

## News

### Call for case studies: The future of the systems librarian

SCONUL has launched a new project: *the Future of the Systems Librarian*. With developments in library technology accelerating, this project will look at the role of the systems librarian and the systems themselves, continue to evolve. **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](mailto:ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk) if that is the case. The project 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](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk) for the registration details.

### Call for case studies: technology-enhanced library spaces

Do you have a space within your library which is digitally or technology-enhanced, such as a green screen room, a space with augmented or virtual reality tools, maker spaces or AI labs? SCONUL's Technology and Markets Strategy group is undertaking a project to explore and surface examples of technology-enhanced library spaces. We are interested in hearing from SCONUL members who have or are developing such spaces in their libraries and who would be willing to present at an event or to providing the necessary materials for a case study to be produced. For further information or to express an interest in being involved please email [Ann.Rossiter@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:Ann.Rossiter@sconul.ac.uk) by 23 October.

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

SCONUL held two linked webinars exploring the library's role in supporting students, academics and their institutions to navigate the AI revolution. Around 250 colleagues from around the country joined the first webinar on 15 September to discuss the library's role in providing support for students on AI. The second webinar on 29 September looked 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. A recording of the webinars along with other resources can be found at: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/ai-and-library-support-for-students-webinar-15-september> and <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/ai-and-library-support-for-the-institution-webinar-29-september-2023> (Please note you will need to login to access this webpage. If you need a login please email [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk)).

### Leading change on race equality workshops, 18 October and 1 November

SCONUL is once again partnering with AdvanceHE to bring members subsidised development workshops on 'Leading change on race equality' as part of its ongoing commitment to increasing equality, diversity and inclusion in the sector. The workshops will be two interactive sessions and will be facilitated by AdvanceHE Senior Advisors [Dr Lindy-Ann Blaize Alfred](#) and [Jennifer Fearon](#) who are both experienced in anti-racism training and working with and within universities. The course fee is £100pp to attend. The first workshop will be held on 18 October, with the second on 1 November. To register please complete the form [here](#). You will need to create an account first (or log in to an existing account) on their web portal: My Advance HE (<https://my.advance-he.ac.uk/>) before accessing the link. The workshops are limited to two people per institution and are designed for those in leadership roles.

### Forum and event open to neurodivergent library staff across the SCONUL community, 14 November

Are you neurodivergent and working in libraries? If so you are welcome to come along to the NeuroSpicy (in person) meet up on 14 November, 10:30-15:30 at Lancaster University Library. This is partly to celebrate the end of the Academic Libraries North (ALN) sponsored NeuroSpicy project, partly to work out where people would like the work to go next. You can register here: <https://lancaster-uk.libcal.com/event/4094838>. You can also join the forum (<https://neurospicylibraries.flarum.cloud>) if you are neurodivergent (including self-diagnosed), or take a look at the external / Neurotypical facing website for some of the outputs here: <https://neurospicylibraries.wordpress.com>.

## Update on the SCONUL Annual Statistical Return

SCONUL is in the process of moving to a new website and a new method of data collection which has led to a delay in making the return available to our members. We are also separating the Strategic Planning Set from the main return, so we are planning to release the SPS in the next few weeks, with the usual late November deadline for the institutions who usually fill this in, and then the main return will be released in early November. To make data collection easier we will be including a spreadsheet with the full question set and calculations when we release the SPS to allow institutions to start building a response that can be transferred into Zoho survey. As the survey tool doesn't allow you to move forward without filling in the mandatory questions it will be easier to fill in the return if you have all the information to hand. Further information can be found here: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/news/update-on-the-sconul-annual-statistical-return>. Our EDI statistics will be collected separately this year to improve our data sharing arrangements, in order to get more returns this year. Our EDI report, with the findings from last year's exercise is due to be published soon.

## SCONUL deputies and new director groups – expressions of interest

SCONUL has issued a call for expressions of interest in membership of deputies and new directors groups. The SCONUL deputies and new directors groups provide informal support and advice both virtually and through face to face meetings. In general, groups meet once or twice a year and have between a dozen and twenty members. Each group has their own discussion list and conversations are generally assumed to be confidential unless otherwise agreed. The SCONUL Office facilitates the group's first meeting, after which, the groups are expected to self-organise. If you think you would benefit from joining such a group, please fill out the form here: <https://forms.gle/nC6i96yFCWRPWRDM8>

## SCONUL Mentoring Scheme

Looking to take the next step in your career? Eager to learn how to help you get promoted or how to find a more satisfying role? SCONUL's mentoring scheme is designed to support academic library leaders in their professional and personal growth by facilitating mentoring relationships with more experienced colleagues. Our volunteer mentors are all senior members of libraries who are keen to share their knowledge and experience with fellow colleagues who may be new to their role. If you want to find out more about finding a mentor or if you would like to share your time and experience and become a SCONUL mentor please contact [jenelle.negraeff@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:jenelle.negraeff@sconul.ac.uk) or check out the SCONUL mentoring webpage [here](#).

## ILL survey for future strategy for resource-sharing and inter-library loan

The British Library has issued a survey on inter-library loans, the results of which will be shared with UK HE Library Directors/Leaders at an event on the *Future Strategy for Resource-sharing and Inter-Library Loan*, to be held on 27 November from 11.00hrs to 16.00hrs, at the British Library's Conference Centre in London and alternatively on Friday 1 December from 10.00hrs to 15.00hrs, online. To register for the in-person event on 27 November please see: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/future-strategy-for-resource-sharing-and-inter-library-loan-tickets-737920950427?aff=oddttdtcreator>. To book your place for the online event on 1 December please email [sally.halper@bl.uk](mailto:sally.halper@bl.uk). Please share with your ILL Teams to complete the survey at: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/InterLibraryLoanPractitioner>. The survey deadline is 29 October and copy of the survey questions can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or comments about the survey, please email: [research-services@bl.libanswers.com](mailto:research-services@bl.libanswers.com).

## AHRC-RLUK Research Programmes Survey

RLUK have created surveys to promote further engagement and to gather feedback on their AHRC - RLUK research programmes: The [Research Catalyst Cohort Programme](#) and the [Professional Practice Fellowship Scheme](#). Directors and Associate Directors of RLUK and non-RLUK members are invited to complete this survey and help to provide a broad range of feedback which will be used by RLUK to inform future programmes, and our evaluation, engagement and activity in this area. The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete and can be found at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AHRC-RLUK-Research/>. The survey closes on Friday 10 November. For any questions or comments, please contact William Nixon, Deputy Executive Director, RLUK at [William.Nixon@rluk.ac.uk](mailto:William.Nixon@rluk.ac.uk)

## THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023

SCONUL is an Event Partner for THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023 which is being held on 6-7 December in Liverpool. This event will bring together higher education leaders – both academic and administrative – along with industry partners and policy experts to discuss, debate and plan how to achieve institutional

success. Hosted along with the THE Awards ceremony, delegates can expect practical advice, ideas and solutions to the most pressing strategic challenges facing universities today. [Read more](#)

### **Guidance on managing copyright under UKRI open access policy**

UKRI has published a guide on how to manage third-party copyright, clear permissions, and use third-party content in line with copyright law in collaboration with Professor Emily Hudson, Professor Tanya Aplin, and Clare Painter Associates. This is available here: <https://www.ukri.org/publications/guidance-on-managing-copyright-under-ukri-open-access-policy/>.

### **New Research on the Value and Impact of SCONUL Access**

The Open University Library has recently completed a research project into the value and impact of the SCONUL Access scheme for its students: [Barratt, Caroline](#) and [Stanley, Tyne](#) (2023). *SCONUL Access: The Open University student experience*. Library and Knowledge Services, The Open University. The research has identified that students who are members of the SCONUL Access scheme gain better results in their studies. Participants spoke about how the scheme has had a positive impact on their studies, student experience and wellbeing. Opportunities to improve the scheme were also identified, which is hoped will be helpful to inform future planned enhancements. Open University are grateful to the founders of the scheme, and all its members, for fostering such a mutually supportive community. If you have any questions about the research please contact [library-services@open.ac.uk](mailto:library-services@open.ac.uk).

### **QAA call for Chair/Deputy Chair for SBS review for Librarianship, Information, Knowledge, Records and Archives Management**

The QAA has recently published the call out for expressions of interest for Chair and Deputy Chair to lead the review of the SBS for Librarianship, Information, Knowledge, Records and Archives Management. They will work closely with the QAA Link Officer and together, they are responsible for selecting the Advisory Group members. Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Advisory Groups can only be drawn from higher education providers who are [QAA Members](#). The deadline for expressions of interest is 23 October 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. 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](mailto:SitMui.Ng@sconul.ac.uk).

### **Appointment: University Librarian, University of Portsmouth**

Kath Shakespeare has been appointed University Librarian at the University of Portsmouth. This follows a period as Interim University Librarian, following Ken Dick's move to Queen Margaret University in November 2022. Kath has over 25 years of experience in Higher Education libraries, most recently as Associate University Librarian (Online and Research Services) at the University of Portsmouth. Kath's immediate focus will be supporting the recent merger of the Library and IS services, as the two services are brought together.

### **Vacancy: Library Manager: User Services & Engagement, TU Dublin**

The Library Manager: User Services & Engagement will lead Client & Faculty Services' cross-University user services team and be responsible for user services and the operational management of library

buildings, incorporating User Experience (UX) and Universal Access principles into the design of library services and spaces. The successful candidate will lead Library Services' communications and marketing team, and lead on event management and the development of community engagement activities. **Closing date 23 October** [Read more](#)

#### **Vacancy: Library Manager: Teaching & Learning, TU Dublin**

The Library Manager: Teaching & Learning will lead Client & Faculty Services' cross-University teaching and learning team and the Faculty Liaison Librarian team to manage Library Services' learning and teaching support. The successful candidate will enhance the integration of information and digital literacies into academic programmes using multiple modalities. They will lead on the inclusion of Universal Design for Learning (UDL); Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI); and Sustainability principles in information and digital literacies programmes. **Closing date 23 October** [Read more](#)

#### **Vacancy: Assistant Director, Library, University of Sussex**

University of Sussex are seeking an Assistant Director to join the Leadership Team of the University Library. Alongside the Librarian and the Deputy Librarian the post holder will set the vision for the division and ensure strategic objectives are resourced, delivered, and aligned with the University's value-based culture. There will be lots of opportunities to input into all strands of this new strategy as well as a requirement for the post holder to fully engage with sector organisations such as RLUK, SCONUL and LIBER. **Closing date 23 October** [Read more](#)

#### **Vacancy: Learning and Teaching Librarian, The Open University**

The Open University's (OU) Library Service currently has two job opportunities available, working within the Learner and Discovery Services (LDS) Team. They are seeking a Learning and Teaching (one permanent and one fixed term contract (12 months)). The post holders will support learning and teaching activities, including the development of students as independent learners. They 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 27 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](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

**Open Access Week 2023: Community over Commercialisation, 23-29 October**

**The British Library: Open and Engaged Conference 2023, London, 30 October**

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

**UKRI open access policy for longform publications, 8 November**

**Neurospicy Libraries In Person Meet Up, Lancaster, 14 November**

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

**CSGUK Annual Conference, Edinburgh, 24 November**

**Future Strategy for Resource-Sharing and Inter-Library Loan, London, 27 November**

**THE Campus Live UK&IE 2023, Liverpool, 6-7 December**

**International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC24), Edinburgh, 19-21 February 2024**

**LILAC 2024, Leeds, 25-27 March 2024**