



David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

I'm really looking forward to catching up with many of you in person at our Networking Event in December. As well as the evening event, the University of Westminster have kindly offered a visit to the Library and Fab Lab at their Marylebone campus immediately beforehand. You can book onto one or both events via the links below.



Also coming up in November is our Leadership Briefing: Dark Sky Thinking. This is a free event for members, providing a safe space to share experience of operating within financial constraints. A timely event which I'm sure members will find helpful in these difficult times.

A reminder that we have launched a new initiative,

the Innovation Fund, which M25 Working Groups and programmes can apply to for funding for new projects that progress our strategic priorities on behalf of our members. The deadline is fast approaching so get your bids in now!

There are also opportunities for individuals to get involved in cpd25 Task Groups, with three of our groups recruiting for new members now. In the very near future we'll also be seeking new members to enhance both existing and new Working Groups focusing on Diversity and Sustainability – watch out for further announcements soon. Participating in the work of M25 is a great way to build networks and gain experience. Please encourage colleagues to put themselves forward, or consider signing up yourself!

Best wishes

David



M25's Annual Informal Networking Event, Wednesday 4th December

Be merry in Marylebone!

The M25 Networking Event 2024 will take place on Wednesday 4th December for staff at M25 Members and invited guests, from 6pm to 9pm in The Regent The Prince Regent Pub, Marylebone. We will be offering complimentary drinks and canapés.

This event is a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues both old and new from across the M25 Consortium. Staff of all levels at our university, college, national and scholarly libraries come together for an informal evening of networking.

Places are free of charge, as a benefit of M25 membership. For safety purposes, only people on the guest list will be admitted and numbers are limited, so book your place now by completing the booking form (one per staff member) on the event web page:

www.m25lib.org.uk/events/networking-event-2024-2/

Visit to the University of Westminster Library and Fab Lab

Wednesday 4 December

5-6pm

[University of Westminster](http://www.westminster.ac.uk)

35 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LS

We are pleased to offer a pre-Networking Event visit to the Library and Fab Lab at the University of Westminster.

The visit will include a tour of the [Marylebone campus library](#) with Ann Munn, Interim Head of Library & Archive Service. This will include the newly refurbished first floor group study

The visit will also include a tour of the [Fab Lab](#) with a member of their team.

Bookings for visits are free of charge but are open to members of the M25 Consortium Academic Libraries only. Please note that advance booking is required. Please email cpd25@london.ac.uk if you are unsure if you have a confirmed booking.

Numbers are limited so register now!

www.m25lib.org.uk/events/visit-to-university-of-westminster/

Photo of The Prince Regent Pub © The Prince Regent

Apply now to the M25's Innovation Fund

The [Innovation Fund](#) is a Fund that will award grants to successful applicants that meet the Fund's criteria and the M25 Consortium's aim to support all members in their personal, professional and institutional development through cooperative and collaborative endeavours.

The first year of the Innovation Fund, 2024-25, is a Pilot Year. In the Pilot Year applications are open to M25 and cpd25 Task Groups, Working Groups and Networks. Successful grants will be awarded to enable, deliver and/or support a project, resource, research or other activity that works towards one or more of our current strategic themes:

www.m25lib.org.uk/about-the-consortium/governance/strategic-plan-2023-26/

How to apply

We warmly welcome all applications. Groups, committees and networks should send a short document to: m25libadmin@london.ac.uk addressing the five points set out on our Innovation Fund web page: www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/innovation-fund/

Applications will be assessed by the Innovation Fund Assessment Panel made up of an M25 Consortium Trustee and members of the M25 Consortium Steering Group.

Visit our dedicated [Innovation Fund web page](#) for further information.

If you're part of a Task Group or Committee and have any questions, contact the Innovation Fund Assessment Panel via the M25 Operations Manager



m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

The deadline for bids is 5pm on Thursday 31 October 2024 so if you're a member of one of our Groups or Networks, now's the time to get your application in.



**Leadership Briefing: Dark Sky Thinking
Friday 22 November**

1.30-4pm

Royal College of Nursing

20 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0RN

We welcome library leaders to the first of this year's [M25 Consortium Leadership Briefings](#) to be held on the afternoon of the 22nd of November, 1.30-4.00pm, at the Royal College of Nursing.

In the current context of financial constraint and cuts across much of our member libraries, this event will squarely address that experience. As with our recent event 'Failing Forwards' we will create a safe space (Chatham House rules apply!) to share experience and ideas.

Programme:

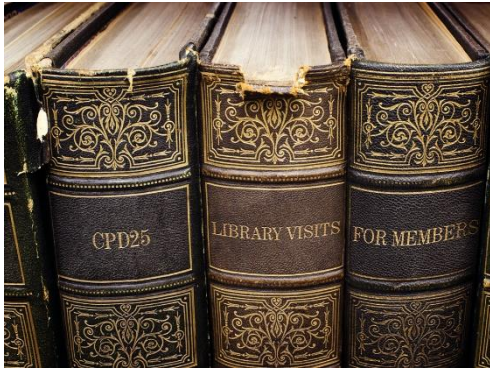
Katie Flanagan, Group Head of Archives and Libraries, Science Museum Group, will speak about a major change programme and redesign of staffing structures across five sites (including a temporary closure).

Rachel Scott Halls, Director of Library and Archives, Buckinghamshire New University, will talk about positioning a new directorate within a university undergoing significant change in leadership at the same time as making savings.

Libby Homer, Director of Student and Library Services, Anglia Ruskin University will discuss her experience of a university merger and managing associated change.

There will be time for questions for the panel and an open discussion between attendees.

Register now by completing the form on the event page: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/leadership-briefing-dark-sky-thinking/



Learning and Development in the Members' Area

Whether you missed out on a training event or conference, or you attended but now need to revisit the resources to apply the learning and good practice, you may find our [Virtual Learning and Development page](#) in the Members' Area of our website just what you need. We are building up resources there and provide free videos, trainer slides and handouts to support your learning and development.

Visit the page to:

- Watch recorded presentations from our recent M25 Conferences, including Conference 2024 held in June 2024: *Libraries Transformed and Transforming: technology, space, people*.
- Download slides and watch recordings from recent cpd25 online training sessions including:
 - Mentoring
 - Working from Home
 - So you want to be a subject librarian

Discover member-only resources

To access the members' area of the M25 Consortium website, you need to register. Go to ['Access Members' Area'](#) on the home page and click on the link to fill in the registration form.

Professional development opportunity: join a cpd25 Task Group

[cpd25](#) is the Staff Development and Training programme of the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries. Through our events and visits we foster good practice, offer value for money training and provide staff development opportunities for all levels of library staff.



cpd25 is governed by its Chair, and Working Group, each member of which leads a Task Group responsible for developing events and visits for a particular staff development area. Our highly respected programme of events, visits and training is therefore overwhelmingly curated by our members.

We are currently seeking new members to join our cpd25 Task Groups to contribute to the development and delivery of our programme:

- **Task Group One:** [Career Development](#)
- **Task Group Two:** [Quality Standards and Legal Frameworks](#) and

- **Task Group Three: [Operations Management](#)**

"I highly encourage anyone looking to develop their skills and connect with a vibrant, fun-loving community to join any CPD25 Task Group and help shape its invaluable activities."

Veronica Parisi, Training and Clinical Support Librarian, UCL Cruciform Hub, UCL Library Services and Member of Task Group Four, Personal, Management and Business Skills.

Being a member of a cpd25 Task Group is a great professional development and learning opportunity and enables you to connect with a broad range of professionals working at M25 member institutions.

If you're interested, send an email to cpd25@london.ac.uk or send your expression of interest directly to the cpd25 Chair, Sara Burnett: S.Burnett@kingston.ac.uk

Events and Training this Autumn



There's lots of M25 and cpd25 events happening before Christmas including three training events, an M25 Leadership Briefing and cpd25 visits. All upcoming events are listed on the [Events](#) page on our website: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/ where you can find out more and register to attend.

[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 Vicky Robertson, Deputy Librarian at the UCL School of Pharmacy Library. Vicky is also Chair of cpd25 Task Group Two and in her SpeedMeet profile she tells us what skills and professional value she has gained from being involved.



Read Vicky's profile and browse our past interviews www.m25lib.ac.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/m25-speedmeet/

What's your role and where do you work?

It's your turn to be featured. It's easy to do and a great way to increase your professional profile. 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.



News from other networks

['Stop, Start, Continue: reimagining and creating sustainable library services for the future](#)

Customer Services Group UK Annual Conference
Friday 22 November, Queen's University, Belfast

There is still time to book using the Eventbrite link below.

www.eventbrite.com/e/stop-start-continue-tickets-942236062427?aff=oddtcreator

Bookings close on 8 November.

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](#)

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