

May 2026



**Dave Puplett, Secretary of the M25 Consortium**

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**Welcome to May's M25 newsletter. I'm Dave Puplett, Secretary of the M25 Consortium and it's a pleasure to act as guest editor for this month.**

**Our cpd25 programme is packed to bursting in June, so do take a look at what's on offer - there are still places available on some events and it's a great way to increase your skills while networking with staff from across the M25 Consortium community and beyond.**

**You'll find below a report from the AGM which took place last month and saw our members**

**vote on a number of important areas, not least the freezing of membership fees at this year's prices for the upcoming membership year 26-27. Our membership year starts on 1 August and our Member Representatives will receive renewal emails in July.**

**The AGM was an important one for governance as our new Strategic Plan 2026-2029 was approved by members at the meeting. The AGM approved three new member institutions who we are delighted are joining the Consortium - Global Banking School, Guildhall Library, and Imperial College London. It's especially good to see Imperial back in the fold.**

**As Secretary, my proposal to take a look at the Articles of Association to update them was approved by members. I will present a revised version of the Articles at the AGM in 2027. I'm now looking for a group of people to join me in this task. Find out how to get involved below.**

**Finally, we hope that you will be joining us for our Annual Conference on 9 June. This year, the lightning talks, always a popular part of the Conference programme, provide a feel-good, varied and relatable set of presentations, showcasing positive initiatives.**

**It's all about bringing together academic and special libraries across the region to share experience, enable peer support and learning, develop staff expertise and collaborate on services and resources, which as our Strategic Plan 26-29 says, is more important than ever.**

Best wishes, Dave

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**M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2026**

**Tuesday 9th June, Online**

**10.00am-12.45pm & 1.30-3.30pm**

**We're pleased to confirm that we have four lightning talks at Conference this year on:**

- **Plant potting**
- **Withdrawn stock**
- **The Pause Point and**
- **The Next Chapter Challenge.**

**Intrigued? Find out more, browse the full programme, read our speaker biogs, and register to attend here:**

**[www.m25lib.org.uk/events/virtual-annual-conference-2026/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/virtual-annual-conference-2026/)**

**Bonus features:**

- **Take part in our very first mindful pause  
A 15 minute end of lunchtime mindful  
'reset and refresh' session.**
- **Join staff across M25 member libraries on  
a visit to Senate House Library  
& Exhibition: English Print Revolution:  
Caxton & Beyond  
5-6pm, Senate House  
Book your place**



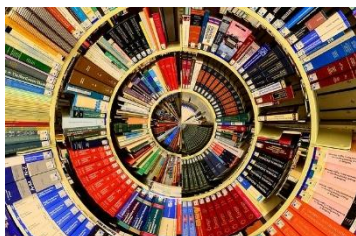
here: [www.m25lib.org.uk/events/visit-to-senate-house-library-m25/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/visit-to-senate-house-library-m25/)

**Join us at Conference**

**All member libraries receive two free delegate places.**

[Register your place](#)

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### **M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2026 Sharing the sunshine**

**At Conference we'll hear from voices across the sector, sharing achievements and activities that are making a difference, however small.**

**Whether you can attend Conference or not, we're calling for contributions from staff at our member libraries to share examples of positive initiatives and activities that have taken place.**

**We will then present these at Conference in our *Sharing the Sunshine* session, facilitated by Sara Burnett, Kingston University and Helen Curtis, Oxford Brookes University.**

**Add your positive stories, projects and observations here:**

<https://padlet.com/kingstonuniversity/m25-conference-2026-sharing-the-good-however-small-we82yzmfnvmbg1vh>

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## **Report on the M25 Consortium AGM 2026**

**28 April 2026, Online**

### **Trustees:**

**David Archer, Chair**

**Sally Brock, cpd25 Chair**

**Christopher Cipkin, Treasurer**

**Dave Puplett, Secretary**



**This year we held our AGM online on 26 April and had very good attendance from Member Representatives and proxies. As well as receiving updates from the Chair, Treasurer, and cpd25 Chair on the 2024-2025 year, the Representatives voted on a number of proposals including subscriptions and budget for the year 2026-2027, new members, the M25 Consortium Strategy 2026-29, and a proposal to review of the Articles of Association.**

### **Chair's Highlights**

**David Archer, Chair, noted that membership is still strong and our cpd25 programme continues to thrive. In 2024-2025 we launched our Innovation Fund, initially with a pilot year, and awarded funding to our Diversity Working Group who put on an excellent event on allyship. This year we have had two applications to the Fund and are pleased to make funding available to members for innovations reflecting our strategic aims.**

**We also launched our Sustainability Working Group. They ran a well-attended session at our Annual Conference in 2025, our first in person Conference for six years, which was a highlight of the year. It was a very successful event, bringing the M25 Consortium**

**community together, with fantastic speakers and parallel sessions.**

**The Chair thanked everybody involved in whatever way in M25 activities and programmes; they are giving up their time to be involved in Working Groups, Task Groups, on the Steering Group and as Trustees. He also thanked all Representatives for allowing staff to take part and encouraged them to continue to put people forward for M25 activities as it is a great development opportunity.**

#### **Membership**

**Members agreed to accept three institutions into membership:**

- [Global Banking School](#)
- [Guildhall Library](#)
- [Imperial College London](#)

**We are very pleased to welcome our new members.**

#### **Accounts and finance**

**Members voted to accept the final accounts and trustees' report for 2024-2025 and the budget for 2026-2027 showing a modest deficit, which can be absorbed by our reserves.**

#### **Membership fees**

**As a recognition of the current difficult financial climate, we proposed a zero increase on member subscriptions for 2026. The Treasurer noted that a 0% increase is feasible again this year, but this cannot be sustained in the longer**

**term and he will continue to monitor situation closely.**

#### **Governance**

**David Archer, Chair and Dave Puplett, Secretary, were confirmed in their roles for a second two-year term. Pete Williams, Louise Ashton and Fiona Ainsworth were confirmed as Steering Group members.**

#### **Articles of Association**

**The members voted to accept the proposal to review the Articles of Association during 2026-2027 to ensure they remain up to date.**

**Dave Puplett, Secretary, invites any interested members to work with him on this review to get in touch for more details. You don't necessarily need to be a member rep - if you have a bit of time, enthusiasm (and maybe even experience in this area), it will be an interesting project to look at the Articles, consider our membership criteria and update AGM procedures etc. Send an email via Jill Howard, M25 Consortium Operations Manager:  
[m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk)**

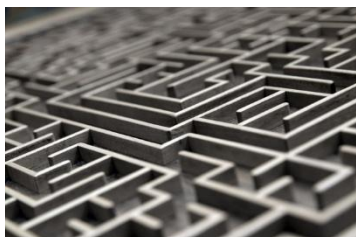
#### **Strategy**

**Members voted to accept the Consortium's new Strategic Plan covering the period August 2026-July 2029. The Strategy sets out four priority areas: Engagement and Inclusion, Partnership and Collaboration, Resilience and Sustainability, and Talent and Innovation.**

**You can read and download the Strategy on our**

website: [www.m25lib.org.uk/about-the-consortium/strategic-plan-2026-2029/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/about-the-consortium/strategic-plan-2026-2029/)

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### **Member Systems and Subscriptions Renewals**

We will be sending out renewal emails for the membership year 2026-2027 to Member Reps in the w/c 6 July. In that email, we'll also be asking you to provide us with information on your library systems. You can currently see what LMS's are used by members in the members' area of our

website: [www.m25lib.org.uk/members-area/current-lms-suppliers/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/members-area/current-lms-suppliers/)

Some members of the M25 Steering Group have been looking at what other systems would be useful to list. These vary across the range of member libraries, not all of whom have access to HE systems listed online.

So this year, we will be extending the member systems information available on our website and asking you to provide a bit more data. The final list has not been confirmed but it is likely to include:

- **Library Management System**
- **Digital Asset Management Solution**
- **Discovery solution**
- **Resource/reading List solution**
- **Institutional repository software/platform**

I look forward to receiving your information and to launching the new lists in our member's area in September.

#### **Accessing the members' area**

To access the members' area of the M25 Consortium website, you need to register. Go to 'Access Members' Area' on the home page and click on the link to fill in the registration form. This alerts the M25 Support Team to activate your registration and you will then receive email notification that you have been registered.

Jill Howard, M25 Consortium Operations Manager

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#### **Leadership Briefing: Shared Services**

**26 June 2-4pm**

**Royal College of Nursing**

We welcome library leaders across the M25 Consortium community to join us at the second of this year's M25 Consortium Leadership Briefings to be held on the afternoon of Friday 26th June at the Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London.

This programme will look at shared services in libraries and will feature two case studies.

#### **Programme:**

- **3in1 – A Unified Library Management System for three universities, Dave Puplett, Associate Director – Libraries and**

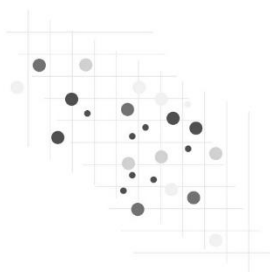
**Learning Technology, University of Greenwich.**

- **Piloting a Roving Archivist Programme for the University of London Federation – Beth Astridge, University Archivist and Oliver House, Roving Archivist, Senate House Library.**

**There will be questions for the panel and an open discussion between attendees.**

**M25 Consortium members receive one free place per institution for each Leadership Briefing. Additional places cost £75.**

**[Register to attend now](#)**



### **Library staff vacancies**

#### **Recruiting?**

**If you have a vacancy in your library that you would like to include in our monthly newsletter (and in the News area of our website) send the details to Jill Howard, Operations Manager: [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk)**

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## SpeedMeet Profile for May: Callum Tilbury

May's SpeedMeet profile is Callum Tilbury, Library Supervisor at the [Royal Central School of Speech and Drama](#). Find out about Callum's role and his other interests that complement his library role: <https://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](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk) and we will feature you and your library.

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## Upcoming events



**1 & 5 June**

[Moving into Management](#)

De Morgan House, 9.30am - 4.00pm

**9 June**

[M25 Annual Conference 2026](#)

[Sunshine through the rain: celebrating our successes](#)

Online, 10.00am - 3.30pm

**9 June**

[Visit to Senate House Library and Exhibition](#)

Senate House, 5.00 - 6.00pm

**16 June**

**[Marketing your academic library](#)**

**Online, 10.30am - 12.30pm**

**23 June**

**[LISA Conference Change through the lens of self-kindness](#)**

**Mary Ward House, 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**26 June**

**[Leadership Briefing on Shared Services](#)**

**Royal College of Nursing, 2.00pm - 4.00pm**

**Browse all our upcoming events, including visits, here: [www.m25lib.org.uk/events/](http://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/)**

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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/>**

**[M25 Consortium website](#)**

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