

News

SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 16 July

SCONUL is pleased to announce that Peter Mason, Transformation and Efficiency lead at Universities UK, will deliver a keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and Members meeting (11am–1pm, via Zoom) on Thursday 16 July. The AGM will include formal business, including Executive Board elections, and will provide an opportunity to review SCONUL's work from 2025–26 and engage with plans for next year, and with the development of the SCONUL strategy 2027–2030. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Small and Specialist Institutions Forum webinar, 13 May

SCONUL's Small and Specialist Institutions will come together to discuss areas of mutual interest, including exploring the challenging context for UK higher education providers at present and what this might mean for individual institutions via a PEST analysis of the sector, and priorities for small and specialist members in the new SCONUL Strategy (2027 – 2030). The SCONUL team will also provide an update on its current activity. The webinar will be held on Wednesday 13 May from 14:00 – 15.30hrs and is open to all those leading SCONUL member institutions who define themselves as specialist or small and their senior teams plus invited guests. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Webinar on AI prompt libraries, 15 May

Would your library benefit from an AI prompt library to support users? Or are you already at the planning stage and would like to benefit from the expertise of those who have already done the groundwork? SCONUL's AI working group is hosting a webinar exploring two examples of prompt libraries created by Virginia Tech in the US and the University of Kent in the UK. We will hear from speakers: Ginny Pannabecker, Assistant Dean and Director, Research Collaboration and Engagement (RCE); Yinlin Chen, Associate Director, Centre for Digital Research & Scholarship, at Virginia Tech; and Oliver Perrott-Webb, AI and Education Specialist at University of Kent. The webinar will be held on Friday 15 May from 14:30 – 16:00hrs. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

HE Reference Models webinar series

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

[Everything you wanted to know about the HE Reference Models but were afraid to ask](#)

The first webinar held on 24 March looked at why the HE Reference Models matter; how they work; and how they are being used to meet the challenges of digital transformation and to support other change processes within your institution. SCONUL members can access the recording and resources here:

<https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/library-structures-and-strategies/he-reference-models-webinar-series/everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-the-he-reference-models-but-were-afraid-to-ask-24-march-2026/>. If you don't yet have access to the HERMS documentation and would like a copy, please contact the SCONUL team at sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

HE Reference Models as a tool for institutional transformation, 21 May 14.00 – 15.30hrs

The HE Reference Models are being used as a tool for those leading institutional restructuring and transformation programmes, often alongside, or integrated with other frameworks. This webinar will include a deeper dive into how the HE Reference Models are being used to inform institutional change processes. It will also introduce the new HE Service Reference Model which is being developed to help support this type of work. We will hear from:

- Mary Millard, Executive Director of Faculty Operations at University of Bristol and sponsor of Bristol's Professional Services Transformation Programme which has led the development of the institution's service catalogue based on the HERMs.
- Iain McCracken, Director of Service Delivery at the London School of Economics. Iain is leading the development of the new HE Service Reference Model and he will set out the background to its development; share the alpha version of the Service Model and discuss how the SCONUL community can engage with this work.

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

Engaging with the HE Reference Models, 7 July 14.00 – 15.30hrs

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

Business Intelligence CIG meeting, 20 May

The next meeting of the SCONUL Business Intelligence Community of Interest Group will focus on the management of analytics, how to pull this data into dashboards and use this data for decision making. Michelle Halpin, Digital Services and Content Developer at University of Sunderland, will be sharing some of Sunderland's analytic work including an overview of the frameworks and protocols they have developed to help them manage their analytic offer. Katie Mann, Assistant Director of Library Services (Engagement & Experience) at Newman University, will outline how they learned to use Power BI to move from minimal, hard-to-use library enquiry data toward a more structured and insightful evidence base. Richard Milne, Library Systems Manager at Robert Gordon University, will be looking at bringing together siloed data to provide a central, user-friendly, and intuitive source of library insights. The CIG meeting will take place on 20 May, 10:00 – 11:30hrs. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL AI coffee mornings

The AI coffee mornings bring together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month. SCONUL's upcoming coffee mornings will be:

AI and non-HE approach to supporting their users, 29 May 10.00hrs

SCONUL's May AI coffee morning will focus on non-HE libraries' approach to supporting their users. We'll hear from Martin Reid who is Director of Library Services at the House of Commons library and Sally McLaren who is Reader Services Librarian at Inner Temple Library. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

AI and practical development of skills and competencies, 26 June 10.00hrs

The AI and information literacy CIG will be taking over our AI coffee morning once more for June, they will focus on practical development of skills and competencies. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL members can access recordings and resources at: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/ai/ai-coffee-mornings/past-ai-coffee-mornings/>

The Future of the Systems Librarian CIG meeting, 11 June

The next meeting of the Future of the Systems Librarian CIG, *Different ways of working*, will look at how the role can sit outside the library and how this can work effectively. Also reflecting on the importance and visibility of the role. The CIG meeting will take place on 11 June, 10.00-11.30hrs. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Hold the date: SCONUL Autumn Conference, 13 November 2026

We will be holding our next autumn conference on 13 November 2026 at The Studio in Birmingham. We look forward to welcoming you and offering delegates high-quality plenary presentations and lightning talks. There will be a chance to take part in workshops, and this will be an excellent opportunity for colleagues to connect and network. Hold the date in your diaries, more information on how to register and the agenda will follow soon.

SCONUL Spring Conference 2026

Over 100 SCONUL members gathered in London to focus on *Openness Under Pressure: Strategic leadership for libraries in an era of disruption*, on 1 May. Professor Karen Stanton, Vice-Chancellor of University of the Arts London, gave a presentation on the challenges and opportunities facing UK HE – effectively a masterclass on leadership for libraries. The conference explored the library community's commitment to openness and how it can be maintained in the face of countervailing pressures including growing economic and political nationalism and cybersecurity concerns. Delegates also had the opportunity to consider how to prepare for a future shaped by Gen Z and Alpha learners. Conference presentations will be available on the SCONUL website shortly.

UK Open Bibliographic Metadata Group – Call for Members

If you are interested in the possibilities afforded by open bibliographic metadata to boost the discoverability and visibility of library collections this may be the group for you! A SCONUL task and finish group reporting into the SCONUL Markets and Technologies Group, the UK Open Bibliographic Metadata Group has three strands of activity:

- Technological solutions and infrastructures: examining approaches, opportunities and providers that could help us realise an open metadata environment in the UK.
- Policy and licensing: reviewing the legal situation in the UK and EU with regard to copyright, the contractual position with our suppliers and options for developing an open metadata policy framework and template.
- BIBFRAME and linked open data: testing BIBFRAME as a vehicle for creating a linked open metadata environment, raising awareness of BIBFRAME and developing an understanding of options beyond BIBFRAME for a linked open bibliographic data environment.

If you would like to find out more do get in touch with [Amy Warner-May](#) or [Jane Saunders](#). To join please e-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk by Friday 15 May, indicating which of the three work streams you would like to join.

UKRI open access policy update

UKRI have announced an update to the way their OA policy is implemented for 2026–30 which can be found in this LinkedIn post: [\(24\) Post | LinkedIn](#). Key points are that OA levels for UKRI articles are now around 88%, with steady growth in immediate OA but that the transition to full OA is slow. It will retain a flexible, multi-route approach to immediate OA and maintain its investment in OA. Funding will continue to support transitional agreements, but from 2028/29 UKRI funding will focus on fully OA publishing and will no longer be available for hybrid OA. It will also work in partnership to make targeted investments that strengthen Green OA and repository infrastructure including identifying opportunities for greater coordination and shared approaches. Their aim is to support more resilient and sustainable UK-wide infrastructure. More details will be announced in the coming months.

NHS Wales E-Library / WHELF project around the future of Open Access in Wales

Working with [Home - Research Consulting](#), NHS Wales e-Library and WHELF are collaborating in exploring options around Open Access in Health and Social Care publications in Wales. The final report considers the role of infrastructure, the value of grey literature, the importance of collaboration and the relationship between bilingual publication and Open Access. The clear commitment of both sectors to improve OA in Wales for our nation was a clear driver in the shaping of this project. The full report is available in Welsh and English at [Strategic review and feasibility study of Open Access models](#). A blog post summary is available at [Making healthcare knowledge visible: new report published on Open Access publishing in NHS Wales - Research Consulting](#)

Electronic legal deposit material available from the British Library

For the first time since a cyber-attack on the Library in 2023, electronic legal deposit material is now available to view at the Library. Material catalogued before October 2023, including journal issues, journal articles and ebooks can be viewed using the PCs in their Reading Rooms, while the [interim online catalogue](#) is available to find material.

Vacancy of the Jisc publisher negotiations expert group

Jisc is pleased to announce an opportunity to join their [Publisher Negotiations Expert Group](#). This expert group plays a vital role in shaping strategic direction and ensuring effective publisher negotiations. The Next Gen OA strategy, including the next phase of journals negotiations are currently a significant focus of the group's work. Jisc are currently seeking an HE representative member and welcome applications from individuals in roles such as: Library Directors; Associate and Deputy Directors; and Research and Collections Management professionals. Members from all sizes of institutions are encouraged to apply but we do note a gap in representation from band 4 institutions, from whom we would especially welcome applications. If you are passionate about contributing to the future of scholarly communications and publisher engagement, we encourage you to apply. To express your interest in joining the group please contact the governance manager, Wendy.Jupp@Jisc.ac.uk providing details of your role and the skills and experience which you would use to contribute to the work of the group by close of business on Monday 8 June. The new member will be selected based on how their skills and experience advance the [goals of the group](#) and as above, consider how their inclusion would boost representation. All applicants will be contacted to acknowledge receipt of their submission and again once the selection

process is completed, by Tuesday 23d June. If you would like any further information, then you can contact Wendy or sarah.roughleybarake@jisc.ac.uk. Sarah is a licensing portfolio specialist for research licensing.

Digital Cultural Property consultation

Cultural Property and the Digital Future is a research project funded by The National Archives focusing on archives, libraries and museums. It aims to develop a better understanding of routes to valuing digital assets in terms of their economic and social significance. The project is seeking views on the acquisition and valuation of born digital assets from various stakeholders including custodians, professional advisers and donors. The online consultation is in partnership with Professor Elizabeth Lomas, Professor in Information Governance and Cultural Policy, Department of Information at University College London.

Take part in the consultation by Tuesday 5 May:

https://qualtrics.ucl.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_OoLuoHPF6w11rcW. To find out more, please contact either: james.travers@nationalarchives.gov.uk or e.lomas@ucl.ac.uk.

Research Professional Futures

Research Professional Futures (RPF) is a four-year initiative funded by Research England, delivered in partnership by Teesside University, Durham University, King's College London, and the University of Warwick. The programme aims to strengthen research culture and reshape how research is delivered across the UK. RPF focuses on supporting the development, visibility, and working practices of Research Professionals at all career stages. Through this work, RPF aims to better understand the roles, experiences, and aspirations of colleagues and use these insights to drive meaningful, positive change. A series of individual and institutional surveys will be launched in the summer, giving Research Professionals the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives. During the same period, colleagues will be invited to take part in interviews and/or focus groups as the next phase of the project develops. RPF's new website will be launching soon, alongside a LinkedIn page, which will offer updates, resources, and further opportunities to engage with the project. If you are interested in the RPF initiative or would like to stay connected as it progresses and hear more about upcoming events, please visit rpfutures.co.uk to sign up for the mailing list.

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

The SCONUL team are putting the final touches to the Organisational Development Knowledge Base which will go live in the next few weeks. We'll be emailing members directly to ask them to enter their data shortly and look forward to making this resource available for the whole community. Work is also underway on a new project looking at the future tech needs of the sector and the transition process, a subject which Jisc is also looking at – SCONUL will be attending a Jisc roundtable on tackling legacy tech next month. Our Business Intelligence groups have been working hard on the next iteration of the Technology Survey and the question set for the benchmarking statistics to ensure these remain up to date. And we're already planning for our Autumn Conference which will be taking place on Friday 13th November.

Making the most of your SCONUL membership

- **Sign up to lis-sconul** to participate in discussions with your peers as well as hear about news and events.
- **Join** the SCONUL community on **LinkedIn**.
- **Register** to access all the resources on the SCONUL website.
- **SCONUL mentoring scheme** supporting emerging and newly appointed leaders.
- **Join** a SCONUL **Directors or Deputies Group**.

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. Academic Libraries North <https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/>
2. CILIP https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/IP_news
3. CONUL <https://conul.ie/news/>
4. LIBER <https://libereurope.eu/news/>
5. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries <https://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/>
6. Mercian Collaboration <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news>
7. RLUK <https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/>
8. SCURL <https://www.scurl.ac.uk/news>
9. ucisa <https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views>
10. 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/>

Appointment: Director of Academic Services and University Librarian, Newcastle University

Kirsty Lingstadt has been appointed as the new Director of Academic Services and University Librarian at Newcastle University. Kirsty who is currently Director of Library, Learning, Archives & Wellbeing at University of York will join Newcastle University on 13 July.

Vacancy: Academic Support Librarian, Abertay University

Abertay University is seeking to appoint an Academic Support Librarian. Reporting to the Library Services Manager, they will contribute to the design and delivery of curriculum-embedded teaching that supports students in developing effective information and digital skills. Working closely with academic staff, the post holder will help embed these skills within modules and assessments, design engaging learning resources, and build students' confidence in searching for, evaluating and using information ethically in an increasingly AI-enabled research environment. The post holder will also contribute to reading list support, scholarly discovery, copyright guidance and the effective use of the digital tools and licensed resources that underpin teaching and learning. **Closing date 11 May** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Evidence Support Manager, The Royal College of Surgeons of England

The Royal College of Surgeons of England are currently recruiting for an Evidence Support Manager. The post holder will lead a high-performing team of Information Specialists to manage Evidence Support services such as literature search service, current awareness service and consultancy work. They will also be a key member of the Library Management team, contributing to strategic decision-making, service development, and the promotion of services across the organisation and to 20,000+ surgical members.

Closing date 11 May [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Programme Lead Librarian, The University of Law

The University of Law are currently advertising a full-time Programme Lead Librarian position to work across their London campuses at the University of Law. Programme Lead Librarians proactively contribute to the design, development and delivery of the portfolio of services offered by Library & Learning Skills to students and staff across the campuses. They are based at a specific campus and sit within the Programme and Learning Enhancement team. **Closing date 13 May** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Subject Librarian, University of Bath

University of Bath are currently seeking to fill a full-time Subject Librarian position in the Academic Services section in the Library. This vacancy is in the Faculty of Science library team, with current responsibility to support the Life Sciences department and includes: Providing library inductions, information skills teaching and handling enquiries; Managing library collections and budgets for the department; Liaising with academic staff, students, publishers and professional groups; Contributing to library strategy and participating in task and finish and special interest groups. **Closing date 13 May** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: University Librarian and Director of Library Services, RCSI University of Medicine & Health Sciences, Dublin

RCSI is seeking to appoint to the position of University Librarian and Director of Library Services. This post is a senior, permanent appointment within RCSI reporting to the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The post holder will lead the library team in developing and delivering future-focused library services, be responsive to user needs, and will have a clear vision for RCSI Library services in the age of AI and the strategic position of university library services as a critical component in RCSI institutional infrastructure(s). **Closing date 24 May** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Head of Strategic Innovation, University College Cork

UCC Library seeks a Head of Strategic Innovation to drive transformative initiatives that enhance efficiency, user experience and institutional alignment. The postholder will lead innovation, process improvement and evidence-based decision-making across Library activities and will be a key member of the Library Leadership Team. **Closing date 26 May** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Deputy Librarian, University College Cork

UCC seeks a Deputy Librarian to support the University Librarian in delivering integrated Library services aligned with the University's strategic goals. The postholder will lead the Library's staff professional learning and development strategy and manage a functional area, currently the Library's contribution to Learning, Teaching and the Student Experience. The role is a key member of the Library Leadership Team, providing shared strategic oversight of services, staff and functions. **Closing date 16 June** [Read more](#)

Events

If you would like SCONUL to include any events that may be of interest to directors, please e-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

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

RLUK Repositories Symposium: Securing, Sustaining, and Sharing the Future of UK Repositories Symposium, 8 May

European Rights Retention Community of Practice, 11 May

RLUK Research Shift Programme: 2.2 Inclusive & Equitable, 12 May

Critical Approaches to Libraries Conference (CALC), 12-14 May

SCOSS: From Commitment to Action: How library consortia fund open infrastructure, 13 May

UCL Research Institute for Collections Annual Showcase 2026, London, 14 May

Lights, Echoes, Libraries! Moving Images of Global Knowledge Justice, London, 12, 19 and 28 May

Knowledge Equity and Open Scholarship Week 2026, 19-21 May

CIVICA Open Science Conference, London, 20 May

NAG Seminar and Forum, Nottingham, 20-21 May

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

University Science and Technology Librarians' Group, Glasgow, 4 June

6th Sheffield Hallam University Library and Skills Centre Teachmeet, Sheffield, 6 June

M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2026, 9 June

NLSIN: I, the mask: navigating work post-disclosure, 9 June

UXLibs Europe, York 2, 9-11 June

Counter AGM and Conference 2026, 11 June

SCURL Annual Conference 2026, Glasgow, 16 June

National Designing Libraries Conference, London, 17 June

Customer Services Group UK: "Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End", London, 18 June

Edinburgh Open Research Conference 2026, Edinburgh, 18 June

Academic Practice and Technology (APT) Conference 2026, London, 19 June

OER26: Openness Reimagined: Continuity, Change and Shared Vision, Milton Keynes, 22-23 June

RLUK Research Shift Programme: 2.3 Collaborative, 23 June

cpd25 LISA Conference 2026 (previously the SLA Conference), London, 23 June

ALN Conference: Reimagining Openness in Academic Libraries, 24 June (online) and 6 July (Manchester)

Library-led digital transformation: the experience of the Jisc digital transformation library lens programme webinar, 1 July

LIBER Annual Conference, Trondheim, 1-3 July

ARCLIB Conference, Liverpool, 1-3 July

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

RLUK Research Shift Programme: 2.4 Impactful, 14 July

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

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

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

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

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

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

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