



Newsletter

As we approach the end of the calendar year and the holiday seasons will soon be upon us we shouldn't neglect building on our own professional development, knowledge and skills. This December sees the return of our in person Directors' Briefing. This is a great opportunity for heads of service or senior leaders in our member libraries to learn together and to exchange knowledge and experience. Our theme for the December briefing is Diversity in the M25 consortium. Equity, diversity and inclusion have been important issues that the M25 has been addressing and this briefing is an ideal opportunity for us to meet to reflect on the EDI agendas in our own institutions and hear from colleagues. It also gives you as members of the consortium to feedback to the M25 on what is important to you and to help guide us as we continue to address these important issues.

Engagement with our EDI themes does not need to be limited to Heads of Service within our member institutions. Readers of this newsletter will see that the M25 Diversity Group are seeking a co-chair for the group from 2023. Staff of any level in a member library are eligible. This is an ideal opportunity to be directly involved in our work on EDI and I would encourage anyone interested to put themselves forward. The M25 Consortium is always open to your participation in our activities so, if you are keen to be involved in anyway, do get in touch. Listening to the diverse voices of our membership is key to our success.

Stuart Hunt, M25 Consortium Chair

Diversity group co-chair

The [M25 Diversity group](#) are looking to appoint a co-chair for 2023. If you are passionate about equity, diversity and inclusion, this could be the role for you! This is a brilliant opportunity to develop leadership and project management skills and build a network of peers across M25 institutions. The position is open to any member of staff at a member library, regardless of position or level of experience.

You will be working alongside our newly appointed chair to progress the work of the group. You can find the group terms of reference and current membership [here](#). The group meets monthly on Friday afternoons.

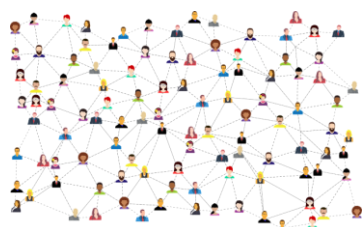
You can have a look at the previous work the group has done and case studies we have gathered [here](#). In the coming year, we hope to prioritise supporting member institutions to implement the recommendations of our survey, complete a follow-up survey and consider how to diversify the talent pipeline, for example by creating guidance for developing apprenticeships and gathering examples of inclusive job descriptions.

If you are interested in the role, please email the group chair, Cliff Van Dort at cliff.vandort@nationalarchives.org.uk by the end of December. We anticipate the co-chair role would be for one calendar year and would encourage you to continue on as a member of the group after this. You can also get in touch for



more information about what the role involves or for an informal chat.

We particularly welcome expressions of interest from staff from groups underrepresented in the library profession as we value different perspectives and experiences. If you are not interested in the role of co-chair but would like to become a group member, please get in touch: cliff.vandort@nationalarchives.org.uk



Directors' Briefing: *Diversity in the M25 Consortium: challenging ourselves and our institutions*

Friday 9th December, 1-4pm, Royal College of Nursing

Directors and Heads of Service (from both within and without the M25 Consortium) are invited to attend a Directors' Briefing on Diversity in the M25 Consortium: challenging ourselves and our institutions. Directors are invited to send a deputy if unable to attend themselves.

Our speakers will present on their experiences of how the M25 Consortium has worked to develop equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) initiatives within and across member libraries so far. The event will also include reflections from the lived experience of Consortium member staff.

This Briefing has a particular focus on Directors' engaging their staff and colleagues within and across their institutions. The focus will be on

practical action which foster equity, diversity and inclusion in their services, with recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce a key concern. The event will include an opportunity to feed back to the Consortium on initiatives M25 could take forward to better support members with this important work.

Ahead of the briefing, attendees are requested to read and reflect on the results of a recent [Staff Survey of M25 institutions](#).

The full event programme and booking forms can be found on our [website](#)

M25 Curator and Exhibitions Network

We are seeking two speakers for the next M25 Curator and Exhibitions Network workshop on Exhibitions Design, and we welcome talks on any aspect of this broad topic. The purpose of the workshop is to share experiences with peers in a safe and informal setting.

If you are interested in speaking, please send a brief outline of your proposed talk to Leila Kassir at leila.kassir@london.ac.uk by 20th January 2023.





M25 SpeedMeet

Every month we meet someone working in an M25 member institution and ask them to tell us a little bit about themselves. This month we met Birgit Fraser from Anglia Ruskin University. [View the latest SpeedMeet and past interviews here.](#)

If you're interested in contributing to the SpeedMeet please contact m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

M25 Mentoring Scheme

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. The core purpose of the scheme is to support library staff in their professional growth by facilitating mentoring relationships with more experienced colleagues. The scheme also aims to support the progression of LGBTQ+ and BAGM staff by giving mentees the opportunity to be matched with a mentor from a specific group or background. Both partners will learn and gain from the experience.

Full details including guidelines and application forms can be found on our website: [Mentoring Scheme - M25 \(m25lib.ac.uk\)](#)





cpd25 discounted events for M25 Consortium members

M25 member institutions receive a 50% discount on the full cost of cpd25 event rates. We have also re-introduced our programme of library visits for members, which offer great networking opportunities too. The full programme of events and visits can be found on our website: [Events - M25 \(m25lib.ac.uk\)](https://m25lib.ac.uk)

To be added to the cpd25 mailing list and receive weekly event updates please email cpd25@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

If you're unable to view the images in this email please click 'unblock content' at the top of this email or contact m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

[M25 Consortium website](https://m25lib.ac.uk)