



David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair



As we start our new financial year, which runs from 1 August to 31 July, we are pleased to welcome Sally Brock as our new cpd25 Chair and one of the four trustees. Sally has been involved with cpd25 for some years, most recently as the Chair of Task Group Four, and we look forward to her taking on the lead role and contributing to the continued success and development of our cpd25 programme.

We're also pleased to introduce you to one of our newest members, the House of Commons Library. Martin Reid, Director, provides a snapshot below. There was a cpd25 visit to the library last month and we look forward to scheduling another in the future.

We are also looking forward to providing a range of professional development opportunities this Autumn. We are starting with Training for Supervisors, Managing Student Behaviour and Copyright Essentials. Head over to the [events listing page](#) on our website to find out more and book your places.

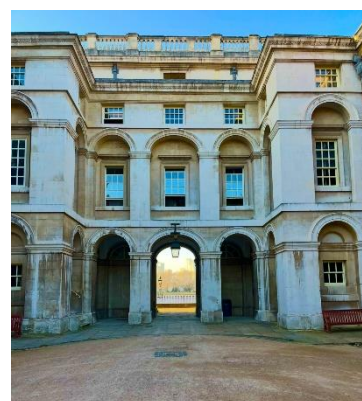
The new financial year also means we will be sending out invoices to you all for the 2025-2026 year's membership fee. As some of our members continue to face financial constraints, we have kept fees at last year's prices, an approach agreed by our members at our AGM back in April. Look out for the email from us next week.

Best wishes, David

M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2025: Staff Development Award report

We awarded two bursaries to attend M25 Consortium's Annual Conference to applicants to the M25 Staff Development Awards. Here's an extract from Janice Fernandes's report. Read the full version [on our website](#).

"I applied for and was truly delighted to be offered a bursary place at the M25 conference on 24 June. Along with that I was co-presenting at the Lightning



Talks with another colleague. The icing on the cake was the beautiful location of Greenwich, with more than 100 attendees and the opportunity to network with promises of collaborations.

My colleague Mary Blomley and I arrived early to walk through the park and appreciate the grandeur and heritage of the building and its surroundings with the river flowing gently and majestic buildings dotting the skyline. After registration, there was tea and coffee, which provided the perfect opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones.

Soon we were all seated in a lovely auditorium for the inaugural speech by David Archer, followed by the provocative keynote by Lawrie Phipps, Senior Research Lead at Jisc, and Dr Donna Lanclos, Researcher and Speaker, Anthropologist and Folklorist. Titled '*The Wolves are at the Door*' they challenged assumptions about technological transformation in libraries and advocated for a "trophic cascade" approach to change.

The parallel sessions were all interesting and it was really difficult to choose which one to go to. The options were:

- Paola Marchionni and Peter Findlay who discussed how Jisc has worked in close collaboration with university libraries to create a Digital Transformation Library Lens (DTLL).
- Davina Omar and Cliff Van Dort who presented the key findings of the [Diversity Group](#) survey 2024 and discussed what we

needed to do to amplify marginalised voices and foster EDI within libraries.

- Eloise Carpenter who represented the [Sustainability Group](#) that explored the role of library and information services with respect to environmental and sustainability challenges.

I chose the Diversity Group Survey. The session had thought-provoking questions on inclusive recruitment and, having been on several recruitment panels, I now want to delve further into guidelines for inclusive job descriptions."



New Member Focus: House of Commons Library

The House of Commons Library is the research and information service for the House of Commons. This means that as well as being a traditional library supplying all the information resources and services that MPs and their staff need we also provide a range of research products and services to help them do their job of scrutinising legislation and holding the government to account.

These include in-depth briefings on all the bills that go through Parliament and the debates that take place in the Chamber, as well as a confidential enquiry service where MPs and their staff can ask for help with any of their parliamentary duties.

These range from issues raised by their constituents to analysing government policy in preparation for a debate in the Chamber.

It is demanding work which requires a team of nearly 100 statisticians, economists, lawyers and policy experts to write or update over a thousand publications each year and respond to more 20,000 enquiries. Impartiality is extremely important in everything that we do and we are trusted by MPs of all parties to supply them with authoritative, unbiased information on all the topics and business that is considered by the House.

None of this would be possible without the 75 librarians and information professionals that make up the Library Services and Indexing and Data Management teams who provide the information infrastructure and raw materials which underpin everything the Library does.

They focus on the acquisition and management of information resources, provision of a welcoming and knowledgeable customer service in the historic Members Library in the Palace of Westminster and a dedicated liaison and information service for the Library's research teams.

We care for and curate the Library's comprehensive collection of parliamentary publications and materials, and as the information and data experts in the Commons have a vital role to index parliamentary business to produce a searchable knowledge base which is relied on by everyone in

Parliament.

As dedicated information professionals working in a unique environment we are very pleased to have joined the M25 this year and are looking forward to participating fully and sharing our experience and special perspectives with colleagues from across the group.

We have already hosted a very successful visit for the Consortium last month and will be running another one soon. In the meantime you can find out more about the Library, including accessing all of our research on our website [The House of Commons Library](#)

Martin Reid, Director of Library Services, House of Commons

Access25

Have you sent in your [Access25](#) usage data?



At this time of year, we collate statistics of your use of the Access25 service, which enables post graduate research students and staff at our member libraries mutual access to the teaching and research collections at more than 50 libraries in London and south east England. The deadline for sending in your data is 3 September.

Send your information (and request more cards) by email to Laura Scullion, cpd25@london.ac.uk



Introducing our new cpd25 Chair

Hello everyone! I'm Sally Brock, Head of Operations in Libraries & Collections at King's College London.

Some of you will know me already, as I joined cpd25 Task Group Four in 2010 and have been its chair since 2021. Working with such enthusiastic colleagues from across the M25 Consortium to organise training, conferences and tours which benefit the library community is immensely satisfying and enjoyable. It's a privilege to be able to carry on the excellent work of Sara Burnett as Chair of cpd25.

I'm looking forward to working with all the task groups as cpd25 continues to evolve. Since the pandemic we have offered free 'exchange of experience' sessions and introduced online events to complement those in-person. In these challenging times, it's important we continue to offer our member institutions (whether HE, national, museum or scholarly) a range of quality, value-for-money events to help equip staff with skills for the future.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let me know sally.brock@kcl.ac.uk.

Professional Development Opportunity: new member for cpd25 Task Group Two

cpd25 is currently seeking a new member to join Task Group Two 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. It's a great way to expand your network whilst gaining valuable experience and new skills.

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.

[Task Group Two](#), the Workplace Standards and Legal Frameworks group, provides training and development in areas such as equal opportunities, accessibility, disability, health and safety, copyright and data protection.

Please do circulate to your teams. If anyone interested would like more information before making a decision, please contact the cpd25 Chair, Sally Brock, 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 Sally Brock by Noon on Thursday 30th October sally.brock@kcl.ac.uk



Training for Supervisors

4 September, 10am-1pm

Online

Cost: £25

There's still time to book your place at our [Training for Supervisors](#) workshop on the 4th September. This three-hour session aims to clarify the role and responsibilities of the supervisor: how do you delegate, share knowledge and skills and correct errors when it can seem as though you have no real authority?

What delegates say:

“Training was great, lots of information passed on in a really light and funny way.”

“Thank you for the session - I learned a lot and will take all that forward with me when applying for more roles that include supervising staff.”

Visit the [event page](#) for the full programme and to book your place.

Disaster Trolley

I had the pleasure of visiting Sally Brock at King's College London recently to discuss her new role as cpd25 Chair. Sally also gave me a tour of the magical Maughan Library, including a peep into the stunning Round Reading Room. The library is large, set over a number of floors, and I picked up the bookmark for users 'How to find a book in the Maughan Library step-by-step guide' (with Borrowing FAQs on the reverse): an excellent resource.



After the tour, in the staff area, I saw a cupboard with the label 'Disaster Trolley Area' on it. I was intrigued to find out more so Sally showed me the materials they have at the ready to deal with mishaps and more in the library.

We reflected on how important it is to be prepared and that the M25 Consortium has had a Task and Finish Group and curated resources in this area. So if your library service is reviewing its Business Continuity and Disaster Management plans, take a look at the [resources](#) available in the member's area of our website.

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.

Jill Howard, Operations Manager, M25 Consortium



M25 SpeedMeet Profile: Leah Gulley

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 Leah Gulley.

Leah is an Academic Liaison Librarian at Buckinghamshire New University and develops information literacy instructions for Nursing & Midwifery students. Head over to our website to find out what teaching Leah did in a previous role and how the M25 Consortium has supported her work as a librarian.

Leah was a Staff Development Award recipient and received a bursary to attend the M25 Conference in June 2025. Her report will be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Be the next M25 SpeedMeet person

There's a huge range of roles and activities among library staff working in M25 member institutions. Do you want to share yours (and promote the work of your library at the same time)? Send an email to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

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

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[M25 Consortium website](#)

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