



## **M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries Strategy 2026-2029**

### 1. Introduction, Mission, Vision, Values

#### **Introduction**

The M25 Consortium was formed in 1993 with a view to fostering co-operation amongst higher education and special libraries in the region for the benefit of library users, and became a registered charity in 2009. It is a collaborative organisation established for the advancement of education for the public benefit, in particular the support of learning and research, by developing and enhancing academic and scholarly library services and staff expertise in London, East and South East England. Over the past 33 years the Consortium has undertaken to develop and deliver collaborative services to facilitate access to the diverse range of libraries and resources in the region, encouraged and enabled mutual support of member libraries in improving services to users, and collaborated with regional and national organisations to represent the interests of our members. The provision of accessible personal and professional development opportunities and support for staff working at all levels within our member libraries has been central to our activities.

In 2026 our member libraries and the communities we serve face unprecedented challenges. Financial pressures see our member libraries having to make hard decisions regarding their services and teams whilst continuing to deliver for their users and ensure staff wellbeing. Sustainability and diversity efforts are challenged by a volatile political landscape, and misinformation is rife. The digital shift and new ways of working see increased focus on online support and services. Rapid advances in AI technology place additional demands on library staff striving to keep their skills up to date as they seek to support users and find innovative ways to exploit these tools for good. The M25 Consortium's role in bringing together academic libraries across the region to share experience, enable peer support and learning, develop staff expertise and collaborate on services and resources is more important than ever. It provides a mechanism for HE and special libraries in the region to amplify their wider society benefit through partnership with other library organisations.

The M25 Consortium Strategy 2026-2029 provides a clear direction for the Consortium over the next 3 years. It outlines our Mission, Vision and Values, and sets out the underpinning themes and priorities we will focus on for the benefit of all member libraries. At its heart is a commitment to engendering an inclusive, innovative and resilient community, vital to the long-term sustainability of the library and information sector and its support of learning and research. This strategy has been created by the Steering Group of the M25 Consortium, using feedback from a consultation with members, and was presented for approval by the membership at the 2026 AGM.

## Mission

To collaborate in the enhancement of staff expertise and services across HE and special libraries in London, East and South East England in support of learning and research.

## Vision

A connected, engaged and inclusive community of HE and special libraries in London, East and South East England working together to develop and nurture staff and strengthen and enhance services for the benefit of all.

## Values

- We are inclusive
- We are collaborative
- We champion sustainability
- We promote social justice
- We support intellectual freedom
- We act with integrity and professionalism

## 2. Strategic Themes, Priorities, KPIs

### Strategic themes

- **Engagement and inclusion:** we will create a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment where all members feel engaged, represented, respected and valued
  - **Priorities**
    - Involve staff working in member libraries at all stages of their career
    - Create events and resources of value to our diverse range of member libraries
    - Ensure inclusive representation in all of our activities and governance and remove barriers to membership and participation
    - Effectively promote our events, resources and services to all of our members
- **Partnership and collaboration:** we will form trusted alliances to enable an exchange of ideas, align resources and build productive relationships within the library and information community
  - **Priorities**
    - Provide positive networking and learning opportunities
    - Be a safe space for trusted conversations
    - Work with regional and national groups in the sector on topics of shared interest and advocacy
    - Explore greater M25 Consortium participation in LIS conferences and events
- **Resilience and sustainability:** we will integrate resilience and sustainability into our operations, infrastructure and service provision and support our members to do the same
  - **Priorities**
    - Place financial and environmental sustainability and social justice at the centre of all that we do
    - Keep the cost of our services to members as low as possible whilst building resilience for the future

- Ensure that our processes and systems are as efficient and low-impact as possible and that our staff are well-supported
- Provide resources and events to support our members in their own resilience and sustainability efforts
- **Talent and innovation:** we will foster a culture of continuous learning to support varied career pathways, empower members to reach their full potential, and align individual growth with institutional requirements
  - **Priorities**
    - Provide learning and development opportunities for staff at all stages of their career working in both HE and special libraries
    - Seek feedback from our members on their evolving training needs and adapt our programme to meet them
    - Enable individuals to grow through participation in task groups and other Consortium activities
    - Update and promote resources within the Members' Area, ensuring these are relevant and useful

The Trustees and Steering Group will set objectives each year to deliver against the strategic priorities, along with associated measures of success, and will review progress on a regular basis. Feedback from member institutions will be sought periodically as part of this process.

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