



## Newsletter

Last autumn we held a really useful round table discussion with representatives from some of our scholarly and specialist libraries. We discussed feedback from the recent survey and ideas for future initiatives which might add value for them and their colleagues. The Steering Group discussed these at our away day in January and one of the outcomes was to convene a new task and finish group to review the information we provide about the [Access25 scheme](#). Many of our scholarly and specialist libraries are not members of SCONUL and so do not have access under that arrangement. We hope that the project will provide greater clarity for everyone. There is scope for improving the information we provide about access to other member libraries, as well as explaining the necessary limitations on access to electronic resources etc. You will see below details about how to apply if you would like to be involved-whether you work in an academic or specialist library, we would like your help to make this a success!

Matthew Lawson, M25 Consortium Chair

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## **M25 Annual Conference 2022**

### **Registration is now open!**

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

The M25 Consortium's 2022 virtual Annual Conference will take place on Wednesday 11th May. The theme this year will seek to explore community engagement and widening participation initiatives in M25 libraries. The keynote will be given by Professor Graeme Atherton, Head of the Centre for Inequality and Levelling Up at the University of West London. Registration is now open. M25 member libraries receive one free delegate place as part of the benefits of membership - this is usually for the M25 Representative. Individuals eligible to attend for free are still required to register. We are also offering a student rate and a group discount rate. [For further details and to register please visit the website.](#)

### **Conference Bursaries**

The [Professional Support Conference Bursary](#) is aimed at supporting individuals not in education, employment or training to attend the conference. We would be grateful if you could share this opportunity with any relevant contacts in your professional network. This bursary is kindly sponsored by [OCLC](#).

The [M25 Bursary for free attendance at the conference](#) is for staff in M25 member libraries. This is part of our annual Staff Development Awards scheme and aims to provide a free place for a staff member from an M25 institution to attend the conference.

**The deadline for both awards is noon on 6th April.**

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## **Directors' Briefing**

### **From Policy Soup to Deliverable Strategy, 5 May 2022**

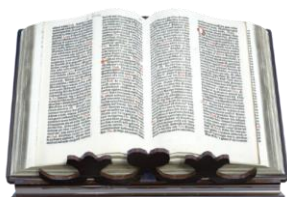
Directors and Heads of Service are invited to attend a briefing for senior library staff which will be held on 5 May 2022 at 2 pm on Zoom.



In this Directors' Briefing, speakers from Jisc, the Department of Health and Social Care and the University of Westminster will present on their own experience and reflections developing and implementing policy in response to shifting external environments, and how this also influences strategy development.

Members receive one free Directors' Briefing place per institution per academic year, additional attendees are welcome to register for a fee. Registration is essential.

[Directors' Briefing](#)



## **M25 Curator and Exhibitions Network**

### **Exhibitions workshop 24th March**

The Curator and Exhibitions Network supports individuals working in M25 Member libraries with curatorial responsibilities or holding curator roles within the library service. The Network will be holding quarterly workshops to share experiences, best practices and to act as a professional support network. The first workshop

will be held on 24th March and will focus on 'Exhibitions'. If you would like to learn more about this workshop or join the Curator and Exhibitions Network mailing list please contact [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk).

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## **cpd25 Research Forum**

Have you recently written a dissertation for your library and information studies degree? Have you conducted research in your workplace? Would you like an opportunity to develop your presenting skills and meet others interested in your research?



cpd25 are organising our first research forum: an opportunity for library and information studies graduates and library workers to present research they have conducted either as part of their studies or in the workplace. We are seeking to provide a forum where research in and on libraries can be disseminated, and a networking opportunity for students, graduates and professionals interested in library research.

We are looking for speakers to volunteer their time (travel expenses reimbursed) for a face-to-face event in central London in June 2022.

We are looking for 20-30 minutes (plus Q+A) presentations. We are not looking for any theme. We are also looking for posters presenting your research. These would be up to A1 sized posters summarising the aims and outcomes of your research so we can display at the venue.

We are looking for speakers who have not had many opportunities to present their research and we are looking for speakers from under-represented groups in libraries.

Please register your interest in presenting by 19th April 2022 at the link below.

[Expression of interest form](#)



## How the University library is becoming the hub of mental health support

Matthew Lawson, M25 Chair and Director of Library and Student Support at Middlesex University, talks about mental health and wellbeing support at Middlesex University in CILIP's Information Professional. You can find a link to the article on the M25 Wellbeing Blog.

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 [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

[M25 Wellbeing Blog](#)



## New Task and Finish Group

We are seeking individuals to join a task and finish group to review the Access25 scheme with the aim of improving the user experience and increasing awareness of the scheme.

We encourage members of staff from all levels of experience to put themselves forward for membership of the group. We particularly encourage those who regularly use the Access25 scheme to get involved. This is a great opportunity to build your own professional development as well as make an important contribution to the Consortium's work.

To make your expression of interest please email your name, job title, and institution, including a short statement (max. 200 words) explaining why you'd like to be part of the group, by Friday 29th April to M25 Steering Group member and Head of Onsite Services at the National Art Library, Vicky Worsfold, at [v.worsfold@vam.ac.uk](mailto:v.worsfold@vam.ac.uk).



### **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 Rachel Geeson, Assistant Director at Anglia Ruskin University. 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 [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk).

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## Annual Report 2020-21

The Consortium's Annual Report for 2020-21 is now available to read on the website.

[Annual Report 2020-21](#)

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### M25 Mentoring Scheme

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're seeking mentors for the M25 Mentoring Scheme. The scheme is intended to support non-senior staff in the Consortium's member libraries. 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 [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@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.



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### Diversity Task and Finish group 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](mailto:k.winter@surrey.ac.uk). You can read about the

group and look at case studies gathered by the group [here](#).

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## M25 Treasurer and Chair roles

The current Treasurer and Chair of the Consortium will come to the end of their terms of office in summer 2022. A formal announcement with the date of the AGM and a call for nominations for vacant positions will be circulated to member representatives in the spring. In the meantime, if you're interested in joining the Consortium's governance and would like to have an informal conversation about either of these roles please contact Cathy Phillpotts (Treasurer) at [catherine.phillpotts@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.phillpotts@londonmet.ac.uk) or Matthew Lawson (Chair) at [m.lawson@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:m.lawson@mdx.ac.uk).

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## 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) please contact [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.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](#)

