

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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I hope you have been (or will be) able to find space to take a break at some point over the summer – it seems the weather is finally with us at last. It's important to take a step back occasionally to reassess and recharge. We've been busy behind the scenes this month reviewing governance and laying plans for the coming year, and there are some exciting events, programmes and opportunities to participate in M25 groups coming up. We'll be sharing details of these in due course, so watch this space.

In the meantime, there is still a chance to complete the Diversity Survey if you haven't already taken part. Please take a look and encourage your colleagues to do so. The findings will be used to shape our next steps in this area, and we'll be reporting back on this in the autumn. A reminder too of our M25 Mentoring Scheme. The scheme is



intended to support non-senior staff in the Consortium's member libraries in their professional growth by facilitating mentoring relationships with more experienced colleagues. Further details on the benefits of mentoring and how to participate in the scheme can be found below.

I wish all of our members well with your preparations for the autumn, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our events in the coming months.

David

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### **Focus on mentoring**

One of the benefits of M25 membership is our [Mentoring Scheme](#). Whether you are a non-senior member of library staff looking to develop your career by having a mentor (being a mentee), or a librarian, manager or leader looking to mentor as part of your development and commitment to the profession, why not take a closer look at the M25 Mentoring Scheme? Both mentors and mentees will gain from the experience and this in turn will sustain a continuous learning cycle within the Consortium.

The M25 Mentoring Scheme is intended to support non-senior staff in the Consortium's member libraries 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.

The Consortium follows the general mentoring guidance provided by SCONUL for their leadership scheme. In their guidance SCONUL defines mentoring as “a professional relationship in which an experienced person (mentor) assists another person (mentee) in developing specific skills and knowledge that will enhance the mentee’s professional and personal growth. It is an effective way of helping people to progress in their chosen career, and is a helpful relationship based upon trust and respect.”

### **What's the difference between mentoring and coaching?**

There are different definitions of both mentoring and coaching. Mentoring has more focus on professional development, whereas coaching may also encompass more personal and life-related issues. Typically, a mentor will be someone from a similar professional background but with more experience than the mentee. Mentors should have at least two years’ experience at a level equivalent to or higher than their proposed mentee.

There's lots more information on our website here: [www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/mentoring-scheme/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/mentoring-scheme/) including specific mentor and mentee information, what to expect from the relationship, plus detailed guidelines on

the operation of the scheme and how to apply.

We look forward to receiving mentoring applications.

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### **Autumn approaches**

Over the summer the Consortium's groups, support staff and trustees have been working on planning a range of events and activities for the autumn, producing a communications strategy, refreshing our website, sending out membership renewal invoices, and reviewing our external contracts and policies.



There's more to come and we're excited that this autumn we will be:

- Launching an Innovation Fund
- Announcing the results of the Diversity Group Survey - there's still time to take part: complete the survey  
here: <https://forms.gle/4M4qT6rdpRa8dVrE9>
- Taking forward a new Task Group to look at Member Benefits

There are also opportunities for members to get involved and help to direct our activities. If you are a Representative and are interested in joining the Steering Group or a member of library staff at looking for a professional development opportunity

with cpd25 Task Group Two, just let the office know:

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

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### **Networking event postponed until December**

We are sorry to inform you that the M25 Consortium Networking event that was to be held at the Royal Holloway University on 10 September has been cancelled and we apologise if you made arrangements to attend.

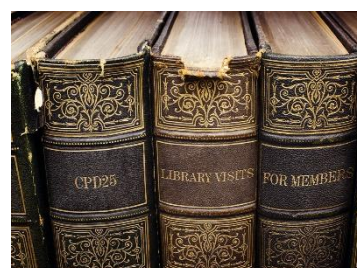
The library and campus at Royal Holloway University are well worth visiting and we hope to arrange a cpd25 visit as an alternative opportunity.

We are also very committed to bringing members together to meet and share experiences. We will be arranging an informal networking evening in Central London at the beginning of December and will post details about this very soon.

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### **Library visits: booking essential**

Our library visits continue to be highly valued by our members; they are enjoyable, offer fascinating glimpses into library spaces, provide professional development and moreover are great, informal networking opportunities with staff from across our



Member institutions. We're currently planning visits for September-December and once confirmed, we'll add them to our events listing page:

[www.m25lib.org.uk/events/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/).

We would like to remind you that advance booking is required for cpd25 visits. This is because security teams at visit venues require a list of expected visitors in advance. You may be turned away on the day if you do not reserve your place in advance. Look out for your booking confirmation email from [cpd25@london.ac.uk](mailto:cpd25@london.ac.uk) If you have not received the booking confirmation email, you won't be included on the registration list. If you are unsure whether you have got a confirmed place on a visit, you can contact [cpd25@london.ac.uk](mailto:cpd25@london.ac.uk) and we'll let you know.

Thank you in advance and enjoy exploring wonderful library spaces.



### [Deaf Awareness Training with Dot Sign Language](#)

Online, Thursday 28th November

10.30am-1pm

This session looks at the prevalence of deafness in the U.K, deaf issues, deaf culture and British Sign Language (BSL). It provides practical steps to help delegates actively promote engagement with BSL users ensuring accessibility. Part of the training is a 'hands on' session in breakout rooms to give delegates the opportunity to learn basic fingerspelling and BSL relevant to their workplaces.

Dot's teachers are all Deaf BSL users. They are the best people to teach their language and answer questions from personal experience. They will teach the session in BSL so delegates can immerse themselves in sign language. They provide an interpreter to voiceover the session and interpret questions.

Cost: Members pay £25.00.

Find out more: [www.m25lib.org.uk/events/deaf-awareness-training-with-dot-sign-language-tg2-awareness-2/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/deaf-awareness-training-with-dot-sign-language-tg2-awareness-2/)

Don't Miss out, book your place now: [www.m25lib.org.uk/events/events-booking-form-members/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/events-booking-form-members/)

All upcoming events are listed on our website: [www.m25lib.org.uk/events/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/)

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### **We're now an .org.uk website**

You might have noticed that our web address has changed. We're now <https://www.m25lib.org.uk>

You will still find the same sections and content on our .org.uk website. But you may notice a few improvements: we've been doing some website housekeeping and will be continuing our refresh over the next few months.



## Time to update

If you have bookmarked our website or have online or printed resources with our website listed, now's the time to update them with our new web address: [www.m25lib.org.uk](http://www.m25lib.org.uk)

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## Closure of Curator and Exhibitions Network

At the end of June, following difficulty in finding a new convenor for the group, the M25 Steering Group reluctantly took the decision to formally close the Curator and Exhibitions Network.

We remain committed to providing a range of training and networking opportunities of benefit to GLAM professionals working in our member libraries through our other ongoing activities.

You can still find resources from the Curator and Exhibitions workshops on our website: <https://www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/curator-and-exhibitions-resources/>

Our Jiscmail list, [M25CuratorsNetwork@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:M25CuratorsNetwork@jiscmail.ac.uk) also remains available for anyone wishing to use it. We thank everyone involved in the Network for their very valuable work and contributions.



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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 Dave Puplett. Dave is Secretary of the M25 Consortium and also Associate Director - Libraries and Academic Enhancement - at the University of Greenwich. Dave explodes a myth about librarians and reading and tells us what his alternative career could have been.



[Read Dave's profile and browse our past interviews](#)

We're looking for more profiles. Whatever your role, we'd love to hear from you. 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](#)