

M25 SpeedMeet



Who are you, where are you based and what do you do?

I'm David Archer, Director of Library, Archive & Open Research Services at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. I have leadership responsibility for all aspects of the service, and am a member of LSHTM's Strategic Leadership Network. I sit on a number of LSHTM committees and boards, and also lead or participate in several strategic workstreams tasked with delivering on specific aspects of the LSHTM Strategy 2022-2027. Outside of LSHTM I am Chair of SCONUL's Small and/or Specialist Institutions Forum, and have recently been co-opted as Interim Chair of the M25 Consortium.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Working with others to make a positive difference, be this with members of my LAORS team, across LSHTM or beyond. An important part of my role I think is to support and encourage individuals and teams to achieve their potential, and to create the space for them to innovate and thrive. I am lucky to work with an outstanding, committed and talented team.

What motivates you in your work?

See above! It's the people – both my immediate colleagues and the amazing students, educators, researchers and professional support staff I support and work with. Also, knowing that what I and my colleagues do is making a real difference and is actively contributing to a positive mission such as LSHTM's - to improve health worldwide – is extremely rewarding.

How can/has the M25 Consortium supported you in your career?

I have been involved with the M25 Consortium for many years, initially as a Task & Finish Group member, then as a member and chair of a cpd25 Task Group, then cpd25 Chair and Trustee, and most recently as a Steering Group Member. M25 has given me the opportunity to work

with and learn from people from a diverse range of backgrounds and organisations. This exchange of experience, and the networks and collaborations, the ideas and different perspectives this opens up are invaluable.

What would it surprise people to know about you?

I own far too many guitars than is reasonable for one person. My wife made me write that.

Complete the sentence: If I wasn't working in a library I would be..... because

If I wasn't working in a library I would be a rock star or an astronaut because as a 5-year-old they both seemed perfectly achievable. That was before lack of talent and boredom with maths put paid to both of those. I considered journalism briefly, but at school a careers programme decided I should be a social worker or a forester. I now work with people surrounded by oak (shelving), so maybe there was something in that after all...

David Archer, January 2024