



David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair



We are looking forward to welcoming members to our annual Networking event taking place on 2nd December in the Weston Room at the Maughan Library, King's College London from 5-7pm. There are a few spaces still available so register for your free place now. You can also register for the optional pre-event visit to the Maughan Library at 4pm. The library is housed in a historic records office with stunning spaces, so well worth a visit.

I am pleased to report that we have had a number of applications for this year's [Innovation Fund](#). The fund awards grants to projects, activities or resources in member libraries that provide benefit for our members across the region. Award recipients will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Finally, as 2025 starts to draw to a close, there's

much to look forward to in 2026. Watch out for our call for lightning talk speakers at our Annual Conference on 9 June and details of our Staff Development Awards. And get ahead with your professional development goals by registering now for a cpd25 or M25 event: browse what's on offer here: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/

Best wishes, David

M25 Sustainability Toolkit: Get Involved

You told us sustainability matters—and you want practical support. We listened.

Following the M25 Consortium Conference in July, members asked for a sustainability initiative that delivers real, actionable help. In response, we're developing a **dedicated Sustainability Toolkit** for library and information services, shaped by your feedback.

The toolkit will bring together **practical resources, case studies, guidance, and more** to help embed sustainability into everyday practice and long-term strategy. It's in its **early stages**, and your input will help shape its direction.

How you can get involved:

- Share examples of sustainable initiatives from your library

- Contribute content or resources to the toolkit
- Join our discussions and help guide the next steps

[Download the guidance](#)

Or email us directly: Jessie McLean

jessiemclean@bucks.ac.uk or Eloise Carpenter

eloise.carpenter@lshtm.ac.uk

Thank you, [M25 Sustainability Working Group](#).

Staying Positive in Trying Times: Looking After Yourself

26 February

10-11.30am

Online



Join Ash Charlton for a half-day online workshop in looking after ourselves in difficult situations and how to 'not take it personally' and 'not take it home'. Ash will examine strategies for staying positive under pressure during a challenging situation, immediately afterwards and in the long term.

£25 for members.



What cpd25 training, visits or events do you need?

Let us know your library's requirements by using the cpd25 [suggestion form](#).

We are committed to providing training, events and visits that are tailored to our members' needs. You can suggest a topic for training or a visit to your library by completing our online form.

[Join Task Group Four](#)

Are you looking for a new professional development opportunity? A great way to enhance your skills, collaborate with other professionals, broaden your network and shape the cpd your library service needs, is to join a cpd25 Task Group. cpd25 is currently seeking new members to join [Task Group 4](#), the personal, management and business skills 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.” (cpd25 Task Group 4 member)

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 reasons for wanting to get involved and experience should be made to [Sally Brock](#) by Noon on **Thursday 11th December**.

Staff Development Awards

M25 Consortium's [Staff Development Awards](#) enable you to gain knowledge by attending a cpd25 event or the M25 Annual Conference for free.



The Awards are a fantastic opportunity for staff working in any role at any level in any of our member libraries to enhance their professional development and to network with others.

Each year there are a maximum of five Awards available across two categories:

- Free attendance at the equivalent of one full day of [cpd25 training](#) (Three awards available)
- Free attendance at the [M25 Consortium Annual Conference](#) (Two places available; first member place at Conference is free so this award enables an additional staff member to attend Conference at no cost)

We encourage staff across our member libraries to apply when the Awards open in January 2026.



Back office update

M25 Consortium has three part-time staff: Jeni Kutaika Billiard (Administrator, Finance & Reporting), Laura Scullion (Administrator, Events & Programmes) and Jill Howard (Operations Manager). Working closely with the Consortium's trustees and members involved in M25 Groups and cpd25 Task Groups, we oversee the delivery of activities for all our members and ensure that the Consortium runs smoothly.

In November we have been:

- making improvements to our website, including a new [Stay Connected](#) button on our Home Page
- preparing for our annual financial independent examination with our new accountant, Godfrey Wilson
- developing an online delegate feedback form
- supporting cpd25 Task Groups to put on events for our Autumn cpd25 programme
- sharing developments with other Regional Consortia across the UK through Jill's attendance at a Regional Consortia Managers online meeting
- organising the first meeting of the Annual Conference Planning Group to start to put together a great programme for Conference 2026, taking place online on 9 June.

On the governance side, Jill has been working with Dave Puplett, our Secretary, to ensure we are compliant with Charity Commission and Companies House requirements, which includes setting up Gov One accounts: the new, universal login for UK government services.

Photo of Sally Brock, cpd25 Chair and Jill Howard, M25 Operations Manager

Photo credit: Arved Kirschbaum, King's College London

Upcoming dates

2 December

[M25 Annual Networking Event](#)

Weston Room, Maughan Library, King's College
London
5-7pm

30 January

[Leadership Briefing: Institutional Resilience and Business Continuity](#)

Royal College of Nursing, 2-4pm

26 February

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

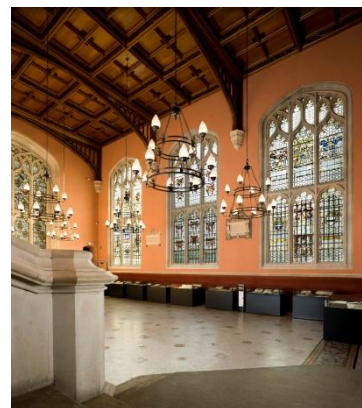
Online, 10-11.30

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 and book our upcoming events](#)

Photo credit: ©The Weston Room, The Maughan Library, King's College London



[SpeedMeet Profile for November](#)

November's SpeedMeet profile is Alison Mackenzie who works as a Research Support Librarian at RHS Libraries. The Royal Horticultural Society has libraries at Wisley Garden and the Lindley Library in London. Alison's work supports various users including RHS students based at the RHS gardens and those that study remotely. Find out more about Alison's role at RHS and which sport she has played for many years on our [SpeedMeet page](#).

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 feature you and your library.

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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