

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.

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. As data and learning analytics increase in importance to universities, how can systems librarians provide that added value to their institutions? **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. 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 for the registration details. The project team will take the learning from this community webinar to shape the development of the project.

SCONUL Statistics Consultation update

SCONUL is pleased to announce that they have appointed David Baker Consulting (DBC) to carry out the review of our annual benchmarking statistics. DBC will be running an initial survey for library leadership teams in late September, followed by some online interactive workshops in November. Please look out for these to ensure you have your say.

Hold the dates: Leading change on race equality workshops

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 course fee is £100pp to attend. If you are interested in joining the workshops, please hold the following dates in your diaries: Session 1 - 18th October (AM) and Session 2 – 1st November (AM). Registration details will be available shortly.

Green Libraries Manifesto– working together for people and planet

SCONUL has signed up to the Green Libraries Manifesto. Hosted by CILIP in partnership with Arts Council England, British Library, Libraries Connected and Julie's Bicycle the manifesto sets our common values and commitments to drive transformational change for our planet and communities. [Read more](#)

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](#)

Multi-Disciplinary Action Learning Sets

SCONUL is partnering with BUFDG, as well as ARMA, AUDE, CHEIA, HESPA, UCISA and UHR to offer action learning to those working as part of library leadership teams (assistant directors; deputy directors / head of – or equivalent). Action Learning is a powerful development experience bringing people together

to exchange, support and challenge each other in action and learning. There will be a one full day in-person session and four half-day online sessions, held at 5 week intervals across a 5 month period. Many sets continue to meet on a 'self-managed' basis after the initial series of sessions have finalised. It is critical that candidates commit to attending all the dates within the set. The rate will be £500 (plus VAT) per candidate for the full set of 5 sessions. For further information and to register please contact Rachel Ward: rachel@buefdg.ac.uk. [Read more](#)

High student satisfaction with library services

The recently published NSS results show continuing high levels of student satisfaction with university libraries' support for students. The results for question 20 "How well have the library resources (e.g., books, online services and learning spaces) supported your learning?" give an average score across the UK of 89.5, the second most positive rating for any aspect of student satisfaction covered by the NSS. Particular praise should go to the following libraries which achieved the highest positive ratings for their students in response to Q20: Oxford University; Royal College of Music; Newman University; Northern School of Contemporary Dance; Bishop Grosseteste University; Arts University Bournemouth; Arts University Plymouth; Teesside University; Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and University of Aberdeen. [Read more](#)

Libraries and Sustainable Development: the Contribution of Libraries

Revd Dr Tony Bradley at Liverpool Hope University has recently been appointed as one of the Editors for a new publication: "*Libraries and Sustainable Development: the Contribution of Libraries to Sustainability and the Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*". UK-CSR is leading the production of the book. As the title suggests, the publication will document and promote experiences of what libraries around the world are doing, to promote sustainability within the institution as a whole, and support the implementation of the UN SDGs in particular. The book, which is peer-reviewed, will be published as part of the World Sustainability Series, which is one of the world's leading peer-reviewed book series on matters related to sustainable development: <https://www.springer.com/series/13384>. If any colleagues would like to be considered to make a contribution to this book, please contact bradlet@hope.ac.uk. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 30 September and for full papers is 24 January 2024.

German DEAL Consortium announces agreement with Elsevier

The DEAL Consortium, representing the German research institutions, has announced that a transformative Open Access agreement with Elsevier was signed on 1 September. The five-year agreement is open to around 900 institutions in Germany and will enable researchers affiliated with participating institutions to publish Open Access and read across almost the Elsevier journal portfolio, including the Cell Press and The Lancet journal family. Both publishing and reading access will be covered by a per-article fee charged to the researchers' institutions by DEAL's operating entity, MPDL Services gGmbH. [Read more](#)

Artificial intelligence (AI) in tertiary education

Jisc has published the third edition of its publication on AI in tertiary education. The report summarises the current state of play, including emerging use cases and guidance on ethical considerations. [Read more](#)

Times Higher Education Awards 2023: Outstanding Library Team shortlist announced

Congratulations to the five SCONUL members which have been shortlisted for the THE Outstanding Library Team Award 2023. These are Edge Hill University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London South Bank University, Newcastle University and Newman University. The Awards ceremony will take place on 7 December at ACC Liverpool. [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.

Appointment: Director of Library Services and Collections and University Librarian, Durham University

Stuart Hunt has been appointed as Director of Library Services and Collections and University Librarian for Durham University. This follows the retirement of Liz Waller in July. He will begin his role on 1 December 2023. Stuart has more than 20 years of experience in Higher Education Library and Collection services. He brings with him a proven track record of strategic leadership, digital transformation and building external partnerships. He has held a number of senior positions in UK universities, most recently as Director of University Library & Collections Services and University Librarian at the University of Reading. As a senior leader in the University, Stuart will be responsible for the strategic and operational management of the University's Libraries and Collections. He will also play an important role in the University's academic development and activities. A significant part of Stuart's role will be to ensure the highest standards of stewardship, security and overall care of our internationally recognised collections. These include the four nationally Designated Collections: Bishop Cosin's Library, the Sudan Archive and our Chinese and Egyptian Collections. [Read more](#)

Vacancy: User Experience Librarian, University of Oxford

Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, is seeking to appoint a User Experience Librarian. As part of the Assessment Team, the post holder will be responsible for leading a Strategic project to partner with taught postgraduate students and with disabled students to co-design library services to support their needs. They will also undertake user experience research in support of other Strategic projects, for example user testing developments of existing resource discovery tools; researching user needs from new library services; and supporting colleagues to undertake and embed local user experience research into the comfort of physical library spaces. **Closing date 11 September** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Research Indicators Librarian, Technological University Dublin

TU Dublin is advertising for the post of Research Indicators Librarian. The post holder of this new role will provide advice, support, and training on bibliometrics, the responsible use of research metrics and other research indicators. Based in the Library's Research Services team, the Research Indicators Librarian will work with colleagues across Library Services and Research & Innovation. **Closing date 11 September** [Read more](#)

Vacancy: Library User Services Supervisor, Aston University

Aston University are looking to appoint a Library User Services Supervisor. The post holder will supervise the daily running of the library building and staff deployment. They will line manage a small team of Library Assistants and casual workers. **Closing date 11 September** [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](#)

Vacancy: Information Specialist Manager, Aston University

Aston University are looking for an Information Specialist Manager to lead and manage a team of five Information Specialists. This includes oversight and development of Information Specialist activity including academic support and engagement, programme development and review, and learning and research skills development. The post holder will be responsible for motivating and leading the Library's Information Specialist team and strategic leadership to align the team's activity with Aston's 2030 strategy. **Closing date 29 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.

Samvera Europe 2023 meeting, London, 11 September

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

OASPA Online Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing 2023, 19 -21 September

Open Science policy & practice in Europe and in Hong Kong, 27 September

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

Jisc: Collective funding models for open access books, 4 October

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

The future of the systems librarian, 31 October

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

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