

News

The future of the systems librarian

On 31 October SCONUL held a webinar to mark the launch of the SCONUL project on “The Future of the Systems Librarian. Georgina Dimmock, University of Northampton and Chair of the project working group led the discussion and we also heard from Adnan Adil from London South Bank University; Paul Smith from Coventry University and Margaret Stone from University College London. The discussion covered succession planning and whether routes into the systems librarian role may be changing; the importance of career advancement and personal development and the need for support and development for the community of systems librarians across the sector. Speakers identified challenges for the next five years including the need for continual upskilling and improved digital dexterity; AI skills; the on-going importance of soft skills; and the speed of change. You can access the recording and resources at: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/the-future-of-the-systems-librarian-31-october-2023>.

Small & Specialist Institutions Forum, 21 November, 1.30pm

SCONUL’s Small & Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum is holding a meeting on Tuesday 21 November from 1:30pm to 3pm via Zoom. If you are part of a leadership team at a SCONUL member institution which defines itself as specialist or small (or both!) please do join the discussion. The Forum is an opportunity for SSIs to share knowledge and experience and on the agenda for discussion at this meeting will be plans for development of the SCONUL Access Scheme and the future of subscriptions. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details

SCONUL Content Forum, 2 February 2023

The next meeting of the SCONUL Content Forum will look at the future of subscriptions. It will be held at Goodenough College, London, on Friday 2 February 2024, 10.00am to 4.00pm. The SCONUL Content Forum provides a forum for discussion of the strategic issues on content and collections. It allows members to share knowledge and information between members; provides SCONUL with an opportunity to discuss what actions members would like to see us take on your behalf and provides a direct route for communication between Jisc and other stakeholders and those heading library services on strategic issues. The Forum is open to heads of service and their senior leadership teams from member institutions only and meets once a year, or more often if required. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion statistics report: Ethnicity of our workforce

SCONUL is pleased to announce the publication of its *SCONUL Equality, Diversity and Inclusion statistics report: Ethnicity of our workforce*. We would like to thank everyone who was able to provide us with data that gives an insight into the ethnic make-up of our sector and SCONUL's next steps to continue progress in increasing diversity, particularly in more senior roles. This work started a number of years ago, with a report commissioned to look at the [experiences of Global Ethnic Majority staff in our member libraries](#) (formerly titled BAME) by Dr Ishaq and Dr Hussain. And it was continued by the report into making the EDI statistics a reality, *SCONUL Equality, diversity and inclusion benchmarking data project*. [Read more](#)

SCONUL Strategic Planning Set

SCONUL has opened the Strategic Planning Set survey for 2022-23. We are currently in the process of moving to a new website and have had to rebuild the survey in a new platform this year. If you require access to the survey for your institution, the link was sent to all Library Directors in late October. The survey deadline is 30 November, but due to our late release if you anticipate any difficulty with this deadline, please get in touch with us as soon as possible, lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk. If you experience any difficulty with the survey itself, please contact either lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk or sonya.white@hotmail.com.

EDI statistical return for 2022-23

SCONUL has opened its EDI statistical return for 2022-23. As with the SPS, links were sent to Library Directors, so if you have responsibility for filling this return, please get in touch with your Director. This survey is also password protected, to ensure this sensitive data is locked down to a small number of people. SCONUL also has a data protection statement, which outlines how we will be handling the data, particularly when there is a risk of identification at a local level, as well as a data sharing agreement outlining our reasoning for collecting this data, under GDPR regulations. We are happy to send these to any institution that requires it. If there is anything at all we can do to help you with a submission, please contact lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk or ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk. The date for completion of this data set is Friday 12 January 2024.

SCONUL Benchmarking Statistics Review Update

The work to consult our members on a potential review to our benchmarking statistics is now underway. David Baker and Consultants are working with a SCONUL appointed task and finish group to create a member survey, which is due out in late November, and also some focus groups, which are likely to take place in mid-December. We hope to have concrete dates for the diary soon.

SCONUL photo library

SCONUL is in the process of moving to a new website and would like to build up a library of images to use on our website as well as for wider digital use. We are very keen to have images from our member libraries and are putting out a request for you to share with us any images that we can use for these purposes. If you are able to help and would like to share images of your library building or facilities, we would be most grateful. Please do send any images to SitMui Ng SitMui.Ng@sconul.ac.uk. If you are able to provide them as individual high-resolution image files (minimum 600 dpi resolution) and copyright cleared that would be most helpful.

UK and Ireland Libraries EDI update

EDI leads from SCONUL and other regional and national consortia meet three times a year to discuss how to effectively coordinate our EDI activity and share information and resources. A newsletter on our current EDI commitments can be found [here](#)

The British Library: technology outage, 31 October 2023

The British Library is experiencing a major technology outage, as a result of a cyber incident. This is affecting online systems and services, their website, and onsite services including their Reading Rooms. The British Library are investigating the incident with the support of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and cybersecurity specialists. They are very grateful for the support and understanding they have had from users, staff and partners. The Library's sites remain fully open to the public and details on the services that remain available can be found via [@britishlibrary](#) on X (formerly Twitter). The British Library are working to understand and resolve the situation as quickly as possible and will share updates as soon as they can and are sorry for the inconvenience that this is causing.

Future Strategy for Resource-sharing and Inter-Library Loan

The British Library is hosting an event on the *Future Strategy for Resource-sharing and Inter-Library Loan*, to be held on 27 November from 11.00hrs to 16.00hrs, at the British Library's Conference Centre in London. The agenda can be found [here](#). The event for UK HE Library Directors/Leaders will look at the results of the recent survey. To register for the event on 27 November please click here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/future-strategy-for-resource-sharing-and-inter-library-loan-tickets-737920950427>. Alternatively, an online event will be on Friday 1 December from 10.00hrs to 15.00hrs. To book your place for the online event on 1 December please email sally.halper@bl.uk.

Jisc webinar: Making your collections AI ready, 22 November, 2-3.30pm

AI is set to become intrinsic to many areas of humanities, science and many forms of research. Jodie Double of the University of Leeds and Ines Byrne of the National Library of Scotland will join Peter Findlay, of Jisc's content and discovery team, for an interactive webinar to encourage the library community to be bold in digitisation choices to support research and researchers with collections and to feel more confident with the impending introduction of AI into the community. To register for this event please click here: <https://beta.jisc.ac.uk/events/making-your-collections-ai-ready>

THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023

SCONUL is an Event Partner for THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023 which is being held on 6-7 December in Liverpool. This event will bring together higher education leaders – both academic and administrative – along with industry partners and policy experts to discuss, debate and plan how to achieve institutional success. Hosted along with the THE Awards ceremony, delegates can expect practical advice, ideas and solutions to the most pressing strategic challenges facing universities today. [Read more](#)

SCURL EDI Toolkit Launch

The Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL) EDI Network has launched a toolkit to support member libraries in embedding good practice consistently across services covering collections and discovery, demographics, glossary, resource lists, recruitment and student experience. The Toolkit has been designed as a whole staff resource, covering topics that are relevant across different roles within libraries. [Read more](#)

SCURL Rights Retention Statement Launched

SCURL has published its Rights Retention statement. In alignment with SCURL's aims to collaborate towards the creation of a co-operative library infrastructure in Scotland, and to provide mutual support for members, the statement supports the adoption of Rights Retention Strategies by SCURL HE Institutions. It is anticipated that SCURL HEIs will develop strategy, underpinned by the position set out in the statement, to facilitate the widest possible access to research. SCURL is also working to support open access publishing across Scottish institutions through the development of [Scottish Universities Press](#) (SUP), a not-for-profit publishing platform managed in collaboration with participating institutions. [Read more](#)

OCLC Cataloguing and Metadata Subscription

RLUK have been in discussions with OCLC regarding metadata subscriptions and have reached a final agreement for a three year deal. This will start 1 August 2023 for a metadata subscription to OCLC, with a 3.75% annual uplift available to those RLUK institutions who wish to take it. For those who have already renewed at a higher percentage rate OCLC will credit the difference for year two, or re-issue 2023/2024 invoices to suit as required. In addition to this, an updated agreement would also include: reclamations associated with the alignment of holdings in Worldcat to promote accuracy of linking (for example, but not exclusively, to facilitate participation in the Google Project); access to NACO for those institutions wishing to undertake the training; Google search enhanced linking for those libraries wishing to participate. For further information please contact David Prosser, RLUK Executive Director, david.prosser@rluk.ac.uk.

IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2024 not going ahead

The IFLA President and Secretary General have advised the IFLA membership and community that the Emirates Library and Information Association have [withdrawn their invitation](#) to hold the 2024 World Library and Information Congress in Dubai. As there were no viable options for WLIC 2024 and the limited time available, this decision means that there will now not be a World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in 2024. [Read more](#)

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.ac.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. WHELP <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.

Vacancy: Head of Library Research Services, University of Bath

University of Bath are currently advertising for a new Head of Library Research Services. Working closely with the University Librarian, the Head of Library Operational Services and the Head of Library Academic Services the post holder will shape strategy and enhance services for the benefit of its users. Reporting to the University Librarian, they will foster innovative thinking while meeting external and internal drivers, developing and delivering services and support to researchers throughout the research lifecycle. The post holder will have a clear understanding of open research, scholarly communications, research culture and environment, research data management and metrics and appreciate the importance of unique and distinctive collections. **Closing date 14 November** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: EContent Librarian / Manager, Open University

The Open University's (OU) Library Service currently are seeking to recruit an E-Content Librarian/Manager to join the Content, Licensing and IP (CLIP) Team. There are three main purposes to this role: To manage copyright risk and achieve value for money for the University by providing professional advice, guidance and support for Library content and academic publishing to colleagues across the university; To build positive working relationships with suppliers, work within a budget and acquire and licence Library content including databases, online journals, ebooks, image, sound, film and print; To ensure that Library collections are organised and maintained to facilitate discovery and use by OU students and staff. **Closing date 10 November** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Client Services Team Lead, University College Cork

University College Cork wishes to appoint to the role of Client Services Team Lead in UCC Library. The Client Services Team Lead is a member of the Library's Academic Services team which is comprised of a dedicated professional team to deliver academic and student engagement, teaching and learning support and the development of technology-rich and innovative library spaces. The Client Services Team Lead will also join the wider Library Operations Forum and will contribute to and consult on overall Library strategy, operations, achievements and future directions. This is a permanent full-time post. **Closing Date 21 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.

UKRI open access policy for longform publications, 8 November

Neurospicy Libraries In Person Meet Up, Lancaster, 14 November

Excluded Voices 2023 - a WHELF Conference, 16-16 November

4th Fantastic Futures Conference, Vancouver, 15-17 November

Small & Specialist Institutions Forum, 21 November, 1.30pm

Jisc: Making your collections AI ready, 22 November

CSGUK Annual Conference, Edinburgh, 24 November

Future Strategy for Resource-Sharing and Inter-Library Loan, London, 27 November

NAG: Librarians e-textbook forum: sharing and developing best practice, 28 November

THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023, Liverpool, 6-7 December

Spotlight on services: How can OpenAIRE facilitate your work in the UK, 15 December

International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC24), Edinburgh, 19-21 February 2024

LILAC 2024, Leeds, 25–27 March 2024