



David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair



Here at the M25 Consortium our [Autumn events programme](#) has begun. We've already held one training event, have two upcoming and more in the pipeline. As always, our visits are proving very popular and all the upcoming ones are currently full (you can still register for the waiting list in case of cancellations). And if you receive the cpd25 weekly JISCMail newsletter, you will see that we are now giving advance notice of the date we start accepting visit bookings, to help you plan and not miss out.

If you are interested in getting involved in the development and delivery of our cpd25 programme, we currently have vacancies on Task Groups Two and Four, see below for more details.

A gentle reminder that, as voted by the membership at the 2024 AGM, we are no longer running a prepayment voucher scheme so those member institutions that used to provide voucher numbers when booking events, now need to supply PO numbers (where required) instead.

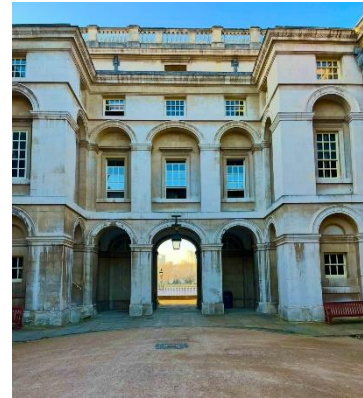
September has also been a month of evaluation and planning. We have been evaluating cpd25 event attendance, taking learning points from this year's in person annual conference and starting to put in key dates for 2026. So, looking ahead, our AGM in 2026 will be held online at 11am on Tuesday 28 April and we will be sending out further details and a calendar invite to all Member Representatives later this term.

Finally, we are very excited to announce that applications are now open for our Innovation Award 2025-2026. This is the second year we have run the Award and this year we have extended applications to all member institutions. If successful, you could undertake research, a project, resource or other activity that will benefit your institution and other M25 Consortium members. All the information you need to apply is on our website: www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/innovation-fund/. The deadline for applications is 3rd November and we look forward to receiving them.

Best wishes, David

Leah Gulley's Staff Development Award report for Annual Conference 2025

We awarded two bursaries to attend M25 Consortium's Annual Conference to applicants to the M25 Staff Development Awards. Last month we featured Janice Fernandes's report. This time we have an extract from the report of our other award winner, Leah Gulley.



"The M25 Consortium Conference was a great opportunity for me to learn and engage with the evolving landscape of academic libraries."

The conference explored the evolving landscape of academic libraries, focusing on the tensions between technological advancement, equity, environmental sustainability, and the wellbeing of library staff. Across keynotes, lightning talks, and panel discussions, the central idea behind the theme “Shaping the Future” emerged: libraries have a responsibility to prioritise humanity. I left the conference with a more tangible idea on how to adapt to rapid digital shifts while remaining human-centred, inclusive, and environmentally responsible.

Continuing the prevailing human-centredness theme of the day, library sustainability was another key topic that garnered a lot of attention. A presentation on the environmental impact of data storage presented more context for growing concerns over whether technology is truly a “greener” alternative. In addition to the missed opportunities for human-centred learning and sharing posed by the use of AI in educational

settings, wider concerns surrounding the environmental impact of data centres and the resources needed to keep them operating properly provided another valuable consideration for libraries as they decide the ways in which to imbed AI in their service provision. It is evident and encouraging to see the potential cessation of relying of previous attitudes on the “greenness” of technology without fully considering the environmental danger of hosting and storing seemingly endless amounts of data. This aspect of the conference gave me a new awareness of the *physical* storage of digital data and the environmental impact of generative AI, digital formats of books, journals, and other media.

It will be interesting to see how HEIs in the UK continue to commit to a greener future while simultaneously pushing the adoption of AI, EdTech, and digital-first learning “solutions”, knowing the present and growing strain on the environment and the communities in which this data is stored.

Not only was it encouraging to hear powerful stories about making choices that keep people and the planet at the core of our individual choices, but it was also impactful to visualise the quantitative outcomes of mindful choices that can be made at the department-level in the context of organisational commitments to EDI, carbon neutralisation and using technology to bridge educational gaps. I was inspired by the range of viewpoints on the topics that were presented that upheld the central messaging of the conference."

**Leah Gulley, Academic Liaison Librarian at
Buckinghamshire New University**

[Read and download](#) the full version of Leah's insightful report on our website.

Applications to Innovation Fund 25-26 are open!

The Innovation Fund is a competitive award created by the M25 Consortium. Successful applications will receive funding to deliver a project, resource, research or other activity that works towards one or more of the themes in the Consortium's 2023-2026 [Strategic Plan](#) for the benefit of Consortium members. The four themes are:



People: Inspiring and developing our staff, **Collaboration:** Connecting and collaborating through our membership, **Diversity:** Celebrating diversity in our institutions and our staff and **Sustainability:** Acting sustainably

How much grant money is available?

The total amount in the Fund for 2025-26 is £1,000 and applicants can apply for grants from the fund from £100 up to £1,000.

Who can apply?

Any library staff member or group of staff at one of our member institutions can apply.

How to apply

We warmly welcome all applications. To apply download and complete the application form on our website and send with any additional

supporting documents to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk addressing the points set out on our [Innovation Fund web page](#).

Applications will be considered by the Innovation Fund Assessment Panel, comprising of an M25 Consortium Trustee and three members of the M25 Consortium Steering Group.

2025-26 Timeline

- Applications open on Friday 26 September 2025
- Deadline for bids: 5pm on Wednesday 3 November 2025
- Successful bids informed by Wednesday 10 December 2025

Sharing outputs

A condition of receiving a grant from the Innovation Fund will be that successful applicants will be expected to share information about their project/activity at its conclusion and by no later than the end of December 2026. Sharing can be achieved in different ways and could be in the form of a report, a conference presentation or an online resource.

If you have any questions, please contact the Innovation Fund Assessment Panel via the M25 Operations Manager m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

We look forward to receiving applications very soon.

cpd25 Event Attendance 2024-25



Every year Laura Scullion, M25 Consortium's Administrator (Events and Programmes) produces a report to provide information on attendance at our cpd25 events.

As well as a useful summary of all the events that have taken place, you can find out how many delegates attended each event and read delegate feedback too. We are pleased to report that delegates continue to value our events highly: 90% rated them either excellent or very good.

As an example, delegates at the **Exchange of experience: supporting systematic reviews for health and beyond**, 4th December 2024 said:

“Presenters made the session really approachable and facilitated so well.”

“The session was very informative and reassuring. Great resources to follow up. Many thanks!”

[Read and download](#) the report for 2024-25 on our website.

cpd25 Library Visits as a professional development activity

We have recently introduced information for library visit delegates to remind them of the learning opportunities they provide. If you or a colleague will be attending a visit this Autumn, you may find them



useful:

"Here are some tips to get the best out of your visit:

- **Before a visit** – What do you want to learn?
Is there something you want to see? Have you asked your team if there's something they'd be interested in finding out?
- **During the visit** – Ask questions, take notes and photos (if allowed).
- **After the visit** – Reflect on what you've seen and learnt.
Is there anything you would like to share with colleagues at a team meeting, or by writing a blog, etc?
Is there anything you would like to follow up about with the host of the visit, or with other people on the visit?

Shape the cpd we need: [join a cpd25 Task Group](#)



cpd25 is currently seeking new members to join Task Group 2 and Task Group 4 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 2, 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.

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.

What's it like to be a member of a cpd25 Task Group?

"Becoming a member of TG4 has undoubtedly been one of the best choices I could make, and I am grateful for the many opportunities it has provided. 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."

[Read testimonials](#) from past and current Task Group members on our website.

Not just for senior staff

Please do circulate these opportunities 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



Being involved in M25: Spotlight on Eloise Carpenter

As well as featuring people who work in our Member Institutions, we are using M25 SpeedMeet to spotlight those who have taken on active roles with the M25 Consortium. This month we meet Eloise Carpenter, member of Task Group Three and co-Chair of the M25 Sustainability Working Group.

Eloise got involved with M25 Consortium to try something new, step outside her comfort zone, and contribute to the cpd25 staff development and training programme (having benefitted from attending events).

[Read Eloise's profile on our website](#) to find out what the Sustainability Group is working on, what issues facing the information profession are Eloise's current priorities and what she would be doing if she wasn't working in a library:

Be the next M25 SpeedMeet or Spotlight person

What M25 Group are you involved with and how does it benefit your career? What Member Library

do you work at and what's your role? To be featured
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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content' at the top of this email or contact m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

[M25 Consortium website](#)

