News

SCONUL conference: Future-ready libraries - presentations

Our *Future-ready libraries* conference took place on Wednesday 18 January and bought the community together face-to-face for the first time since the pandemic to discuss common experiences and to share learning, and to collaborate on planning for the future. There were excellent keynote presentations from Professor Susan Orr on developments in blended learning and teaching, and from Margaret Ayers of UHR on the sector-wide challenges on recruitment and retention. The community also discussed our direction on AI, on sustainable libraries, on integrating physical and virtual library spaces, on the scope for collaboration on collections and on the future post transitional arrangements. Presentations and an audio recording of the keynote presentations can be found at: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/future-ready-libraries-presentations

Rights Retention Strategies

The development of rights retentions policies is a growing area of interest for SCONUL members. On 26th January, SCONUL held a community webinar to share information on recent developments which heard from institutions which have successfully introduced such policies and provided an opportunity to share questions, experiences, and practice. The webinar included a presentation from Chris Banks of Imperial College London on recent developments and from leaders at three institutions which have agreed new rights retention policies: Tom Shaw of Lancaster University; Anna Clements of University of Sheffield and Eddy Verbaan of Sheffield Hallam University. Copies of the presentations and a recording of the webinar along with other resources can be found on our website at: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/rights-retention-strategies (Please note you will need to login to access this webpage. If you need a login please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

SCONUL Content Strategy Group: call for members

Would you like to help shape the sector's approach to content provision? SCONUL is seeking new members of our Content Strategy Group. The group leads on SCONUL's campaigns on the cost of content and works closely with Jisc Collections on individual negotiations, including on SpringerNature. Its work helps shape the future of publisher deals and the development of the market for e-books and undertakes thought leadership on future development on content, including exploring scope for new collaborations. The group meets four times a year (three virtual and one face-to-face meeting in the SCONUL office). Please consider putting yourself forward, and if you would like to discuss what's required, please get in touch with Ann Rossiter (ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk) to find out more. To apply, email ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk saying why you would like to be involved and including a short biography (no more than 500 words). Deadline for responses is 1 March 2023.

SCONUL survey on library technology and markets – volunteers for a pilot

Led by the Technology and Markets Strategy Group, SCONUL is developing a survey of our members' use of current and emerging technologies across their library services which will be run biannually. The survey will help SCONUL and its members identify areas of library activity in which there is a lack of competition or poor performance; evaluate potential suppliers; and identify emerging areas of library activity and the existing or emerging technologies being employed to meet these. We are seeking volunteer institutions to test the draft survey questions and provide feedback. If you feel you may be able to assist, please do drop Ann Rossiter a line at ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

SCONUL briefing on Springer Nature negotiations

SCONUL recently hosted two webinars on the SpringerNature negotiations on 1 December and 11 January. These confidential briefings provided SCONUL members an opportunity to hear an update from the Jisc team on progress and to ask any questions arising on the detail of the proposals. The briefings were presented by Caren Milloy, Director of Licensing, Jisc and Anna Vernon, Head of Licensing, Jisc Collections and chaired by Libby Homer, Chair of SCONUL's Content Strategy Group and Director of Student and Library Services, Anglia Ruskin University. Recordings of the sessions are available for

SCONUL members who were unable to attend or would like to revisit the sessions, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk for details of how to access the recordings.

Scoping study to support an Emerging Leaders programme for members of ethnically diverse communities within libraries

Alongside RLUK and Libraries Connected, CILIP, SCURL and WHELF, SCONUL is supporting a project to scope the creation of a cross-sector Emerging Leaders' programme for colleagues from ethnically diverse communities from across the library sector. The project is being funded by the Arts Councils and the participating partners. The study will look at whether the Leading Libraries programme, recently delivered by Libraries Connected, the University of Birmingham Leadership Institute, and CILIP, and supported by Arts Council England, provides an appropriate blueprint for a cross-sector programme, and whether any adaptations would be required. The six-month project is due to be completed in August 2023. Read more

Invitation for applications for membership of the Jisc content expert group (research focus)

Jisc are seeking to recruit new members for the Jisc content expert group. Supporting the strategic objectives and negotiation strategies developed by the UUK Jisc Content Negotiation Strategy Group, the Content Expert Group (CEG) translates strategy into tactics to put the sector in the best possible position to achieve negotiation objectives for research agreements. There will be four vacancies for institution members beginning on 20 April when the terms of office of four current members will expire. If your institution is in one of the relevant Jisc bands and you would like to apply to become a member of the group then please review the terms of reference and then complete the application form at: https://jisc.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/content-expert-group-application-form. The password is Content2023. If you have any questions about the group please contact Caren.Milloy@Jisc.ac.uk. **Deadline for applications is 5pm on 17 February** and Jisc aim to inform all applicants of the outcome of their applications by 17 March. Read more

Library Requirements for Future OA Academic Book Agreements Survey

The UKRI Open Access Policy includes a new requirement for monographs, book chapters and edited collections published from 1 January 2024 to be made open access within 12 months of publication. Jisc is negotiating and promoting a range of Diamond OA monograph agreements where there is no fee to read or to publish, but institutions can support the publication of immediate OA content either by leasing or purchasing paywalled backfile content or contributing to the publication fund by way of an annual membership fee. They are seeking member views via a survey is to understand sector working practices and funding, and support for these initiatives. This will allow Jisc to finalise their negotiation approach and devise a variety of UKRI policy compliant licensing methods. The survey can be found at: https://jisc.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/library-requirements-for-future-oa-academic-book-agreement and will be open until Friday 10 February.

Libraries after Lockdown recordings

Recordings of all previous Libraries after Lockdown events are available to view on the SCONUL website. If you want to re-visit the various discussions, login to the SCONUL website and you can find the sessions via: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/libraries-after-lockdown-a-virtual-collaboration. You will also find materials referenced, including transcripts of the event chat with your comments and questions on the event webpages under 'resources'. The Libraries after Lockdown programmes are open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. You can find out more 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. 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: Archives Manager, University of Warwick

The University of Warwick is looking for an Archives Manager to lead the Modern Records Centre (MRC) The MRC holds collections specifically related to trade union and business history and (more widely) British society. The archive is consulted by scholars the world over and Warwick's research, teaching and undergraduate communities, as well as members of the local community interested in their heritage, and local schools as part of Warwick's widening participation programmes. The MRC received Archive Service Accreditation of The National Archives in 2019. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level or equivalent, will be in possession of a Postgraduate Diploma or MA in Archive Administration and will have extensive experience as an archivist in a managerial or senior role, ideally in a Higher Education setting. **Closing date 5 February** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Library Experience and Operations, Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester metropolitan University are looking for a Head of Library Experience and Operations to lead the recently formed Library Experience team and help shape its vision for the future. The post holder will drive innovation and service development, ensure consistently excellent experience of the library, and design services and spaces that work for everyone in MMU's diverse University community. **Closing date 10 February** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Customer Experience and Partnerships, Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University Belfast are seeking to recruit a Head of Customer Experience and Partnerships to join their Library Services Team. As Head of Customer Experience and Partnerships (Library Services) the post holder will lead and manage the delivery of a world-class user experience (UX) for all customers of the University Library, ensuring the delivery of high quality, user-focused and responsive services across all sites. The role is also responsible for managing strategic partnerships with external stakeholders such as the Department of Health and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). **Closing date 13 February** Read more

Vacancy: Acquisitions Librarian, Queen Mary University of London

Queen Mary University of London are seeking an Acquisitions Librarian to manage this key function within Library Services. The post holder will be responsible for tracking and managing an acquisitions budget of over £500k per annum, line managing four staff, and liaising closely with both suppliers and stakeholders across the university to ensure that the library's collections meet the academic needs of students, researchers and academics. **Closing date 26 February** 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.

Open for good: rights retention at the University of Leeds, 7 February

Positive Action Library Graduate Traineeships to address underrepresentation of Black, Asian, and Global Majority library staff, London, 24 March

LILAC: The Information Literacy Conference, Cambridge, 19-21 April

ARLG DARTS Conference, Dartington, 24-25 May

UXLibs7 2023, Brighton, 6-8 June

15th International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries (LibPMC), 11-13 July