

## M25 SpeedMeet

February 2026



- **Who are you, where are you based and what do you do?**

I am an Open Research Librarian for University of West London. I maintain the institutional repository; ensure the outputs added are in line with sector standards; provide data on repository activities; support the Postgraduate researchers by providing Open Research drop-ins and deal with Open Access enquiries. With the Open Research Manager, I promote open research across the university by delivering Open Access and REF seminars. I try to establish working partnerships with colleagues across the university to advocate for Open Access.

- **What do you most enjoy about your job?**

The variety of my role, especially reviewing outputs added to the repository. My previous role involved

cataloguing, which I loved. This role follows a similar process, and I enjoy coming across the works by UWL staff and researchers.

Another surprising aspect that I'm finding enjoyable is the challenge of learning. I rarely shy away from learning something new, however difficult it can be to grasp. Through this role, I've gained a better understanding of the scholarly publishing industry and research.

- **What motivates you in your work?**

The positive impact I see my work has on someone, small or big. Throughout my library career, from library shelver to Librarian, I have always enjoyed informing people to equip them with knowledge that could support their endeavors. It's a special feeling.

- **How can/has the M25 Consortium supported you in your career?**

From the beginning of my career, the M25 has always organized events I enjoyed attending. When I was fortunate enough to get a Library Assistant post, I recall M25 facilitating a visit to the BFI library. Library visits are valuable, not just for sightseeing but to understand how other libraries operate. M25 offers a wide range of CPD events for people across all levels in academic libraries. You get to meet interesting people involved in interesting projects. I

attended a 'So you want to be a librarian?' workshop when I was a library assistant. It helped me decide to pursue a Masters degree. Then at last year's Annual Conference: Shaping the Future, I had the great opportunity to co-present a lightning talk with my colleague.

- **What would it surprise people to know about you?**

I disliked the idea of being a librarian when I was a teenager. Being the quiet one at school, my classmates insisted that I should be librarian. I hated that stereotype and actively worked against it and pursued art. Shortly after, I got a work placement at a public library in 6<sup>th</sup> form, then worked as a library shelver at university, and so forth. As we know, contrary to popular beliefs, this is not a quiet profession. In fact, I've become more social because I'm a librarian!

**Complete the sentence: If I wasn't working in a library I would be..... because .....**

Working somewhere in the GLAM sector. My fantasy job would be running a comic book library with a social space where people can host tabletop board games, have creative workshops, author/artist talks and live bands. Reason is, I love graphic novels and comic books. The format is a powerful way to communicate ideas and tell stories. Plus, I think we need a third space outside the internet/social media where people can go for free and share interests. Public libraries have been doing this, and I want to dedicate a space for comic books/ 'geek culture' specifically. But that's a dream job (literally!)