



Newsletter

February 2026

David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair



Last month the M25 Steering Group met for our annual Planning Day where we discussed our priorities for the Consortium for the next three years. The M25 Strategy 2026-2029 is now being drafted and will be presented to members at our online AGM on Tuesday 28 April (11am). If you are the M25 Representative for your institution but cannot attend, please do send a Proxy. Details and a Proxy Form will be sent out to Member Reps soon.

Registration is open for our M25 Annual Conference, taking place online on 9 June. The Conference will showcase some of the brilliant work being undertaken across our member organisations, and each institution is entitled to two free places - please register early to avoid disappointment.

The Conference will include a number of lightning talks as part of the programme, and we have a few

spots still remaining. If you or a colleague would like to try your hand at presenting for the first time and/or tell us about a project or initiative (large or small) you've been working on, please do get in touch - talks are 5-10 minutes long, and friendly support is on hand for anyone unsure about presenting. Why not give it a go?

The deadline for applications for our Staff Development Awards is fast approaching, with 8 (yes 8!) awards of free training and development opportunities up for grabs. Applying for this free cpd is easy, but time is running out! Please see the details below and spread the word amongst your colleagues.

Booking is also now open for our cpd25 programme's LISA (Library Information Supervisors and Assistants) Conference on 23 June at the Mary Ward Centre. Previously known as the SLA Conference, this is a popular annual event aimed at more junior staff including colleagues in supervisory roles. The theme this year is self-compassion and resilience, and the event is a great opportunity to meet and network with colleagues from elsewhere.

Best wishes, David



M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2026

9 June

Online 10am-3.30pm

Register now and join us for:

- a fascinating Keynote
- a session where we'll share your stories

- a presentation on supporting professional development
- Lightning Talks
- a mindfulness session to get you ready for the afternoon
- an invigorating closing speech
- plus plenty of time for questions and breaks

Bookings are open!

Your member institution has two free places.

[Register for your two free places now](#)

Present a Lightning Talk

Hearing from staff at member institutions is a highly valued part of Conference and we received great feedback about the Lightning Talks at last year's Conference.

You don't need to be a senior leader or a seasoned presenter to do a Lightning Talk. It's about sharing something with other member institutions for five to ten minutes, with a couple of slides to engage and inform.

We would love to hear from you if your service has made a change or introduced an activity that has resonated well with your users. Our aim is to provide delegates with positive stories, inspiration, and ideas to consider in their own institutions, however small.

How to apply

Send a short summary, of not more than 250 words, outlining the subject of your talk, to the Conference Planning Group via Jill Howard, M25 Consortium Operations Manager M25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday 27 March**.

[Download full details](#)

Two Staff Development Awards

You can apply for a Staff Development Award to attend Conference. This could mean a third member of the team can attend for free, in addition to your two free places. Find out more below.



Staff Development Awards 2026 closing soon Don't delay, apply by 11 March

Our Staff Development Awards provide a great cpd opportunity for staff working in any role at any level in any of our member libraries to attend training, conferences and other events to further their professional development and network with others.

The Awards

There are **eight** Staff Development Awards available offering free places across M25 and cpd25 events and conferences:

- Free attendance at the cpd25 [LISA Conference 2026](#) (previously the SLA conference) (in person, London, two awards available)
- Free attendance at the cpd25 Cataloguing Training event 2026, date TBC
- Free attendance at the online [M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2026](#) (two awards available; member libraries are allocated two free places, this award enables three members of staff to attend for free)

- Free attendance at a cpd25 event of the applicant's choice from events taking place up to the end of July 2027 (two awards available).

Download the application form on our website here: <https://www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/staff-development-awards/>

Send your application form to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk by Wednesday 11 March 2026.

Image by RDNE Stock Project, Pexels



What happens at our AGM?

This year we will hold our Annual General Meeting online at 11 am on 28 April. The purpose of the AGM is to meet our legal responsibilities as a charity, where the trustees provide a report to members on the previous year's activities and finances. The AGM is also Member Representatives' opportunity to raise questions.

At the AGM Member Reps:

- review the proposed membership subscription fees for 2026-27 and vote on whether to accept them (a key agenda item)
- are asked to formally approve (or decline) new institutions into membership
- approve or receive the outcome of elections to Member Reps standing for the Steering Group committee
- hear update reports from the Chair, Treasurer and Chair of cpd25
- consider the trustees' draft budget for 2026-2027 and

- receive the audited accounts for 2024-2025.

These are all important issues for a membership organisation but we keep this key meeting short and accessible and aim to complete all the agenda items within an hour.

If your Member Rep can't attend, they can send another member of library staff to attend as their proxy (they will be sent the form).

Key Dates

- **Tuesday 8th April** – Deadline for Steering Group Membership Nominations
- **Friday 10th April** – Deadline for Agenda items should any member wish to propose an agenda item or formally request the opportunity to speak
- **w/b 14th April** – Agenda and papers issued
- **Tuesday 28th April** - AGM takes place at 11am online

SpeedMeet Profile for February: Mary Blomley

February 2026's SpeedMeet profile is Mary Blomley who is an Open Research Librarian at the [University of West London](https://www.uwl.ac.uk/). Find out how Mary's attendance at our events has contributed to her professional development and career: www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/m25-speedmeet/

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 and we will feature you and your library.



Upcoming dates

4 & 18 March

[Understanding libraries with qualitative techniques](#)

Online, 2-4pm

17 March

[Visit to Lambeth Palace Library](#)

2-3.30pm

Now full

21 & 22 April

[Moving into Management](#)

In person, 9.30-4

28 April

AGM 2026

Online, 11-12

To book delegate places, visit the event's web page and click on the 'Booking Form for M25 Members'.

Browse all our upcoming events including training, visits and conferences in May and June on our events listing page: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/

Photo of Lambeth Palace Library from M25 Consortium Member Photos

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/>

[M25 Consortium website](#)

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Apologies for cross-posting