

News

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions Forum, 19 October

The next meeting of the Small and Specialist Institutions (SSI) Forum will be taking place on 19 October 10.30am-12pm, via Zoom. The SSI Forum will be facilitated by David Archer, Director of Library, Archive & Open Research Services, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Sally Burton, Head of Infrastructure Customer Services, The Royal Veterinary College. Registration will open shortly.

SCONUL Executive Board

SCONUL is pleased to announce that at its AGM on 13 July James Anthony-Edwards (University of Exeter), Rachel Beckett (Manchester Metropolitan University), Phil Brabban (Coventry University), Libby Homer (Anglia Ruskin University), Anna O'Neill (University of Southampton) and Katy Woolfenden (University of Manchester) were all elected to the Executive Board. Following Marilyn Clarke's move to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies as the Librarian, Robin Armstrong Viner (Swansea University) is also elected to the Board. Marilyn has kindly agreed to remain on the Board in a co-opted role, representing the interests of small and specialist institutions. SCONUL is also grateful to Liz Jolly, Chief Librarian at the British Library who is co-opted representing national libraries and Kate Kelly, Director Library Services at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland who is co-opted representing libraries in Ireland. Congratulations to all concerned. With many thanks to Susan Ashworth and John Cox who are standing down.

New SCONUL Co-Chairs and Treasurer

SCONUL's Executive Board has elected Andrew Barker, Director of Library Services & Learning Development, Lancaster University and Libby Homer, Director of Student and Library Services, Anglia Ruskin University as Co-Chairs of SCONUL. James Anthony-Edwards, University Librarian, University of Exeter has been elected Honorary Treasurer for a second term. Many congratulations to all three candidates.

SCONUL Equality, diversity and inclusion benchmarking data project report published

As part of SCONUL's commitment to help drive improvements in equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across the library sector, we commissioned research to explore whether it would be possible to capture EDI statistics as part of the SCONUL statistics. We are delighted that this study shows that members believe we can and should capture this data which will be included in this year's statistics. Doing so will provide an important benchmark that will support individual institutions in measuring their own progress as well as supporting the sector in fostering greater diversity. [Read more](#)

SCONUL Statistics 2020-21

SCONUL is pleased to announce that the 2020-21 Statistical Data is now available to members on the website at <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/sconul-annual-library-statistics-2020-21> (you'll need to log in to view this page). The Reporting Tool, which allows users to compare and benchmark data from across institutions and particular mission groups is also available on the website and a guide with instructions and examples for using the Reporting Tool can be found [here](#). SCONUL has also provided additional analysis alongside its 2020-21 Annual Statistical Data entitled '[The Covid-19 library continued](#)' (2021). This revisits some of the topics included last year, as well as considering the questions added to the survey aiming to capture how libraries adapted their services to deal with the pandemic.

Views sought on UK Distributed Print Book Collection

SCONUL and the RLUK Collections Strategy Network are seeking representatives from research active and teaching focused institutions to take part in a focus group to explore drivers for involvement in a collective approach to the retention of print monographs as part of the *UK Distributed Print Book Collection* project. If you would like to contribute to this conversation and can spare some time to participate in a focus group, we would be very happy to hear from you – please email ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk, indicating your interest and your availability for virtual and / or face-to-face discussions. **Deadline for responses is Monday 3 October.** There will also be an opportunity for members to share views via a survey.

Leading change on race equality workshop – further dates to be added

As part of our ongoing commitment to increasing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the sector, SCONUL has partnered with AdvanceHE to bring members subsidised development workshops on 'Leading Change on Race Equality'. The workshops which comprise two interactive sessions aims to strengthen understandings of the core issues relating to race equality in academic libraries, and explore strategies for tackling racism and racial inequality. The first workshop has received an overwhelmingly good response and is oversubscribed and we are now seeking dates for a second pair of workshops. We hope to announce further dates shortly.

Call for HE applications for the new Jisc Learning Content Expert Group

Jisc is setting up a new strategic group, the learning content expert group for Higher and Further education. This will be the sister group to their current content expert group which focuses on research content. Together these groups report into the UUK/Jisc content negotiation strategy group. Libby Homer, Director of Student and Library Services at Anglia Ruskin University, will be the chair representing HE. The group will work to secure agreements that provide affordable and equitable access to learning content and solutions that enhance the student experience and enable excellence in teaching and there will be four places for HE institution members. Jisc are seeking participation from a variety of roles across institutions which lead and support the student experience of digital content, solutions and learning technologies. The term of office is for two years initially with the possibility of extending the term for up to another two years. Further details including the draft terms of reference and how to apply can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is 5pm on 4 October.

Call to register: IARLA Virtual Reading Room

A Virtual Reading Room (VRR) register has been developed by members of an international working group convened by the International Alliance of Research Library Associations (IARLA), aspiring to register all VRRs currently offered or scheduled to launch in the immediate future by collection-holding institutions internationally. This is a direct response to the findings of previous work by the group which showed that there is a lack of awareness amongst the academic, research, and student community about the existence and potential of VRR consultation services. Through collecting and publishing information on the institutions which currently offer or plan to offer VRRs, the aim is to contribute towards filling this gap and enable users to get up to date information, while facilitating greater discoverability and use of the services. You can register your Virtual Reading Room (VRR): <https://forms.gle/S4UnB2YfiW6Pbf5y5>. Please submit one response per institution. For any questions or more information, please contact Christina Kamposiori, RLUK Executive Programme Officer: christina.kamposiori@rluk.ac.uk.

Securing a cost-effective deal with Springer Nature

Andrew Barker, Director of Library Services at Lancaster University, on the financial pressures in the sector and why achieving a deal with Springer Nature is important, but not at any cost. Financial squeeze will shape UK universities' negotiations with publisher, says Andrew Barker. [Read more](#)

Libraries after Lockdown recordings

Recordings of all previous Libraries after Lockdown events are available to view on the events platform. If you were unable to attend or to stay online or simply want to re-visit the various discussions, login to the event site with your existing credentials. You will also find materials referenced, including transcripts of the event chat with your comments and questions on the event page under 'resources'.

Available recordings:

From Adaptive Practice to Service Redesign

- Libraries as creators of content, 15 July
- Shaping the institutional discussion on the future of content, 6 June
- From research service provider to research partner, 24 May
- Choice and personalisation in blended learning, 1 March
- Blended Learning and the Shape and Design of Library Services, 29 September 2021
- Small and specialist institutions post-pandemic, 15 July 2021
- The campus experience post Covid: what does this mean for library spaces?, 5 July 2021
- Shared international perspectives on libraries' responses to the pandemic, 29 March 2021

The Dynamic Workforce

- Evolution of the working environment: An international perspective, 28 June
- The recruitment lifecycle – Part 2, 22 June
- The recruitment lifecycle – Part 1, 9 June
- Embracing new ways of working post-pandemic, 31 March
- Developing a resilient and agile workforce, 26 November 2021
- The library workforce post-pandemic: exchange of experience, 12 July 2021

Embracing Disruption

- AI for libraries: Part 2 – Libraries as AI generator, 27 May
- AI for libraries: Part 1 – Libraries as AI customer, 5 May
- Repositories and beyond – the evolving landscape, 29 April
- Alternative Approaches to Discovery, 22 March
- ILL and its strategic uses for academic and research libraries, 16 July 2021

The Libraries after Lockdown programmes are open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. You can find out more and register [here](#).

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: Associate Director (Student Experience), University of Surrey

University of Surrey are seeking candidates to take on a leadership role in the University of Surrey's Library and Learning Services. The role forms part of the Library and Learning Services Senior Leadership Team, along with two other Associate Directors and the Director of Library and Learning Services, to whom this post reports. Whilst it is expected the three Associate Directors to work closely together, this role will have a particular focus on setting strategic direction for student experience in the library, ensuring that the library provides the highest levels of customer service, both in-person and virtually. The successful candidate will ensure that the needs of students steer the provision for customer support, working collaboratively with various stakeholders in the Surrey community to provide the highest level of support for the University's strategic initiatives relating to student experience. **Closing date 22 September** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Associate Director (Research & Innovation), University of Surrey

University of Surrey are seeking candidates to take on a leadership role in the University of Surrey's Library and Learning Services. The role forms part of the Library and Learning Services Senior Leadership Team, along with two other Associate Directors and the Director of Library and Learning Services, to whom this post reports. Whilst it is expected the three Associate Directors to work closely together, the particular focus of this role is on providing leadership for research and innovation, ensuring that the library delivers an excellent service for researchers and works collaboratively with others in the university who provide support for researchers. The successful candidate will take responsibility for setting strategic direction for research & innovation in the library. **Closing date 25 September** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Head of Legal Deposit, University of Cambridge

Cambridge University Libraries are seeking a Head of Legal Deposit to lead and co-ordinate their strategic and operational activities and engagement with print and non-print Legal Deposit. The post holder will contribute to the national governance for Legal Deposit, including collaboration with the Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries (ALDL) on strategic activities and researching to further the value of Legal Deposit; working jointly with the British Library, to identify and collect the UK publications in print and digitally, within frameworks agreed by the Legal Deposit Libraries. **Closing date 5 October** [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.

OASPA Online Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing, 20 -22 September

Focus on Open Science webinar, 27 September

Sherpa Services overview and update: the re-design and unification of our services, 28 September

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions' Forum, 19 October

16th International Conference on Metadata and Semantics Research, 7-11 November, London

UKSG November Conference 2022 - diversity, equity and inclusion through multiple lenses, 16-17 November

CSGUK Annual Conference, 21 November, London

Westminster HE Forum: The next steps for research integrity and reproducibility, 24 November

Westminster Media Forum: The role of arts and culture in levelling up regions and communities, 28 November

SCURL: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Conference, 30 November