News

SCONUL Strategy

SCONUL has published its strategy for 2023-26 which sets out our plans for the next three years and follows an extensive process of consultation with members. We are working with our strategy and working groups on detailed proposals to deliver the programme set out here and will be sharing these plans with you over coming months. This will include an events series with a mix of webinars and face to face seminars and conferences as well as externally commissioned research, briefings, advocacy materials and other forms of information sharing. The Board is keen to emphasise that the strategy is a living document and they want to retain that focus on listening to members' views on our activities and priorities, so welcome your comments now and in the future. We are also keen to hear from staff at member institutions who would like to be involved in delivering the strategy, or who simply want to hear more about our work, attend events or use our services – please contact Ann Rossiter at ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk. The strategy is available here: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/sconul-strategy-2023-26

SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 26 June

SCONUL will be holding its AGM and members meeting on Monday 26 June, 2 - 4pm, via Zoom. Further details will be available in due course. In the meantime, please hold the date.

SCONUL and RLUK call on academics colleagues to help change the culture on open access

Following the announcement of the Springer Nature deal SCONUL and RLUK have issued a joint press release emphasising the need for academic colleagues to work with libraries if we are to deliver the change we all want to see. The press release can be found here: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/news/libraries-call-on-academic-colleagues-to-help-shift-to-full-open-academic-publishing. Alongside this, Libby Homer, chair of the SCONUL Content Strategy Group, has produced an excellent article for WonkHE which is available here: The transformative agreement is dead, long live the transformed agreement | Wonkhe

HEA Fellowship support

Staff at member institutions who are in the process of applying for any of the four categories of HEA fellowship, or considering doing so, can now contact colleagues from across the SCONUL community who are volunteering to support them in that process. SCONUL is publishing a register of those offering support which can be found on our website at: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/hea-fellowship-support (Please note you will need to login to access this webpage. If you need a login please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk). We are also putting together a resource bank which will be published in early June. For more information, please contact Jenelle Negraeff at Jenelle.Negraeff@sconul.ac.uk

UKRI consultation on the funding process for longform publications

SCONUL's Content Strategy Group has responded to a consultation request from UKRI who are seeking input into the funding process they are developing for longform publications as part of their OA policy. Comments relate primarily to two areas: (a) the implications of the proposed application process and the timing of payments and (b) wider impact of the policy on publishing models for longform publications. Both of these raise important equity considerations. For further information please contact Ann Rossiter at ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

Unsub UK National Agreement 2023-2026

SCONUL and Jisc are pleased to confirm the renewal of the Unsub UK National Agreement. This is now a 3-year agreement and is available via Jisc Licence Subscriptions Manager. Subscribers benefit from access to Unsub, the online data analysis tool that enables libraries and consortia to make independent assessments of the value of their journal subscriptions by forecasting alternatives relative to cost.
For a full description and list of features please see the offer document and catalogue page on the Jisc website: https://subscriptionsmanager.jisc.ac.uk/catalogue/2914. For any queries about this agreement please contact the Jisc Helpdesk: Help.digitalresources@jisc.ac.uk.

Thriving in your Career Pt2, 9 June - travel and accommodation bursaries

Academic Libraries North is hosting Thriving in your Career Pt2 on Friday 9 June in Leeds with support from SCONUL. This free face-to-face event hopes to build on the collaborative and supportive event held in June 2022. It continues the theme of how we can best thrive in our careers, whether we are looking to progress into a new role or want to develop in our current one, and includes space for us to recognise the structural barriers that stand in our way. Staff from the global majority at all grades are encouraged to attend. The event will be held at University of Leeds and the link to register is here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thriving-in-your-career-pt-2-a-face-to-face-event-for-bame-colleagues-tickets-468539061947?aff=affiliate1. SCONUL, RLUK and EBSCO are pleased to be able to offer bursaries to attend this conference. If you would like to attend but travel and accommodation costs would be a barrier to doing so, please do apply. To apply please email academiclibrariesnorth@sconul.ac.uk, using the email subject 'ALN Sponsored Places Application' and include the following information:

- Your name, job title and name of institution
- A short paragraph on why you feel attending the event will be beneficial to you (max 350 words)
- Your thoughts on how you might share your experiences before, during and after the event.

The deadline for responses is Friday 19 May. Read more

New Leadership Programme Scoping Study Launched

Consultants have been appointed to undertake a research project to support the creation of a cross-sector Emerging Leaders programme for members of ethnically diverse communities within libraries. The scoping study has been funded by Arts Council England with contributions from the commissioning partners: RLUK (lead partner); CILIP; Libraries Connected; SCONUL; SCURL and WHELF. The scoping study will be conducted by a research team led by Pete Dalton, Director of Evidence Base Research Evaluation and Consultancy Services with Professor Christopher Pietroni, Director of the Birmingham Leadership Institute at the University of Birmingham; Sukhvinder Kaur at Evidence Base and consultants Dr Sarah McNicol and Jo Walley. The scoping study will report in September 2023. The research team will seek to gather the views of members of the library workforce via a national survey that will be conducted in April and May 2023. Questions regarding this research should be directed to david.prosser@rluk.ac.uk

Rights Retention support

Jisc has commissioned Sally Rumsey to work with the sector to evidence demand and priority on the development of rights retention policies with the aim of identifying how Jisc might provide member HEIs with a range of information, support and guidance needed to implement and maintain such policies. This will include a series of online focus groups (1 June, 14 June, 16 June and 23 June) to help develop use cases. As a first step, Jisc are inviting representatives from UK HEIs to review the draft problem space statements and add comments using the comment function at: https://doc.s.google.com/document/d/1qbesk-uHLBpUrM7JUJuutQtK6lR6ligTYoA2Nl0z4vI/edit?usp=sharing. Deadline for comments is Monday 15 May.

CILIP LIRG Research Award - deadline extended

The Library & Information Research Group Committee has extended its deadline for applications for the LIRG Research Award 2023. The award is designed to fund a small project with the aim of identifying the most important and answerable research questions for UK library practice. The award of up to £3000 is open to UK-based applicants with relevant experience or expertise in the library and information profession. Payment will be staggered with funding at the start of the project and the end when the research is accepted for publication in the Library and Information Research (LIR) journal. The award can be used to fund appropriate research costs e.g. staff time, consumables, travel, licences. The submission deadline for the LIRG research award is 15 May. The submission outcome is expected by the end of May with an anticipated project start date in July 2023. 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. 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: Head of Open Research Services, Manchester Metropolitan University
Manchester Metropolitan University are seeking a Head of Open Research Services to join its Library and Cultural Services. This is a new role and the post holder will lead the strategic development of open research together with practices, services and initiatives that are vital to its delivery, including expanding open access, research data and research intelligence. As a member of the Leadership Team they will share responsibility for the strategic development and management of Library and Cultural Services. This includes planning for a landmark new building in the Library Transformation Programme. **Closing date 10 May** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Digital Services and Innovation, Manchester Metropolitan University
Manchester Metropolitan University are seeking a Head of Digital Services and Innovation. The post holder will lead the strategic development of digital systems/platforms and services and deliver robust, innovative, customer-focussed systems, tools and applications that meet the University's needs for teaching, learning and research. Crucially, they will drive digital transformation in Library and Cultural Services. As a member of the Leadership Team the post holder will share responsibility for the strategic development and management of Library and Cultural Services. This includes the Library Transformation Programme, an ambitious reimagining of the library and a landmark new building with sector leading digital capability. **Closing date 10 May** Read more

Vacancy: Health Library Manager, Keele University
Keele University Libraries are looking to appoint a Health Library Manager to lead their library service based in the Clinical Education Centre at the Royal Stoke Hospital, University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust. They are looking for a qualified librarian with the required experience to lead a team that includes NHS Outreach Librarians; an NHS Clinical Effectiveness Librarian; Training and Information Support Librarians; an E-Resource Librarian, and a highly skilled team of Library Assistants. The role is wide-ranging and has the potential to offer a rich and varied professional progression opportunity for a Librarian who can meet the essential requirements of the post, with scope to obtain managerial experience in both academic and health library contexts. **Closing date 21 May** Read more

Vacancy: Academic Support Team Manager, Goldsmiths, University of London
Goldsmiths are looking for a candidate to lead their Academic Support Team. As the team leader the post holder will promote best practice, encourage innovation and collaboration, and guide the team to influence academic practices. Through comprehensive understanding of student needs, curriculum, and learning resources the Academic Support Team Manager will ensure effective engagement and translate that to align Library services and resources with the curriculum, pedagogy, and student success. C**losing date 28 May** 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.

Are registered as above Rights Retention: from pilot to policy, 15 May

DORA at 10!, 15 May

University of Edinburgh Open Research Conference 2023, 15-17 May

ARLG DARTS Conference, Dartington, 24-25 May

CONUL Conference 2023, Cork, 24-25 May

NAG Collection Development Seminar, London, 25 May

RIVAL Reunion, Edinburgh, 25 May

RLUK Inclusive Collections, Inclusive Libraries - Hannah Ishmael, Black Cultural Archives, 30 May

CILIPS Annual Conference 2023, Dundee, 5-6 June

UXLibs7 2023, Brighton, 6-8 June

Thriving in your Career Pt2, Leeds, 9 June

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for the Research Excellence Framework, 16 June

Academic Libraries North Conference 2023, 21 June (via Teams) and 22 June (Leeds)

SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 26 June

Call for speakers: Customer Services Group UK - Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End, Salford, 30 June

ARLIS UK & Ireland Annual Conference, Norwich, 3-5 July

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

ISKO UK 2023 Conference, Glasgow, 24-25 July

Open Science (OAI13) Conference, 4-8 September

4th Fantastic Futures Conference, 15-17 November