



## David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

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Have you registered yet for the M25 Consortium's Diversity Group free workshop '[EDI and libraries: learning from each other to make real change](#)' ? Taking place on 18 November at Middlesex University, the event includes a workshop run by Beth Montague-Hellen based around her book “Practical Tips for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries” and time to network with other attendees. This event is being funded by the M25 Consortium’s Innovation Fund.

We work to provide you with a range of high quality and relevant opportunities for professional development through in person or online events.

Join us in person as we come together as a Consortium on 2 December in the Weston Room at the Maughan Library, King's College London for our annual [Networking Event](#). Spaces are limited so

register for your free place now.

For our annual Conference, we have made the decision to alternate between online and in person. So next year our Annual Conference will take place online on Tuesday 9 June 2026. Save the date in your diaries and watch out for further news including a call for Lightning Talks and how to register.

Finally, a reminder that deadlines are coming up for two fantastic opportunities. Apply by 30 October to join a cpd25 Task Group - the best way to broaden your experience, network and develop the cpd your library and others in the M25 Consortium need.

The second is for applications to our Innovation Fund 25-26. Read below for more details and send in your application by 3 November.

**Best wishes, David**

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### **Innovation Fund - Apply by 3 November**

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 total amount in the Fund for 2025-26 is £1,000 and applicants can apply for grants from the fund from £100 up £1,000. Any library staff member or



group of staff at one of our member institutions can apply.

### **How to apply**

Download and complete the application form on our website and send with any additional supporting documents to [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk) addressing the points set out on our [Innovation Fund web page](#).

### **2025-26 Timeline**

- Deadline for bids: 5pm on Wednesday 3 November 2025
- Successful bids informed by Wednesday 10 December 2025

Read more about the Fund, including sharing the outputs from Funded projects, on our [Innovation Fund web page](#).



### **Deliver and develop: join a cpd25 Task Group**

We are pleased to offer some excellent professional development opportunities: 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:

*“I joined cpd25 TG4, and then TG3, because I wanted to try something new, step outside my comfort zone, and contribute to the cpd25 staff development and training programme (having benefitted from attending events). I’ve been able to connect and network with library and information professionals, gaining confidence and knowledge along the way. The M25 Consortium is very welcoming, positive and supportive.*

*You don’t need to be in a senior role or an expert to join a group, just enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved. I’d recommend it to anyone thinking about joining a task/working group.”*

**Eloise Carpenter, quote from [SpeedMeet Profile](#) September 2025**

Each Task Group meets online approximately three or four 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.

[Read more about what Task Group members do](#)

### **How to apply**

Formal expressions of interest, not exceeding 400 words, outlining relevant experience and reasons for wanting to get involved should be made to Sally Brock [sally.brock@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sally.brock@kcl.ac.uk) by Noon on **Thursday 30th October**.



### **M25 Diversity Group Event**

[EDI and libraries: learning from each other to make real change](#)

**18 November 2025, 10am-12pm**

**Middlesex University**

Join the M25 Diversity Group and Beth Montague-Hellen at an in-person workshop to collaborate in creating practical tips to take back to your workplaces in the area of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

The event will include an in-depth look at the findings of the M25 Consortium diversity questionnaire to provide the regional context, an hour's workshop run by Beth based around her excellent book "[Practical Tips for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries](#)" and time to network with other attendees to learn more about the work that is happening in workplaces across our region.

[Book your free place now](#)

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## **Upcoming dates**

### **18 November**

[EDI and libraries: learning from each other to make real change](#)

M25 Diversity Group

10-12am, Middlesex University

### **2 December**

[M25 Annual Networking Event](#)

Weston Room, Maughan Library, King's College

London

5-7pm

### **26 February**

[Staying Positive in Trying Times: Looking after yourself](#)

10-11.30, Online

### **28 April 2026**

#### **M25 Consortium AGM**

Online, 11am

More details available soon

### **9 June 2026**

[M25 Annual Conference 2026](#)

Online, 10am-3.30pm

Save the date

[Browse all our upcoming events](#)



### **Spotlight on Natalie Brown**

A warm welcome to Natalie Brown who has recently taken on the position of Chair of [cpd25 Task Group Four](#). We wish her every success in her role leading Task Group Four.

You can find out more about Natalie's day job and how the M25 Consortium has influenced her career on the [SpeedMeet page](#) on our website.

### **Be our next M25 SpeedMeet or Spotlight person**

What Member Library do you work at and what's your role? What M25 Group are you involved with and how does it benefit your career? Send an email to [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk).

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#### **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>

WHELP: <https://whelf.ac.uk/>

#### **\*Apologies for cross-posting\***

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[M25 Consortium website](#)

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