

The logo for the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries Newsletter. It features the text 'M25' in a large, bold font, with 'M' in grey and '25' in orange. Below this, 'CONSORTIUM OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES' is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word 'Newsletter' is written in a bold, grey, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background within a gold-bordered box.

# M25

CONSORTIUM  
OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Newsletter

## David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

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Our Virtual Annual Conference on 6 June, on the theme of “Libraries Transformed and Transforming: technology, space, people”, was a fantastic mix of papers and lightning talks covering everything from re-imagining the future of a university library through grappling with AI to the impact of introducing a library digital technologist. Feedback on the conference has been very positive, and I’d like to thank everyone who was involved in the day for putting on such a great event.

I’m very much looking forward to attending our next Leadership Briefing on 19 July. The topic is “Failing Forwards”, and we have excellent speakers lined up including Liz Jolly, Chief Librarian at the British Library, speaking candidly about the recent cyber attack. The event is in-person at the Royal College of Nursing, and there are a few places still remaining. M25 Consortium members receive one



free Leadership Briefing place per institution per year, and discounted fees for additional places. Booking details can be found below.

Our Diversity Working Group has just launched its survey. Please do respond and ask your colleagues to respond too – it's important we hear from as many voices as possible in order to accurately capture the current picture across our membership and region. The survey findings will be used to map out new initiatives for the Working Group to support our members across all aspects of diversity – a key theme of our strategy.

We'll also be seeking additional Working Group members in the Autumn to help progress work across all of our strategic priorities. Participating in M25 Working Groups and Task & Finish Groups is very rewarding, and a great development opportunity. Please do encourage members of your teams to get involved and consider including these opportunities as part of Personal Development Review discussions.

cpd25 Task Group Two is also currently looking to recruit an additional member - details are below. Membership of cpd25 Task Groups is open to all staff working in member institutions - please share the details with colleagues.

There are also a couple of vacancies on the M25 Steering Group, open to member representatives. We'd particularly welcome representatives from smaller, specialist or non-HE member organisations on the Steering Group, but these vacancies are open to all member representatives.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved please do drop me a line.

And finally, do check out this month's SpeedMeet and keep an eye out for an announcement regarding our Annual Networking Event, coming very soon. This will be a lovely way to get together in-person to round off the year - I hope to see many of you there.

David

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### **M25 Diversity Working Group Survey**

The [M25 Diversity Group](#) is seeking to understand initiatives within your libraries and institutions that aim to address issues of inequality.

We would appreciate your time in completing this survey which we think should take around five to ten minutes to complete. This survey is open to all staff, working at all levels, within M25 libraries.

We would love to have responses from as many people as possible so please feel free to circulate widely.

The results of this survey will contribute to a report and webinar outlining current practice in member libraries and will share good practice examples with the M25 community.

Thank you for your participation.

[Go to the Diversity Group Survey](#)

**Survey web**

**address:** <https://forms.gle/4M4qT6rdpRa8dVrE9>

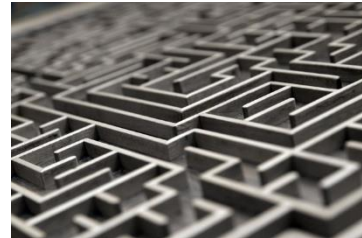
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### [Leadership Briefing: Failing Forwards](#)

**Date:** Friday 19 July

**Time:** 1.30-4pm

**Venue:** Royal College of Nursing, Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN



The briefing will focus on the experience of lived leadership, which does not always match a pathway of a straight line always moving in an upward trajectory.

The event will be a discussion amongst the M25 leadership members about where work has not gone how we hoped, results were not realised, and outcomes were not what we had expected, and we plan to include an open discussion element.

We have a variety of speakers, who in a safe space will share and discuss their experiences of reflective practice, failing quick and fast, allowing and managing risk, as well as how to recover (personally and for the service) when something just goes wrong. Chatham house rules will apply.

## Speakers

- **Dr Richard Espley**, Chief Librarian, V&A Research Institute, National Art Library and Archives, on when early initiatives in post aren't as successful as hoped.
- **Liz Jolly**, The British Library, on their recent data hack and their experiences.
- **Kate Price**, University Librarian, Queen Mary University of London, Looping the loop: From reflective learning to reflexive practice.
- **Rowan Williamson**, Associate Director Library Services and Support, University of the Arts London, Riding the emotional rollercoaster: learning to make confident and authoritative decisions in the ups and downs.

## [Register to attend](#)

**Fee:** Members receive one free Leadership Briefing place per institution per year (this is the second briefing of the year for 2023-24). Additional places cost **£75**

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## [SLA Conference 2024](#)

### **Turning Pages, Turning Tides: The Role of Senior Library Assistants in Today's Academic Libraries**

Date: 4 July

Time: 10am-4pm

There's still time to register to attend this year's annual SLA (Senior Library Assistant) Conference. The theme this year is the changing role of SLAs. This in person event is an invaluable opportunity to learn, network and collaborate and also includes a visit to the Whitechapel Art Gallery.

The conference will be a highly participative day with plenty of opportunities for networking – enabling attendees to share their experience and best practice. This event is open to all, but would benefit in particular Senior Library Assistants, Information Services Supervisors, Library Assistants, Information Assistants or their equivalent.

The venue is [Toynbee Hall](#) in Commercial Street, London. With centuries of history and an impressive portfolio of guests, Toynbee Hall has seen it all, from 'Smoking Room Debates' and wars, to world leaders and famous historians.

### **Walk around Whitechapel Art Gallery**

There will also be an opportunity to visit the Whitechapel Gallery, a few minutes' walk from Toynbee Hall. This will include a tour, as well as a brief talk on the foundation of the gallery and overview of the exhibitions and Reading Room. You will also have time to look around the Gallery itself independently.

[Find out More](#)

[Register Now](#)

Fee: £200 members

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[cpd25 Task Group membership](#)

An excellent professional development opportunity: cpd25 is looking for a new member to join **Task Group 2** and to contribute to the development and delivery of our programme on behalf of the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries.



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 online approximately 3-4 times per year, and there is an annual cpd25 planning event when topics are considered to inform the following academic year's programme planning.

**IG2** is a group that provide training and development in areas such as equal opportunities, accessibility, disability, health and safety, copyright and data protection.

We always attempt to work on events in pairs or more, so newer members can work alongside those with more experience. Recently we have held events on 'Copyright essentials', 'The role of libraries in supporting refugees and asylum seekers', 'Licensing for overseas-based students', 'The Customer Service Excellence Standard: sharing hints and tips' and 'Deaf awareness training with Dot Sign Language'.

We have had visits to the Kew Gardens Library, HMP Wandsworth Library, the Aga Khan Library and the Imperial War Museum Library. Our upcoming visits include visits to the Francis Crick Institute, the Wellcome Collection Library, the Marx Memorial Library & Workers School, and the London Library.

Please circulate information about this opportunity to your teams. If you would like more information before making a decision, contact the cpd25 Chair, [Sara Burnett](#), for an informal discussion.

**Interested?** Send your expression of interest, not exceeding 400 words, outlining any relevant experience and reasons for wanting to get involved to [Sara Burnett](#) by **Noon on Monday 30th September**.

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### **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 meet **Dianne Shepherd, Senior Librarian at The British Museum**. As well as finding out about Dianne's role and the British Museum's curatorial departments, we discover just how many titles there are across the reference collection.

[Read Dianne's profile on our SpeedMeet page and browse our past interviews.](#)

If you'd like to be featured on our M25 SpeedMeet page, send an email to [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk).

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#### **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](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk).

[M25 Consortium website](#)

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