

News

Libraries after Lockdown

SCONUL has launched a new project *Libraries after Lockdown* bringing members together to share and learn from our collective responses to the current crisis and to think creatively about the future. It will look at service design, organisational development and technology and markets through three programmes of activity. [Read more](#)

SCONUL Content Forum

SCONUL will be holding a meeting of its Content Forum on Wednesday 31 March from 13.00 – 15.30 via zoom. We will be discussing the short- and long-term challenges for libraries and our institutions on etextbooks and other digital teaching materials. The meeting is open to SCONUL member libraries heads of service and their senior leadership teams. [Read more](#)

SCONUL Member Engagement Manager

SCONUL is pleased to announce the appointment of Liyana Pama as our new Member Engagement Manager. Liyana will begin her new role on 19 April. She is a specialist in digital marketing and events and has worked with other member organisations to help them share information and best practice effectively, both virtually and face to face. Please do make her welcome.

Date for diaries: SCONUL AGM

SCONUL will be holding its AGM and members meeting on Wednesday 15 September 2-4pm, via Zoom. Further details will be available in due course.

SCONUL call for tender - Statistics review

SCONUL is seeking a consultant to carry out a research project to develop an approach to gathering baseline statistics on ethnic diversity across our workforce, as part of our work supporting members in their aim of fostering ethnic diversity within their libraries. The brief for the research can be found at: [https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Brief for reviewing statistics March 2021.pdf](https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Brief%20for%20reviewing%20statistics%20March%202021.pdf). Please do pass this on to anyone within your own institutions or contacts who might be interested in bidding. The work is being led by Gary Elliott-Cirigottis from the Open University. Further information about contacts is included in the briefing if you need to get in contact with any questions.

LIBER Europe Emerging Leaders Programme - call for applications now open

LIBER Europe has opened a call for the 6th Emerging Leadership Programme, a unique, intense and rewarding chance to network throughout Europe, learn more about your own leadership style, work with a mentor of high rank in the library world and be guided throughout by two inspiring coaches. [Read more](#)

Jisc and OA Switchboard: a new agreement for Jisc members

Jisc and the OA Switchboard have established an agreement allowing UK universities who are Jisc members to use the service for free! The [Switchboard](#)'s aim is to help the research community transition to full and immediate open access and simplify efforts to support open access (OA) as the predominant model of publication of research. For more information on what the Switchboard is and how to sign up please visit: <https://research.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2021/02/18/new-jisc-agreement-with-the-oa-switchboard/>

Invitation to complete survey: RLUK Scoping Study

Research Libraries UK, in partnership with the AHRC, have recently commissioned [a major scoping study](#) to explore the role, and potential role, of academic and research libraries as partners in, and leaders of, academic and scholarly research. As part of this research, RLUK are inviting responses to a survey that will ask about experiences and perceptions of collaborative working between academic and research libraries, and members of the academic community around research projects.

To participate, you can access the survey by clicking this link: <https://bcu.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/rluk-scoping-study>

Survey on the role of the university library in mental health and well-being

University libraries are being invited to participate in a survey about the role of the university library in mental health and well-being. The questionnaire asks about the services your library provides to support mental health and well-being, the philosophy behind them and how success of these services is measured. It also asks about the impact of COVID. This follows up on a similar survey conducted in the first months of the pandemic (the results of which were published in this paper:

[Cox, A. and Brewster, L. Library support for student mental health and well-being in the UK: Before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, The Journal of Academic Librarianship, 46 \(6\)](#)). The survey will be open until 12 April and some of the results of the 2021 survey will be posted on the Information School's blog (<http://information-studies.blogspot.com/>) before 31st July 2021. To take part in the survey please click here: <https://limesurvey.shef.ac.uk/limesurvey/index.php/159686?lang=en>.

Students and academic reading during the pandemic

A small team of researchers based in the US and UK are looking for help in promoting a new survey aimed at university students, to understand academic reading during the pandemic. The team includes Diane Mizrahi at UCLA, Alicia Salaz at Carnegie Mellon University and Jane Secker, Senior Lecturer at City, University of London. This research is interested in the challenges and opportunities of academic reading during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey is online and can be promoted to students by pointing them to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/readformats>. Please get in touch with Jane Secker if you would like to register your interest in being sent your institutional data after the survey closes.

Let's talk about race

[New resources](#), designed to help tackle the issue of racism on university and college campuses, were produced this month, funded and supported by the Scottish Funding Council, working in partnership with HE equalities organisation, Advance HE, and created by a steering group of experts from the Scottish further and higher education sectors. [Read more](#)

Cuts and access restrictions at the National Art Library (V&A)

The National Art Library, one of the national collections held in trust at the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) in London, is facing significant cuts which will impact the National Art Library staff and consequently access to and management of the collections. An article was published in The Guardian recently: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/feb/25/vast-staff-cuts-imminent-at-va-insiders-say>. An online petition has been started to stop these cuts and access restrictions which can be found at: <https://www.change.org/p/victoria-albert-museum-stop-the-cuts-and-access-restrictions-at-the-national-art-library-v-a>

Reciprocal Borrowing across Alma institutions: P2P inter-lending with WHELP

WHELP have published a recording of a webinar they held on 11 February on the [Alma UKI ILL](#). The paper outlining the scheme is also available on the [WHELP website](#). If you are a library in the UK or Ireland interested in becoming a partner in the scheme please e-mail Jennifer McNally, WHELP Business Manager (McnallyJ1@cardiff.ac.uk) to register your interest or for further information.

COUNTER: comparing counts between Release 4 and Release 5 Code of Practice

COUNTER have published the latest module in their manual for librarians. This third module summarises the key changes in reports between Release 4 and Release 5 of the COUNTER Code of Practice. It looks at examples of the new Release 5 Standard Views and compares them to the corresponding Release 4 reports. This highlights the new metric types to see how they affect cost-per-use calculations, and how they offer new possibilities for usage analysis. [Read more](#)

Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the UK and Republic of Ireland

The third edition of the *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland*, edited by Dr Karen Attar, Curator of Rare Books and University Art, Senate House Library, University of London, has been published. The paperback issue of the Directory, includes entries for 72 new libraries including several SCONUL libraries that submitted an entry. [Read more](#)

Mercian Collaboration Annual Report 2020

The Mercian Collaboration has published its 2020 Annual. The report is designed to provide insight into the Collaboration, their activities and those of their various subgroups throughout 2020. [Read more](#)

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries: <https://www.m25lib.ac.uk/about-the-consortium/newsletter-archive/>
2. Mercian Collaboration <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news>
3. LIBER: <https://libereurope.eu/news/>
4. Northern Collaboration: <https://northerncollaboration.org.uk/content/covid-19>
5. NoWAL: <https://www.nowal.ac.uk/>
6. RLUK: <https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/>
7. ucisa: <https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views>

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: Learning and Teaching Librarian, Learner and Discovery Services, Open University

The Open University are searching for a qualified librarian who will support learning and teaching activities, including the development of students as independent learners. The post holder will work in collaboration across the OU's Learner and Discovery Services portfolio to support the growing digital capabilities agenda and integrate Library content systematically into the curriculum. **Closing date 14 April** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Deputy Director, Information Services, University of Kent

The Information Services department at the University of Kent is seeking a Deputy Director to join the senior leadership team and steer their Education & Research Collections and User Experience sections. The role of Deputy Director is a key leadership role within the department. Together with the Director and other Deputy Director, providing the core senior leadership team for the department, ensuring strategic leadership for the University in the areas of IS responsibility and operational oversight of the department. The objectives for the role include ensuring that the User Experience and Learning & Research Resources sections are effectively run and that they are both adaptable and resilient to the changing external environment; developing a departmental vision for 'the future library' and placing the user experience at the heart of the department and all its services. **Closing date 15 April** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Director of Library and Learning Resources, Canterbury Christ Church University

Canterbury Christ Church University are seeking to appoint a new Director of Library and Learning Resources. The post holder will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the Department's work are aligned with the University's strategic aims and support their ambitious growth agenda. Reporting to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Director of Library and Learning Resources has cross institutional leadership responsibility for enhancing the student learning experience through the provision of a range of library, learning and bookshop services. **Closing date 16 April** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Library Services & Operations Manager, Bournemouth University

Bournemouth University are seeking a Library Services & Operations Manager. This role brings together operational management of systems, user service engagement and resource acquisitions. This will involve providing high quality operational user services with responsibility for library learning spaces, frontline enquiry services, and library resources acquisitions and deployment. The post holder will provide strategic leadership and direction to Library & Learning Support teams using effective communication and people skills to lead the teams through change and development in all areas of service and resource delivery. They will ensure budgets, forecasts and operational plans align with University Library and Academic Services strategic priorities and will take the lead on resource procurement and planning linked to service enhancement. **Closing date 25 April** [Read more](#)

Resources

Below is a list of [resources for SCONUL members dealing with Covid-19](#). If you would like SCONUL to include any resources that may be of interest to members, please email sitmui.ng@sconul.ac.uk

Current COVID resources

- Government guidance for English universities on Covid-19 (updated 10 March): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses>
- The Welsh government guidance for higher education (updated 18 February): <https://gov.wales/guidance-higher-education-keep-wales-safe-covid-19>
- The Scottish government's guidance for higher and further education institutions and student accommodation providers to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 (updated 10 February): <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-universities-colleges-and-student-accommodation-providers/>
- The Scottish government: College and university returns postponed: <https://www.gov.scot/news/colleges-and-university-returns-postponed/>
- SAGE Advice, Mitigations to Reduce Transmission of the new variant SARS-CoV-2 virus SAGE-EMG, SPI-B, Transmission Group, 23 December 2020: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948607/s0995-mitigations-to-reduce-transmission-of-the-new-variant.pdf
- Jisc's report on the response to COVID-19 and the future of digital learning and teaching: <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/reports/learning-and-teaching-reimagined-a-new-dawn-for-higher-education>
- Public Library News article *The third lockdown: damned if you do ..?* that includes a link to a list of public libraries and what services they are offering in the current lockdown: <https://www.publiclibrariesnews.com/about-public-libraries-news/coronavirus-public-library-ideas-and-responses/when-and-how-will-public-libraries-reopen-in-england>

SCONUL services during the pandemic

- The SCONUL Access Scheme is suspended until further notice, in line with Government guidelines. The SCONUL Access form has been disabled on our website to prevent new applications being made during this period. SCONUL has produced a note which sets out the current position and would be grateful if members could share this with staff and students including using the text for your website if appropriate. If you receive any queries from students about the scheme, please direct them to our website <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access>.
- The SCONUL office remains open, albeit virtually, and we are working as normal. Students or staff ringing the office or contacting us by email will have their enquiries dealt with in the usual way.
- All events this academic year (2020-21) will held virtually and we will be bringing members together to discuss their response to the immediate crisis and to look at the longer-term impacts and the community's response
- We continue to provide our support for our deputies and directors' groups, SCONUL Mentoring and other services. Please feel free to contact us as usual.

Archive: Covid-19 documentation

Resources which are no longer current but have been retained for reference purposes can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/archive-covid-19-documentation>

Events

With the current uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic many events have either been cancelled, postponed or moved to an online platform, please click on the event for further information.

SCONUL Content Forum, 31 March

LILAC 2021, Manchester, 7-9 April

Online: UKSG 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition, 12-14 April

Call for papers: Excluded Voices: a WHELF Conference, 22 April

Call for papers: Online education: teaching in a time of change, 21-23 April

UCL Open Science Conference 2021, 26-27 April

From Adaptive Practice to Service Redesign: The campus experience post-Covid: what does this mean for library spaces?, 28 April

CALC2021 (Critical Approaches to Libraries Conference), 5-6 May

LIBER 2021 Online, 23-25 June

DCDC21 virtual conference, 28 June-2 July

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for Open Access, 9 July

SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 15 September

Online: 14th International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries, 2-4 November