



David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair



M25 Consortium members have many opportunities through our events to share, learn, consider and collaborate, not least through attending our SLA Conference and M25 Consortium's Annual Conference, both of which took place last month.

So in this newsletter we're taking the opportunity to report on those to highlight and celebrate the breadth of our offer and the benefits of cpd. If you missed out on attending cataloguing training, this year's Annual Conference or the SLA Conference, you can get a flavour below and we look forward to welcoming you to future ones.

Don't forget, our visits programme will continue

through the Summer and our Autumn cpd25 programme is currently being assembled.

Governance and operational activities continue throughout the year and members will hear from the M25 Consortium Support Team over the next few weeks to gather data and update contacts regarding Access 25.

Best wishes, David

M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2025

We held our Annual Conference in the Queen Anne Building at the University of Greenwich on 24 June 2025. The event had a packed programme of presentations, talks, parallel sessions and networking opportunities.

In a future newsletter we will feature reports on the Conference from our two Staff Development Award attendees. For those who weren't able to attend, do take a look at the [programme](#) on the event's web page.

Below is a short Conference summary in seven sentences from the Consortium's Operations Manager, Jill Howard:

- The Old Royal Naval College Campus in Greenwich looked splendid on 24 June as we welcomed 92 attendees, in person for



the first time in five years.

- The Conference opened with Keynote Speakers Donna Lanclos and Lawrie Phipps's thought-provoking presentation advancing the need for intentional, human-centred pedagogy and critical reflection, acting as “wolves” that bring stability to the EdTech ecosystem.
- Excellent presentations from University of Greenwich's Banji Adewumi and Oxford University's Jon Ray set the scene for delegates to delve into a range of subjects, including sustainability.
- A choice of three morning and three afternoon parallel sessions provided spaces to learn, share, reflect and be inspired including practices and processes for delegates to implement in their workplaces.
- Delegates were delighted with our seven Lightning Talk speeches: from a range of our members including Northeastern University, London, Royal Horticultural Society and King's College London, they proved a great way to give voice to innovation across our member institutions.
- Delegates participated in our sessions, chatted over refreshments, engaged with exhibitors, perused posters and soaked in

the atmosphere of the surroundings.

- To name just a few, delegate feedback highlighted data hygiene, Louise Savage's lightning talk on women's safety, the digital lens, AI and building relationships with University estate teams.

Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed, delivered and volunteered; we look forward to bringing members across the region together again in the future.

What delegates said

"An amazing conference – met so many people, exchanged emails, got an opportunity to present, good interaction with sponsors."

"I've made some great additional networking opportunities with fellow attendees and found out some really useful info to take back and explore with my team – particularly around Estates liaison and the Digital lens."

"It was genuinely nice as an in-person event and the networking was much appreciated. The lightning talks were especially good and inspirational."

"Wonderful event – I learned so much and can't wait to bring all these things back to my library".

"A must for all librarians and all lovers of the library"

Post-Conference activities

- Attending delegates will receive presentations via email shortly.
 - Some presentations from the Conference will be available on the Members' Area of our website soon
 - Conference Planning Team will be convening to discuss how it went and taking on board attendee feedback as part of planning for our next Conference
-

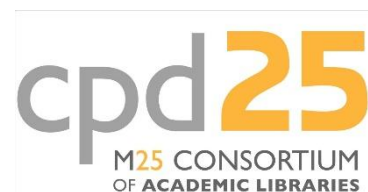
Attending 'Cataloguing with Confidence': the delegates' perspective

cpd25 held an in-person '[Cataloguing with confidence](#)' event on the 17th June at the British Library.

Victoria Parkinson, Library Solutions and Metadata Coordinator at King's College London, and Thomas Meehan, Head of Cataloguing and Metadata at UCL, expertly led the day of training, with 37 people in attendance.

This event was very successful and extremely well-received by attendees. Here's a selection of delegate comments demonstrating the value of cpd25 training within M25 Consortium membership:

"Thank you for running this session – it's helpful to



feel more confident in approaching cataloguing."

"This course gave a good balance between theoretical and historical background of cataloguing and the hands-on practices (with the help of assistance)."

"All helpful, appreciated the history and the practical exercise. Liked the bit about critical cataloguing."

"A great workshop. Highly recommended. Please run it again soon! "

Two of the attendees were awarded sponsored places at the event and have written blog posts about attending the training.

Their reports give a great insight into a delegate's experience of training: not only its value in terms of professional relevance and increasing knowledge and building skills, but also capturing the feel and flow of attending in person training.

Read Ioana and Victoria's blogs on our website.

[Ioana Bonaparte](#)

[Victoria Li](#)



What happened at SLA Conference 2025

This year cpd25's Task Group Four held the annual [SLA \(Senior Library Assistant\) Conference](#) on 19th June at the London College of Fashion, East Bank, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

This popular and well-loved event is designed as a participative day with plenty of opportunities for networking – providing invaluable opportunities to meet and network, shares experience and best practice. Open to all, the event is particularly beneficial for Senior Library Assistants, Information Services Supervisors, Library Assistants, Information Assistants and equivalents.

This year's theme for the Conference was 'AI in Libraries: Friend of Foe?' and included a keynote address from Dr Julie Wall, University of West London, introducing the topic, with a presentation on 'Practical and Ethical AI: Supporting Staff and Students in a Changing Library Landscape'.

Before the lunchbreak, the library led a tour for attendees, including a visit to the Materials Library, followed by an afternoon interactive session exploring GenAI literacy led by LC Chung from Libraries & Collections, King's College London.

"Really enjoyed LC Chung's practical workshop and the concept of 'mindful' used of AI." (Delegate Feedback)

The day also included a short delegate presentation from Marcin Tumidajski, University of West London, on his own experiences on how he's

been using AI in his work and the impact it has had.

A great day was had by all:

*"Brilliant speakers and excellent group activities.
Julie Wall's speech giving the context and history
(+future) of AI was probably the best – exactly what
I needed. "*

"I found all of it extremely relevant."

Upcoming visits



[Aga Khan Library](#)

28 August

1.30-4.30

The Aga Khan Library holds a scholarly research collection of more than 54,000 modern print titles and more than 5,000 rare books with a primary focus on Islam and Muslim societies.

The visit will include:

- A tour of the Aga Khan Centre gardens
- Aga Khan Centre Gallery (Muslim Expressions from South Asia: Learning community & voluntary service exhibition)
- Aga Khan Library tour & insights into the Library's Collections
- Tea & Coffee, networking

[Society of Antiquaries](#)

11 September

10.30-11.30

Founded in 1707, the Society of Antiquaries of London is Britain's oldest learned society concerned with the study and understanding of the material past. The library holds a collection of ca. 130,000 books and journals on the topics of archaeology, architectural history, medieval decorative arts and other subjects.

This visit will include a tour the main library space and other onsite collections storage areas. The Librarian, Archivist and Assistant Librarian will be available for discussion and questions.



Governance update

- From 1 August, Sally Brock, Head of Operations, Libraries & Collections, King's College London, becomes Chair of cpd25 and one of the Consortium's trustees.
- We will be meeting our new finance supplier, Godfrey Wilson, next month in preparation for them undertaking our Independent examination in the Autumn.
- We will continue to prepare to move to a new banking supplier.

- The Consortium's new year starts in August and we will be sending out invoices for subscriptions in the last two weeks of August.
 - Please note that we have a new registered (not office) address: International House, 64 Nile Street, London, N1 7SR
-

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 Dr Janice Fernandes.

Janice is currently the Academic Support Manager at the University of West London and also the Subject Librarian for the School of Medicine and Biosciences and the London College of Music. This dual role has provided her with a mix of collecting evidence to frame policies and guidelines at one end and seeing them applied at the other. Head over to our website to find out how Janice has been involved with the Consortium and what library science laws guide her practice.



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.

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: <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](#)

Copyright © 2025 M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries, All rights reserved.