David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

At our AGM on 29 April we will be presenting our annual reports and accounts and electing Trustees and Steering Group members for the coming year. We will also be presenting our newly revised suite of policies, covering financial management, risk management, complaints and serious incidents, people, external speakers and privacy and data security. I would like to thank Dave Puplett and Jill Howard for leading the work on these, and also Christopher Cipkin and Sara Burnett for their input. Member representatives should already have received the AGM meeting invite and papers – please get in touch if you haven't received yours.

Our next Leadership Briefing takes place on 6 June, and will be of interest to current and aspiring

leaders. This session will focus in on student experience and how, in these pressured times, we can demonstrate value and impact in this area. Every M25 member institution receives one free place, with further places available at discounted rates – booking details can be found below.

Another date for your diaries is our Annual Conference on 24 June. This is our first in-person conference in five years, and is taking place at the University of Greenwich. The theme is Shaping the Future. Again, every M25 member institution receives one free place, with further discounted places available, but hurry – the early bird rate ends on 12 May. We have a packed and varied programme featuring some high profile speakers and facilitators, as well as discursive sessions led by our Diversity Working Group and Sustainability Working Group. There is also the opportunity for less-seasoned presenters to gain valuable experience by submitting a poster or delivering a short lightning talk linked to our theme. See below for conference booking details, and for further information on submissions for posters and lightning talks.

Warm congratulations to Leah Gulley at Buckinghamshire New University and Janice Fernandes at the University of West London, whose applications to this year's M25 Staff Development Awards have been successful. The awards panel, drawn from our Steering Group, were impressed by both submissions. Leah and Janice each receive a free place at this year's Annual Conference, and we will share reports from them on their experience via our web pages later this year.

The M25 Sustainability Working Group is still currently open to new members. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in a regional group addressing a key issue affecting our sector, and to extend your personal network. Please get in touch directly with group's Steering Group sponsor, Michelle Wake (m.wake@ucl.ac.uk), to find out more.

cpd25 Task Groups two, three and four are also recruiting new members. If you want to help shape our professional development programme as part of a friendly and supportive network of peers, further details can be found below. These opportunities are open to <u>all</u> staff working in <u>any</u> role in an M25 member library.

Finally, a thank you to everyone who has completed our Member Survey so far – we really appreciate your feedback. All staff working in an M25 member library are encouraged to complete the survey. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete, and the responses will directly help shape what we do on behalf of our members going forward. Please follow the link below to access the survey and give us your views. Deadline for responses is 30 April.

Best wishes, David

Annual Conference: Early Bird bookings deadline extended to Monday 12 May

Tuesday 24 June 2025
Old Royal Naval College, University of Greenwich
10am-4.25pm

Join us at our annual conference on 24 June. We look forward to welcoming our members for a day of presentations, discussions and networking in the lovely setting of Greenwich, London.

We're finalising the packed programme and have included inspiring presentations and sessions full of ideas and opportunities for sharing best practice. A sandwich lunch and refreshments are provided. Discounts are available for group bookings and there is also a reduced student rate.

Register now to attend: first member place free!

M25 member institutions get one free place. Don't forget that you still need to register to attend for your free member place. The early bird rate for additional member delegates is just £125 (available now until 12 May).

Find out more and register here: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/m25-annual-conference-2025-shaping-the-future/

Making Conference your Conference: Lightning Talks and Poster Submissions

The theme of this year's Conference on 24 June is "Shaping the Future". We warmly welcome lightning talk speakers and poster submissions to reflect any aspect of our theme. What issues are shaping your services, library collections and buildings? How do you want to shape the future?

The talk or poster could detail a particular project your library service is leading on or look at higher level developments in the sector as a whole. We would like delegates to return to their workplaces with practical ideas or issues for discussion to consider in their own service.

[Free Place at Conference](#)
Successful applicants will be awarded with a free delegate place to the conference.

Lightning Talks
Apply for one of our three lightning talk slots. These will be short 5-8 minute presentations. The presenters can, if they are happy to, form part of a Panel at the end of the session to answer questions and discuss issues arising from the Lightning Talks.

Posters
Posters need to be printed (at least A3 size) and, if appropriate, also shared to the Conference organisers digitally as a PDF. Above all, a poster should be a networking tool.

Apply Now, the deadline is on 30 April
We warmly encourage individuals from all levels and types of role to apply, particularly if they have not previously presented at a Conference. We

encourage submissions from those working outside the Higher Education sector, to reflect the diversity of M25 membership.

Abstracts outlining the subject of your talk or poster, of not more than 250 words, should be submitted to the Conference Planning Group via email to M25 Consortium Operations Manager M25libadmin@london.ac.uk. The deadline for submission of abstracts is Wednesday 30 April 2025.
Find out more

This is a great professional development opportunity so do circulate widely to library staff at your institution.

Leadership Briefing: How can libraries add value to the student experience agenda?
6 June, 10am-1pm
Royal College of Nursing, London
Lunch provided

We're continuing our series of Leadership Briefings with a closer look at the student experience agenda.

With an increased need to demonstrate impact and value for money, this event will look at how libraries can add value to the student experience – whether measured by specific NSS, TEF or APP agendas or within contexts including retention and continuation, belonging, welcome and induction

and the interplay between academic and professional services.

Presentations
We plan to have senior university leaders present as well as the opportunity for library leaders to share their successful institutional contributions and advocacy in this area. We welcome presentations from members and from university leadership teams – please contact the following with any suggested speakers and topics:

David Clover at d.clover@mdx.ac.uk or Anna Semmens at anna.semmens@rcn.org.uk

M25 Consortium members receive **one free place** per institution for **each** Leadership Briefing event. Additional places cost **£75**

Find out more and book your place here: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/leadership-briefing-how-can-libraries-add-value-to-the-student-experience-agenda/

Develop skills and expand your network: join a cpd25 Task Group

cpd25 is currently seeking new members to join Task Groups two, three and four to contribute to the development and delivery of the cpd25 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. It's a great way to expand your network whilst gaining valuable experience and new skills in a friendly, supportive environment.

Task Group 2, the Workplace Standards and Legal Frameworks group, covers areas such as equal opportunities, accessibility, disability, health and safety, copyright and data protection.

Task Group 3, the Operations Management group, covers all operational aspects of library work, such as staff management, space management, collection management, communications, staff and student services, research support, knowledge management and strategy.

Task Group 4, the Personal Management and Business Skills group, aims to provide training, networking and staff development opportunities for staff in libraries in areas of generic interest i.e. not specific to library work.

If anyone interested would like more information before making a decision, please contact the cpd25 Chair, Sara Burnett, for an informal discussion. Formal expressions of interest, not exceeding 400 words, outlining relevant experience and reasons for wanting to get involved should be made to Sara Burnett by email to s.burnett@kingston.ac.uk by Noon on Thursday 8th May.

Thank you for taking part in our Member Survey

We've so far had 43 submissions to our online Member Survey. Thank you to everyone who has given us their views and feedback, we really appreciate it.

There's still time to take part as the survey closes on 30 April. The survey isn't just for Member Representatives and we're keen to get input from many library staff from all our member institutions. We are interested in what services you use, how you get involved and engage with us and whether there's something else we could potentially develop and deliver for you.

Through the survey, there's also the opportunity to take part in a more in-depth discussion as our Member Benefits Task and Finish Group will be spending time in late Spring and Summer of 2025 looking at our member offer in more detail.

Take part in the survey and share the link with other library staff: https://forms.gle/MQL3UvFDMVUnkufR9

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 Polly Mortimer. Find out more about Polly and her role at the British Psychotherapy Foundation.

Be the next M25 SpeedMeet person
Library staff working in M25 member institutions have varied roles and activities, interests and stories. If you'd like to share yours (and promote the work of your library at the same time) send an email to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

Press play for a profile
We welcome recordings. You don't have to write your answers. Instead, why not send us a recording and we'll share it (via our private YouTube account) on our website.

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: https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk
SCURL: https://www.scurl.ac.uk/about
WHELF: 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