News
January 2024

News

SCONUL Content Forum, 2 February 2024: The future of subscriptions – have your say

The results of the Jisc Critical Review of Transitional Agreements will be published on 24 January. This report will have important implications for the library community and SCONUL is bringing the sector together to discuss these and to consider options for subscriptions at the next meeting of the SCONUL Content Forum. The meeting will hear from the co-chairs of the Transitional Agreements Oversight Group, Niamh Tumelty, director of LSE Library and Jeremy Upton, director of library and university collections at the University of Edinburgh, as well as members of the SCONUL Content Strategy Group. The debate will help shape priorities for the sector and inform Jisc's approach to future negotiations. This is a face-to-face meeting which will be held at Goodenough College, London, on Friday 2 February 2024, 10.00am to 4.00pm. The Forum is open to heads of service and their senior leadership teams from member institutions only and there is no charge for attending. Read more

COPIM and SCONUL: exploring practical problems and potential strategies to fund equitable OA book publishing, 25 January 2024, 10.00hrs

SCONUL and COPIM Open Book Futures are holding a webinar to explore the difficulties of funding open access books, and how different libraries have developed strategies to tackle these challenges. There is a growing shift towards open access (OA) for books, with policies such as UKRI mandating OA publication and a number of OA presses springing up at different universities. But when some institutions are not eligible for funding, and budgets are under increasing pressure, can libraries support this shift to open access for books? If so, how might it be done? This webinar, chaired by Andrew Barker, will hear from a range of speakers including Phil Brabban, University Librarian and Group Director of Learning Resources at Coventry University and Dominic Broadhurst, Head of Content & Discovery at University of Salford. Email sconul@sconul.ac.uk for the registration details.

SCONUL review of benchmarking statistics survey – now open

SCONUL is undertaking a comprehensive review of our annual benchmarking statistics and we need your help in shaping this work. Our consultants, David Baker Consulting, have developed a survey designed to be filled in by senior leadership teams to investigate the different use cases for the statistics and how we might present them going forward. A link to the survey has been sent to members along with a PDF of the survey questions. The survey will be open until 9 February, and we are seeking one return per institution.

SCONUL EDI Statistics - deadline extension

The deadline for the collection of the EDI statistical return for 2022-23 has been extended until Thursday 29 February. We recognise that collecting this data is difficult and want to thank everyone for their efforts to date and hope that this extension gives a bit more time for busy teams to work on this. As with the SPS, links were sent to Library Directors, so if you have responsibility for filling this return, please get in touch with your Director. This survey is also password protected to ensure this sensitive data is locked down to a small number of people. SCONUL also has a data protection statement, which outlines how we will be handling the data, particularly when there is a risk of identification at a local level, as well as a data sharing agreement outlining our reasoning for collecting this data, under GDPR regulations. We are happy to send these to any institution that requires it. If there is anything at all we can do to help you with a submission, please contact lisa.mclaren@sconul.ac.uk or ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

UKRI open access fund for longform publications: Stage 2 demonstration

Work is continuing on the operations of the dedicated fund for open access longform publications and Stage 2 applications will open on 15 January. UKRI will be running two further webinars to walk-through the Stage 2 application process and form in the Funding Service. They will also talk through the online form where authors and their organisations can notify UKRI about exemptions. These webinars will take place on Thursday 11 January and Wednesday 17 January.

Nominations/applications for the 2024 Information Literacy Award and Student Award

The LILAC committee have announced that nominations for the Information Literacy Award and applications for the Student Award are now open. The CILIP Information Literacy Group and the Information School at the University of Sheffield offer an award for achievement in the field of information literacy (IL). The award is open to all practitioners, researchers and academics working in the IL field within the UK. Nominations may be from any sector, individuals and groups/teams can self-nominate or nominate others. Find out more on the LILAC website. The Rowena Macrae-Gibson Student Award provides a sponsored place at LILAC for two students registered on a UK study programme. The award includes a full conference place, including social events, and UK travel and accommodation expenses up to the value of £250. Find out more on the LILAC website. The closing date for both awards is Friday 2 February at 17.00hrs.

Introduction to AI4LAM, 16 January

SCONUL members with an interest in AI may be interested in this opportunity to join a conversation with librarians internationally on AI use within libraries, archives and museums. AI4LAM is holding a Community Call - an onboarding session taking place on Tuesday 16 January at 4pm. This session is open to everyone - including complete beginners, people in GLAMs who are engaging in AI projects, or those who think they would like to do so. There will be opportunities to learn more about the basics of AI and why it's important to libraries, archives and museums, as well as time dedicated to your questions and discussion. Further details, including joining details, can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/10D5t9GlWt-Pnp9kk_vYGfyc0n46YdtmofAnDLBZDSc8/edit?usp=sharing. You can find notes/recordings from previous calls on the shared Google Drive at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NKlDoBvsNjJizRr8hKts08ykL3jhcui5?usp=sharing

AI ready library collections; the practicalities, 8 February

Following on from their November webinar, *Making your collections AI ready*, Peter Findlay from Jisc will chair a further discussion on 8 February to encourage the library community to be bold in providing machine ready collections, in support of research. Peter will be joined by colleagues from the University of Manchester Library, Ian Gifford, Head of Digital Development, and Jane Gallagher, Head of Digital Special Collections and Services. They will explore the opportunities, risks and challenges inherent in curating these collections as data. The webinar will go on to explore how machine ready collections can be described. For further information and to register click here: https://www.jisc.ac.uk/events/ai-ready-library-collections-the-practicalities

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.

Appointment: Director Library and eLearning Services, Roehampton University

Anne Pietsch has been appointed as the Director Library and eLearning Services, Roehampton University. This follows the retirement of Susan Scorey as University Librarian and Deputy CIO on 31 December 2023.

Vacancy: Associate Director Collections, Technologies and Systems, University of Southampton

The University of Southampton is seeking to appoint a new Associate Director Collections, Technologies and Systems within Library and Learning Services. This is a key role, leading the development of strategy for the library in relation to collections procurement, development and discovery, with significant budgetary oversight. The post holder will have responsibility for developing a broad portfolio of service areas, in line with ambitious objectives. This includes teams managing complex acquisition of content aligned with disciplinary and interdisciplinary research innovation, curriculum development and initiatives in transnational education. This role is responsible for technical procurement, enhancement and delivery of business-critical infrastructure that maximises a consistent yet personalised user experience. **Closing date 17 January** Read more

Vacancy: Academic Liaison Librarian, London Metropolitan University (two posts)

London Metropolitan University are currently recruiting for two Academic Liaison Librarian posts. One role will initially be supporting courses within the School of the Built Environment and Department of Architecture, and this role will also have a cross-service responsibility for liaising with the Research & Postgraduate Office, promoting research support library services, and organising a regular timetable of library skills workshops and events for researchers. The second will initially be supporting the Schools of Social Sciences and Professions, and Human Sciences. And have a cross service responsibility for the organisation and promotion of the library skills workshops programme providing students with a timetable of regularly offered library events to improve and develop their info literacy and research skills (for all subject areas). **Closing date 22 January** Read more

Vacancy: Digital Development Librarian, Queen Mary, University of London

Queen Mary, University of London are seeking a Digital Development Librarian to join the Library Innovation and Planning Team. The team is responsible for supporting the cross-service working groups and Library teams with the prioritisation, planning, financial management, workforce management and operational implementation of a diverse range of projects and service improvements related to the digital and physical infrastructures supporting Library Services. **Closing date 28 January** Read more

Vacancy: Open Research Team Manager, University of St Andrews

University of St Andrews are looking for an experienced manager with the ability to lead and support staff in open research during a period of change. Under the strategic direction of the Head of Open Research, and support from existing staff, the postholder will line manage two teams, lead the development of new workflows supporting both Green and Gold Open Access, and oversee new streamlined processes for releasing theses from embargo. The successful candidate will have significant experience of managing staff and implementing change, as well as knowledge of scholarly publishing and the open research environment. This is a fixed term post for six months and may be suitable as a secondment for a member of staff at another organisation seeking a development opportunity. **Closing date 31 January** 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.

Copim and SCONUL: exploring practical problems and potential strategies to fund equitable OA book publishing, 25 January

Green BIC Brunch: Focus on Libraries, 25 January

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for the Teaching Excellence Framework, 30 January

SCONUL Content Forum, London, 2 February

Open Research London: The Discoverability of Open Research, London 12 February

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

OpenAthens: Access Lab 2024, 26 and 27 February

LILAC 2024, Leeds, 25–27 March

UKSG Annual Conference & Exhibition, Glasgow, 8-10 April

Jisc Change Agents' Network Conference 2024: The future of student engagement and student-staff partnerships to enhance higher education, Portsmouth, 20, 22 and 23 May

User Experience in Libraries 8: 'Curiosity & Empathy', Cambridge, 11-13 June