invited to the first meeting of the Business Intelligence Community of Interest Group on Thursday 4 February, 10.00-11.30hrs. The group is taking forward the work of the Library Analytics CIG and is open to anyone interested in using data to improve library services, irrespective of role or level of experience. The aim of the group is to offer a welcoming space to grow your skills, capability and confidence in working with data, tools and technologies. You will have the chance to explore creative and accessible approaches to communicating with data to tell clear stories to different audiences and support better decision making. The group will offer a safe and supportive space to test and share ideas, learn from one another and explore engaging approaches to turning data into insights and action. For the first meeting we'll feature short, practical presentations from three institutions showcasing how they use and communicate data analytics using different Library Management Systems, followed by time for discussion and questions. The speakers will be Michael Whitton, University of Southampton, on OCLC; Will Peaden, Coventry University, on Primo; and Phil Adams, De Montfort University, on Folio. After attending this session, you will have gained a greater understanding of how library data can be used for analytics using tools like Power BI. There will also be time for group discussions on current issues, and to explore topics for future meetings. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

AI and Copyright law in a Research-intensive Economy

SCONUL, Knowledge Rights 21, Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance, RLUK, and Universities UK have written to the Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP, on the importance of expanding the focus of the ongoing dialogue on how best to frame copyright law and AI to support innovation and growth in the UK. As Government considers responses to the Copyright and AI consultation, the letter urges the adoption of a broad and flexible text and data mining (TDM) exception (Option 2) as exists in the US, Japan and South Korea – arguing that such an approach will support basic research and knowledge transfer from universities, the NHS and beyond – thus speeding up innovation and growth in the STEM sector, with little, if any, impact on the legitimate interests of the creative industries.

"Big Five" negotiations conclude successfully

Jisc has announced the successful conclusion of negotiations with all five leading academic publishers – Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Springer Nature, Wiley, and Sage – conducted under its Next Generation Open Access programme. They are the largest single publishing contracts globally, covering publishers that collectively publish over 11,000 peer-reviewed journals and more than one million research articles annually, spanning every academic discipline. Within the agreements, a new trial will remove fees on a per article basis from certain journals, converting to a fully open access model when thresholds are met. It is a global first for agreements to include a non article-based model of this nature. It marks a key milestone for UK research, positioning UK universities at the forefront of efforts to reform scholarly publishing and create a system that is more sustainable, equitable, and focused on quality. Read more

OBC Collective Development Fund Grant Programme: call for applications

The Open Book Collective have launched their third call for applications for funding from their Collective Development Fund (CDF). Grants from the CDF are available to finance work that supports Open Access scholarly books (definitions cand be found on the OBC webpage). The OBC expect to award at least one grant of up to £15,000, and two to five grants of up to £7,500. They aim to allocate at least 30% of the total available funding to applicants from and/or projects benefitting Low and Middle Income Countries (as defined by the World Bank). The final distribution of funds will be decided by the judging committee, and bids for smaller amounts will in no way be penalised in the judging process. Projects can have a duration of up to 12 months. Projects funded in 2026 must be completed by the end of the 2027 calendar year. All the details of the funding call, including key dates, application form and templates, are available here.

LILAC Information Literacy Award and Student Award

Nominations for the LILAC Information Literacy Award and applications for the Student Award are now open. The CILIP Information Literacy Group and the UCL Department of Information Studies offer an award for achievement in the field of information literacy (IL). The award is open to all practitioners, researchers and academics working in the IL field within the UK. Nominations may be from any sector, individuals and groups/teams can self-nominate or nominate others. Find out more on the LILAC website. The Rowena Macrae-Gibson Student Award provides a sponsored place at LILAC for two students registered on a UK study programme. The award includes a full conference place, including social events, and reasonable UK travel and accommodation expenses up to the value of £250. Applications are welcome from full-time or part-time students (including distance-learners) registered for a UK-based first degree or taught postgraduate qualification in information/library studies or information literacy (IL). Find out more on the LILAC website. Closing date for both awards is 6 February (17:00hrs).

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: Academic Liaison Librarian - Digital Education, London Metropolitan University
London Metropolitan University are seeking to appoint an Academic Liaison Librarian - Digital Education. This role combines academic liaison responsibilities with a strong focus on digital education, information literacy, and learning technology - playing an active role in digital education support across the university. The role includes providing academic liaison support to designated Schools, including information literacy skills development (referencing, academic integrity, effective use of resources), while also working with emerging technologies (including AI literacy), developing innovative approaches to digital learning support, and embedding digital capabilities in the curriculum. **Closing date 12 January** Read more

Vacancy: Research Metrics and Open Infrastructure Lead, University of Oxford
University of Oxford has a post of Research Metrics and Open Infrastructure Lead available in the Open Scholarship Support team of the Bodleian Libraries. In this brand-new role, the post holder will support the development of responsible research metrics and open research tools, helping Oxford understand and communicate research performance in a fair and meaningful way. They will work closely with colleagues across the University to provide guidance on bibliometrics, altmetrics, and research indicators, and will support services such as ORCID, and the new Shortform Hosting platform (SHOx). **Closing date 16 January** Read more

Vacancy: Systems Support Librarian, University of the Arts London

University of the Arts London has a vacancy for a Systems Support Librarian. The post holder will contribute to the development, maintenance and optimisation of the Library Management System (LMS) and associated technologies, ensuring they operate effectively and are fully integrated across the digital library infrastructure. Working closely with IT Services and colleagues across the University, they will help drive digital transformation and enhance the overall user experience for both students and staff. The Systems Support Librarian will also manage a small team, providing direction, support and professional development opportunities, while contributing to departmental reporting and data analysis to inform strategic decisions and continuous improvement. **Closing date 18 January** Read more

Vacancy: Systems & E-Resources Librarian, Science Museum Group

The Systems and E-Resources Librarian manages the Koha library management system, currently used at the Science Museum and SIP, collaborates with the University of York for the National Railway Museum's library catalogue on their Alma library services platform and works closely with other sites for their systems and library cataloguing requirements. The role manages the e-resources service, providing training and support to users and working closely with ICT and suppliers. This is a permanent, full-time post which can be based at any of the sites in Bradford, Manchester, London, York or Wroughton (nr. Swindon) with some travel to other sites required. The post holder will be required to work on site at least two days per week. **Closing date 20 January** Read more

Vacancy: Senior Systems Specialist, University of Warwick

The vacancy of Senior Systems Specialist is now available at the University of Warwick. The post will work closely with the Library and Archives team, though note that structurally it lies within the Learning Systems Support team (part of Portfolio Delivery in the Information & Digital Group of departments). **Closing date 20 January** Read more

Vacancy: Graduate Trainee Librarian, Trinity College Cambridge

Trinity College Library wishes to appoint a Graduate Trainee for one year from September 2026. The post offers an ideal opportunity to gain a wide range of experience in a busy academic library before embarking on a career in library and information work. The primary aim of the post is to support the work of the library and prepare the trainee for a postgraduate course in library and information studies. The post involves a wide variety of work with both the modern and the special collections. In addition, the trainee will have the opportunity to work on a special project in the Wren Library. **Closing date 23 January** Read more

Vacancy: Graduate Trainee Archivist, Trinity College Cambridge

Trinity College Library wishes to appoint a Graduate Trainee Archivist for one year from September 2026. The post offers an ideal opportunity to gain a wide range of experience in a busy academic library and archive before embarking on a career in archives and records management. The post involves a wide variety of work both with the College's own administrative archives and with the Library's extensive collections of personal papers. In addition, the trainee will have the opportunity to work on a special project. **Closing date 23 January** Read more

Vacancy: Research Librarian, University of Worcester

University of Worcester are currently recruiting for a Research Librarian to join the Open Scholarship and Content team within Library Services. This is an opportunity to play a key role in supporting the University's research community, enhancing scholarly communication, and leading the development of open research services. The post holder will work closely with academic staff, researchers, and professional services to provide expert advice on research support, copyright, rights retention, and open access. They will also lead the development of researcher skills training, manage the institutional repository (WRaP), and contribute to the strategic direction of research services. **Closing date 25 January** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Access and Acquisitions, University of Leeds

The University of Leeds Libraries are recruiting a Head of Access and Acquisitions. This is an exciting opportunity to lead a highly motivated team in ensuring the discoverability and accessibility of content for its community of over 40,000 users. With experience of working with library content the post holder will explore new modes of service delivery and leverage partnerships to advance approaches to connecting users with resources. They will drive innovation to maximise the value of the systems and data to improve the visibility, discoverability and usability of content. **Closing date 26 January** Read more

Vacancy: Library Collections Manager, University of Dundee

The University of Dundee is seeking an experienced and forward-thinking Collections Manager to lead the development, stewardship, and discoverability of its library and cultural collections. This senior role manages the lifecycle of print and digital resources, as well as overseeing archives, museums, and special collections, ensuring they remain accessible, sustainable, and aligned with institutional priorities. You will shape policy, guide acquisitions and metadata strategy, and drive innovation in support of teaching, research, and user experience. Working collaboratively with academic schools, research communities, external partners and national consortia, you will help advance our collections and their impact across the University. **Closing date 31 January** Read more

Vacancy: Collections Librarian, University of Dundee

This is an opportunity to join a busy collections and resources team at the University of Dundee. This role will have a specialist focus on managing journal and periodical subscriptions. Working with Alma and Primo, the post holder will maintain accurate holdings, support renewals and invoicing, analyse usage and cost-effectiveness, and provide specialist support for complex access issues. They will also contribute to reading list support, sector-wide discussions, and evidence-based decision-making using tools such as COUNTER and Unsub. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who combines technical expertise, analytical ability, and a passion for supporting research and learning. **Closing date 31 January** Read more

Vacancy: Lead Engineer (Digital Library), University of Leeds

University of Leeds are seeking a Lead Engineer. The post holder will lead the delivery of the technical infrastructure and services of the Digital Library Infrastructure Project (DLIP) during and beyond the project's lifetime. DLIP is a cornerstone project to support the University in meeting the objectives set out in the Digital Transformation component of the Universal Values, Global Changes, University of Leeds Strategy 2020 to 2030. It implements the Digital Futures strand of the Libraries Vision. **Closing date 1 February** Read more

Vacancy: Faculty Librarian, University of Bath

The University of Bath Library is currently recruiting to fill a vacancy for Faculty Librarian for their School of Management. As Faculty Librarian for the School of Management the post holder will ensure exemplary library service provision to the School. They will be line manager for the Management Subject Librarian, and guide other library staff when working to support the School. Working with the Subject Librarian they will ensure continued development and consistency of approach in delivery of services across the School to meet current and emerging information needs of staff and students at all levels. **Closing date 2 February** 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.

Working with and understanding neurodivergent colleagues webinar, 16 February

Copim Conference, 26-27 February

Supporting neurodivergent library users webinar, 27 February

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

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

Call for Speakers – NLISN: Neurodivergence and Entry into the Profession, 18 January

Teaching/training neurodivergent students in the library webinar, 23 March

RLUK26 Virtual Conference, 25-27 March

UKSG Annual Conference, Glasgow, 30 March-1 April

LILAC 2026, Sheffield, 30 March – 1 April

LIBER Architecture Group (LAG) Seminar, Dublin, 6-8 May

Critical Approaches to Libraries Conference (CALC), w/c 11 May

Call for papers: NAG Seminar and Forum, Nottingham, 20-21 May

Call for Abstracts: CONUL Conference 2026, Galway, 27-28 May

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

CILIP Data Protection Conference, 3 June

CILIP Online Copyright Conference, 4 June

UXLibs10, York 2, 9–11 June

LIBER Annual Conference, Trondheim, 1–3 July