

M25 SpeedMeet

May 2025



Thank you for participating in M25 SpeedMeet. Every month on our website we introduce someone working in an M25 member institution and ask them to tell us a little bit about themselves.

One of the three strategic themes of the M25 Strategic Plan is connecting and collaborating through our network. Our aim is to provide a regional network whose members offer multiple perspectives that can inform decision making and facilitate opportunities for networking and joint working on shared issues. What better way to do this than to meet?

Please answer the following questions and then send to Jill Howard, M25 Operations Manager along with a photo to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

We look forward to sharing your [SpeedMeet](#) profile.

Questions

- **Who are you, where are you based and what do you do?**
Hi everyone. I'm Dan Herbert, and I am the Library Buildings Development Manager at Queen Mary University of London.
- **What do you most enjoy about your job?**
The mix of people I get to work with on a day-to-day basis. I work closely with a wide range of people, from senior managers in the library and across the university,

colleagues in estates, library colleagues, university security, suppliers, contractors, student union representatives, students and peers in other institutions. This definitely keeps things interesting, and there is always something new to learn.

- **What motivates you in your work?**

Knowing that what I do can make a real difference to all our users. It's really important to me that our libraries feel welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

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

In so many ways. From the training and career development opportunities to networking, which allows for benchmarking and knowledge sharing with others. Not forgetting the visits to other libraries. Always a great source of inspiration (and for shamelessly stealing good ideas)

- **What would it surprise people to know about you?**

During the late 80s and 90s, I was involved in the alternative music scene in London. I sang in two "punk" bands, Juice and Swine, and was involved in lots of gigs. Juice released a couple of cassette eps, a 12" and were featured on a number of compilations in the UK and across Europe. Highlights? We supported Manic Street Preachers at their first London gig, toured with NOFX, and regularly played with The Beggars.

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

...an archaeologist, because of my love for Prehistory. I actually fell into library work after leaving school with no qualifications—something I now understand was largely due to my neurodiversity. Since then, I've built my career through on-the-job learning and vocational training, including opportunities provided by CPD25, progressing without the benefit of award-bearing academic qualifications. If I had the chance (or the time!), I'd love to retrain and turn that passion into a career.