



Newsletter

This month we are launching the call for papers for this year's M25 Conference - with the theme of community outreach and widening participation. Working beyond our service and organisational boundaries is becoming increasingly important for libraries of all kinds and we look forward to hearing a wide range of perspectives on this important issue. One of the strengths of the Consortium is the diverse views and experiences of members. We are keen to hear from staff at all stages of their careers and representing the breadth of HE, specialist and scholarly libraries, so please consider making a submission. Full details are linked below.

11th May will be our second online conference following the success of last year's on "The Future of Libraries". In common with the conversations that I'm sure many of you are having about the future of online and face-to-face support in your libraries, the Steering Group and Trustees have been discussing lessons learned from the necessary changes we brought in during the pandemic. In the short term we are intending to continue with predominantly online provision (e.g. [the Members Quiz](#) on 8th February replacing the usual Networking evening) but we are also considering a longer term shift to a hybrid model. We recently carried out a member engagement survey which we'll share in more detail next month, but a sneak preview is that there was support for the

benefits which online events and training brings. We will consider carefully how best to build that into future provision.

Matthew Lawson, M25 Consortium Chair

M25 Annual Conference 2022

Call for Papers and Posters

"All things being equal: the regional contribution of libraries"

We are delighted to announce the M25 Consortium's 2022 virtual Annual Conference will take place on **Wednesday 11th May**. Please save the date in your diary.

The Call for Papers and Posters is now open.

The theme this year "All things being equal: the regional contribution of libraries" will seek to explore community engagement and widening participation initiatives in M25 libraries. [For full information on the Call for Papers and Posters please visit the website.](#) The deadline for submission of abstracts is noon Friday 25th February 2022. All staff working in M25 libraries are encouraged to apply.

Diversity in M25 institutions

The M25 Diversity Task and Finish group invites you to complete a survey to help us understand what initiatives member libraries are undertaking to address issues of racial inequality within their organisations. The results of this survey will be used to report on current approaches across Consortium libraries and to share best practice. The survey is open to all members of staff in M25 Consortium libraries and should take 5-10 minutes to complete. We would very much appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. The survey will close on 11 February.

[Diversity in M25 institutions survey](#)



Recruiting new members

The M25 Diversity Task and Finish Group are recruiting new members. If you're interested in joining the group or have any questions, please email Katie Winter at k.winter@surrey.ac.uk. You can read about the group and look at case studies gathered by the group [here](#).

M25 Conference Bursary Award

Would you like to attend a LIS conference in 2022 but don't have funding available? Apply to the Conference Bursary Award. One bursary will be awarded for up to a maximum of £500 to attend an in-person or virtual conference. The bursary can be used towards conference fees, accommodation and travel costs.



The call for applications for the Conference Bursary Award 2022 is now open. The deadline for applications is **5 pm Friday 4th March**. All staff from M25 libraries are encouraged to apply. [Please visit the website for further details.](#)



New for 2021-22 M25 Mentoring Scheme

We're delighted to introduce the M25 Mentoring Scheme. The core purpose of the M25 Mentoring Scheme is to support library staff in their professional growth by facilitating mentoring relationships with more experienced colleagues. The scheme is intended to support non-senior staff in the

Consortium's member libraries and will dovetail with SCONUL's mentoring scheme for senior staff.

Call for mentors

Are you working in an M25 member library and have experience as a mentor or would like to try mentoring for the first time?

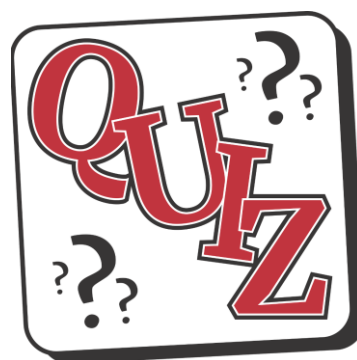
We are looking for mentors who want to support the professional development of others and in doing so, contribute to their own professional development. Mentors should have at least two years' experience at a level equivalent to or higher than the proposed mentee, therefore, we are seeking mentors from a wide range of library roles and levels of experience.

[Further information, guidelines, and details on how to apply can be found on the website.](#) Questions about the scheme should be sent to the M25 Executive Manager, Rachel Taylor, at rachel.taylor@london.ac.uk.

Interested in being a mentee? As soon as we've established a pool of mentors we will share information on how mentees can apply.

Members' Quiz

Staff from M25 member libraries are invited to join us for a general knowledge quiz on Tuesday 8th February at 5 pm. The event will be held on Zoom and all members are invited to join. [Sign up here!](#)





Staff experiences of library refurbishment or library building projects

cpd25 event 10 February 2022

This event highlights the experiences of five very different refurbishment/buildings projects within academic libraries. Each speaker will talk about their project, focusing on the measures in place to assist and support students, staff, and stakeholders during the work. [Visit the website to sign up.](#)

cpd25 Task Group recruitment

cpd25 is currently seeking two new members to join [Task Group 2](#) and [Task Group 3](#). Membership of Task Groups is open to all staff in [M25 member institutions](#), with Task Group members normally drawn from a cross-section of member institutions, job roles and levels. Each Task Group meets approximately 3-4 times per year. If anyone interested would like more information before making a decision, please contact the cpd25 Chair, [Sara Burnett](#), for an informal discussion. Formal expressions of interest, not exceeding 400 words, outlining relevant experience and reasons for wanting to get involved should be made to [Sara Burnett](#) by **Noon on Friday 28th January 2022** please.

M25 SpeedMeet

Every month we meet someone working in an M25 member institution and ask them to tell us a little bit about themselves. We're delighted to share with you the recent SpeedMeet with Jennifer Domingo, Library Assistant at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. To read the current and past SpeedMeet interviews please [click here.](#)



This opportunity is open to staff at all levels working at M25 member libraries. If you're interested in contributing to the SpeedMeet please contact rachel.taylor@london.ac.uk.



Would you like to write a post for our wellbeing blog? Get in touch!

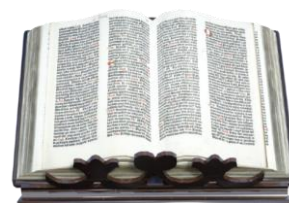
We invite members to share case studies on wellbeing in your libraries for the [M25 Wellbeing blog](#). If you would like to contribute to the blog please contact rachel.taylor@london.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

The M25 Task & Finish Group on Wellbeing has made available a number of excellent resources on the M25 Wellbeing Blog and M25 website looking at the ways academic libraries can promote student and staff wellbeing. You can view the resources by clicking the button below.

[M25 Wellbeing Resources](#)

Join the M25 Curators and Exhibitions Network

The Curators and Exhibitions Network supports individuals working in M25 Member libraries with curatorial responsibilities or holding curator roles within the library service. The aim of the network



is to share experiences, best practices and to act as a professional support network.

We encourage members of staff from all levels of experience to join the Network. Please email your name, job title, and institution to rachel.taylor@london.ac.uk.

Notice for M25 Reps

We would be delighted to meet with you to discuss how the Consortium's services can support you and your team. We also welcome suggestions and feedback from staff at member institutions. If you feel you could benefit from an informal meeting (in-person or virtual) with the M25 Executive Manager, please contact rachel.taylor@london.ac.uk.



Invitation to participate in an online research conversation **On behalf of Victoria Edwards at the University of Sheffield**

I am currently studying towards a PhD in Information Studies at the University of Sheffield's iSchool. The purpose of my research is to explore both library and e-book supplier workflows surrounding the quality management of the bibliographic metadata of e-books and the relationships between these two parties. The research will also examine attitudes towards the value of cataloguing and how this relates to perceptions of roles within the changing environment of the academic library sector. The project also aims to consider communities of practice that key actors are involved in and the structures and norms of these communities. I am inviting senior managers and cataloguing staff from libraries within the M25 Consortium to participate in an online research conversation that will last approximately 45-60 minutes. If you are interested in taking part in this project, please email me: veedwards2@sheffield.ac.uk

Peer organisations:

SCONUL: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/>

Mercian Collaboration: <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/>

White Rose Libraries: <https://whiterose.ac.uk/projects/white-rose-libraries/>

Academic Libraries North (Formerly Northern Collaboration &

NoWAL): <https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk>

SCURL: <https://www.scurl.ac.uk/about>

WHELP: <https://whelf.ac.uk/>

Apologies for cross-posting

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[**M25 Consortium website**](#)

