News

AI and the library's role in supporting students, academics and their institutions, 15 and 29 September

SCONUL is holding two linked webinars exploring aspects of the library's role in supporting students, academics and their institutions to navigate the AI revolution. These are community practice webinars, bringing SCONUL members together to share experiences, resources and explore responses to challenges. The first will look at **the support libraries are providing on AI to students in their teaching and in referencing guides** and other guidance. This will be held on Friday 15 September, 11-12.30hrs. The second will look at **the library's role in providing support and advocacy to their institution on the adoption of AI and its integration in teaching and academic practice**. This is being held on Friday 29 September, 11-12.30hrs. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details. Further details will be available in due course.

The future of the systems librarian webinar, 31 October 2pm

SCONUL has announced the launch of a new project: *the Future of the Systems Librarian*, which will open with a scoping webinar which will be held on 31 October from 14.00 to 15.30hrs. This is open to staff at all SCONUL member institutions. E-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details. With developments in library technology accelerating, this project will look at the role of the systems librarian in supporting the evolving needs of the library. Some institutions in the sector are reporting difficulties in recruitment, and succession planning remains challenging as staff in systems roles retire, while the role, and the systems themselves, continue to evolve. As data and learning analytics increase in importance to universities, how can systems librarians provide that added value to their institutions? The project team will take the learning from this community webinar to shape the development of the project. SCONUL is keen to hear from member institutions with insights or practice in this area they would be willing to share with colleagues. Please do contact ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk if that is the case.

SCONUL Strategy Groups: new members

Following the recent call for strategy group members SCONUL is pleased to announce the appointments of Chris Awre, University of Hull; Dominic Broadhurst, University of Salford; Phil Cheeseman, Lancaster University and Clare West, Bournemouth University to the Horizons Strategy Group. And the appointments of Neil Donohue, Canterbury Christ Church University; Alice Harvey, University of the Arts London; Jenny Jones, Cardiff Metropolitan University; Sarah Jones, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Davina Omar, University of West London to the Organisational Development Strategy Group. Congratulations to all concerned.

HEA Fellowship support – new resources available

SCONUL is pleased to report Phase 2 of the HEA Fellowship support has been completed and we now have a bank of resources to support member applications with all four levels, available here: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/hea-fellowship-support. We hope these applications will prove useful to anyone thinking about undertaking a qualification and we also encourage you to take a look at our support register, if speaking to someone who has been through the process would be useful to you. As always, if you'd like to add your own application to the bank of resources, please contact Jenelle.Negraeff@sconul.ac.uk. We take all steps to anonymise submissions.

Positive Action Case Studies

SCONUL is pleased to announce that our Positive Action case studies, written by Elizabeth Malone and featuring Goldsmiths, University of London, Lancaster University and University of Leeds, are now live on our website. The results of this work show ways in which positive action traineeships can come about and the positive changes to library services that some of our members have seen. The case studies can be found here: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/positive-action-case-studies.

SCONUL Statistics 2021-22

SCONUL is pleased to announce that the 2021-22 Statistical Data is now available to members on the website at https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/sconul-annual-library-statistics-2021-22 (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 2021-22 Annual Statistical Data entitled 'Spotlight: first glimpse of the post-Covid library' (2023). This report looks at the last few years and how the HE sector has been forced to adapt to the ever-changing restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It revisits some of the topics included over the last two years and will examine how academic libraries, and their users, have responded to the relaxing of restrictions.

RLUK's response to the decision of Dubai as the venue for IFLA WLIC 2024

RLUK has joined other national and international library organisations including SCONUL and CILIP in expressing its disappointment at the decision to select Dubai as the venue for the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2024. RLUK encourages IFLA to reflect and reconsider this decision, to hear the range of voices from its associations and the wider library community and to act in reaffirming its commitment to promote and value diversity and inclusion. RLUK's full statement can be found here.

Update on Jisc/OCLC National Metadata Agreement

Jisc and OCLC will not be entering into a metadata agreement on behalf of the sector for the academic year 2023/2024. The Transitional National Metadata Agreement between Jisc and OCLC expired in July 2022, and both were unable to agree terms for an extension for August 2022 - July 2023. For more information, see https://libraryservices.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2022/07/no-agreement/.

Podcasts on Artificial Intelligence and the humanities

The Jisc podcast mini-series *Is AI for me? Perspectives from the humanities* has recently published its third podcast. Prof Jane Winters discusses the complexities of dealing with "messy" humanities data, web archives, the UK-Ireland DH Association and the need to consider the consequences of AI. The previous two podcasts are also available: Prof Melissa Terras – the highs and lows of Artificial Intelligence and Prof James Baker – skills for Artificial Intelligence. The series consists of conversations with humanities researchers and informational professionals who share their views, experiences and work to help us understand AI's place in today's humanities scholarship. Three more episodes are planned for September. Read more

Exploring Technostress and AI Anxiety among Academic Library Professionals in England

A study to investigate the prevalence of technostress and artificial intelligence (AI) anxiety among academic library professionals in England is being conducted by Lodovica Corvi, a postgraduate student in MA Library and Information Management at Manchester Metropolitan University. It will examine possible relations of demographics and variables with these phenomena, and identify potential interventions to address and alleviate technostress and AI anxiety within this specific professional context. Library professionals working at a university in England are invited to take part in this research by completing a survey at: https://mmu.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/technostress_and_ai_anxiety_among_academic_library_professionals. The survey closes on 4 August. For further information please email: Lodovica Corvi, Researcher, 22591019@stu.mmu.ac.uk.

Copyright Anxiety Study

Professionals in the UK higher education sector are being invited to complete a survey into levels of copyright anxiety. The Copyright Anxiety Study is a collaboration between the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, City, University of London and the University of Alberta. The research project will be taking place from spring 2023 until early 2024. The aim of this project is to explore levels of copyright anxiety across the UK and Canadian higher education sector, and determine the extent to which copyright law 'chills' innovative research and teaching practice. The research will compare UK responses with those in Canada to investigate the extent to which legal and cultural differences impact on copyright anxiety as a phenomenon. The survey can be found here https://oxford.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/copyright-anxiety-scale-uk-survey and the deadline is 18 August. For information regarding the research please contact chris.morrison@bodleian.ox.ac.uk. Read more

Library Information and Knowledge practitioner's experiences of research

CILIP's Library and Information Research Group (LIRG) committee are undertaking a collaborative project to gain a baseline understanding of Library, Information and Knowledge (LIK) practitioners' experiences, skills and confidence of taking part in research. The findings of this research will help identify training needs and other interventions that could be used to encourage research and ensure that key values are embedded in library, information and knowledge practice. The research involves taking part in a survey, and potentially an interview about your experiences of research as a LIK professional. For further information and to access the survey which close at midnight on 8 September please see: https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=201305&id=692056.

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. 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.

Vacancy: Digital Archivist, University College Cork

University College Cork wishes to appoint an experienced individual to the role of Digital Archivist within the UCC Library. The Digital Archivist will be responsible for establishing and delivering policies, processes and standards for digital collections. They will develop the technical infrastructure needed to manage, preserve, and present this content. The role is responsible for archiving, describing, and presenting all unique digital collections. The post holder will work closely with librarians and archivists across library teams, particularly Special Collections & Archives and Cataloguing, as well as technical colleagues in the Library and UCC IT Services. The role will provide advice and expertise, including technical understanding, regarding long-term management and curation issues. The Digital Archivist works to ensure that digital collections are managed, described and formatted to provide meaningful access for future researchers, students and scholars. **Closing date 8 August** Read more

Vacancy: Open Research Officer (Research Data), Newcastle University

Newcastle University is seeking an Open Research Officer to join their Library Research Services team to provide expert and high-quality support to its research community. Against the backdrop of rapid change in the academic publishing landscape, the post holder will advise researchers on the most appropriate way to manage and disseminate their research datasets, whilst also promoting the wider remit of Library Research Services in providing guidance and advice to researchers in support of open research more generally. They will work closely with all stakeholders, both internal and external, to ensure the service reflects and underpins the University Research Strategy. **Closing date 8 August** Read more

Vacancy: Enlighten Supervisor, University of Glasgow

The postholder will be part of the University's Library Services division and as the Enlighten Supervisor you will oversee efficient day-to-day operations of Enlighten, the University of Glasgow's suite of institutional repositories in relation to: Publications (published research material), Theses (higher research degree theses), Dissertations (undergraduate and taught PG dissertations). They will also be responsible for the supervision of the Enlighten repository team. **Closing date 11 August** Read more

Vacancy: Associate Director of Content and Discovery, Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester Metropolitan University are recruiting for an Associate Director of Content and Discovery to join their Library Executive Group. Sharing responsibility for the strategic leadership and management of Library and Cultural Services, the posh holder will have a particular focus on developing a new approach to content – in response to the shift to open, changing scholarly communications, evolving user needs and behaviour, emerging formats and the opportunities of the Library Transformation Programme. They will lead the digital transformation of services and collections, as well as the strategic development and operational management of access and discovery services, tools and platforms. Overseeing the delivery of the overall Library and Cultural Services budget, and planning and managing a significant content budget, they will also be expected to build productive relationships with senior colleagues and to actively engage with sector developments in content, negotiation and licensing. **Closing date 27 August** Read more

Vacancy: Bodleian Art Librarian, University of Oxford

University of Oxford has is seeking to appoint a Librarian of the Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library. The post holder will be managing the Library and supporting students, academic staff and international researchers in the study of Art and Architecture, Film Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. They will lead the team of subject librarians covering Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology and Ancient Near East Studies. **Closing date 30 August** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Research Services, University College Cork

University College Cork wishes to appoint an experienced administrator to the role of Head of Research Services. Reporting to the University Librarian, the Head of Research Services - Library will lead the UCC Library Research Services team in developing and delivering a range of innovative services in support of robust, reproducible, and open research practices. This new portfolio is designed to meet the rapidly developing and increasingly complex needs of researchers operating in a digital research and scholarship environment. It is intricately connected to the University's strategic goals to strengthen UCC's research impact, and the post holder will directly support University-level initiatives in this area. The post holder will become the chief authority in the University on Open Science and by developing expertise in all aspects of OS will lead on the adoption of best practice in all research-related activity. **Closing date 12 September** 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.

IATUL seminar: Libraries as Transformers, Izmir, 4-7 September

Open Science (OAI13) Conference, 4-8 September

Samvera Europe 2023 meeting, London, 11 September

AI and the library's role in supporting students, academics and their institutions, 15 September

AI and the library's role in supporting students, academics and their institutions, 29 September

SCONUL webinar: The future of the systems librarian, 31 October

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