

June 2026



David Archer, Chair of the M25 Consortium



We can learn a great deal from our colleagues across the broad M25 Consortium community of higher education and special libraries. The ability to share institutional information and insights with each other, and to follow up with informal discussions, can be extremely helpful when developing and implementing new services and systems.

This month we have a call-out for data on the core library-related systems you use at your institution, with a view to sharing information on preferred systems across the Consortium. The information will be made available exclusively to members in the Members' Area of our website. Please complete our online survey form (details below) so we can include your information.

This year we've been encouraging delegates at our online cpd25 events to provide feedback so we can better assess the quality and relevance of the events we run and make improvements. Those that completed our online feedback form and provided their names were entered into a prize draw to win a free cpd25 event from the September 2026-July 2027 cpd25 programme. Congratulations to this year's winner Ian Ward (see below for details). If you submit your feedback form after attending our online events in the coming months, you could be our winner this time next year!

This newsletter takes a break in August so your next newsletter will be in September. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer.

Best wishes, David

Survey on M25 Consortium Member Library Systems

In the Members' Area of our website we provide information on which Library Management Systems our members use.



Discussions at a M25 Consortium Steering Group meeting earlier this year identified that our members would find it beneficial to have further information about other systems M25 Consortium members use.

Steering Group members Louise Ashton (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama), Camilla Churchill (British Medical Association) and M25

Chair David Archer (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), have put together a survey to gather data from our members on:

- Library Management Systems/Platforms
- Discovery Tools
- Digital Asset Management Tools
- Reading List software
- Institutional Repositories
- Archive/Special Collections management software

The survey is now live and we would be very grateful if every member institution could complete the online form so that we have a full picture. We will then share the data as tables in the Members' Area of our website in Autumn 2026.

Please complete the survey at [Survey on M25 Consortium Member Library Systems – Fill in form](#) or forward this link for a colleague to complete:
<https://forms.office.com/e/6ZgAM6SyK7>



Presentations from [M25 Consortium Annual Conference 2026](#)

We're pleased to announce that recordings of the Presentations at our online M25 Annual Conference 2026 are now available on our website in the [Virtual Learning and Development](#) section of our Members' Area.

So if you missed out, you can now watch the following Presentations:

- **Keynote: ‘Truth, trust and democracy: the role of the House of Commons Library and good Information in the UK Parliament’** – Martin Reid, Director of Library Services, House of Commons Library
- **Lightning Talk One: ‘Plant Potting Project’** – Susan Hill, Library and Learning Advisor, University of Surrey
- **Lightning Talk Two: ‘Saving money, reducing waste and sharing knowledge: Senate House Library’s partnership with the Internet Archive for the preservation of withdrawn stock’** – James Cook, Head of Library Space and Collection Management, Senate House Library
- **Padlet Session: ‘Sharing the Sunshine’** - Sara Burnett, Kingston University and Helen Curtis, Oxford Brookes University
- **Innovation Funded Project Update: ‘Introducing your open access library excellence framework resource’** – Carly Ramirez-Herelle, Head of Library and Academy Services, University of Bedfordshire
- **‘Plugging The Gap: Learning Experiences in UCL LCCOS’** – Aanchal Bhatt, Learning & Development Manager of Library, Culture, Collections and Open Science at UCL and Kate Cheney, Director of Site Library Services at UCL
- **Update from Sustainability Group: ‘From overwhelm to action, developing a**

sustainability toolkit’ – Jessie McLean, co-Chair of the Sustainability Working Group

- **Update from Diversity Group** – Cliff Van Dort, Diversity Group co-Chair and Davina Omar, M25 Steering Group Rep
- **Lightning Talk 3: ‘Pause Point at Kingston University’** – Joanne Cawkwell, Library Assistant, Kingston University
- **Lightning Talk 4: ‘The Next Chapter Challenge – University of Surrey Library and Learning Services’** – Catherine Batson, Associate Director (Student Experience), University of Surrey
- **Closing Speaker: ‘The Art of Being Brilliant’** – Dr Andy Cope from Art of Brilliance

Access the Members’ Area from our Home Page by clicking on the ‘Access Members’ Area’ button. You will need to be registered and logged in to view the Members’ Area pages.

Register to access the [Members’ Area](https://www.m25lib.org.uk/register/)

If you are not already registered on our website, complete the form on this page:

<https://www.m25lib.org.uk/register/> and it will trigger a message to the Support Team and we will then confirm your registration.

Can you host the M25 Consortium?

Each year we need to find suitable venues for our in person cpd25 events, Leadership Briefings, Annual Conference and annual Networking events.



Hosting them at our member spaces makes the events more relevant, affordable and inviting. It also provides an opportunity for your library to be in the spotlight, highlight your service and achievements and make new connections across the M25 community.

Ideally, we look for spaces that:

- have good transport links
- are accessible
- provide catering or allow catering
- have rooms that allow for Presentations
- are an appropriate size: workshop style for cpd25 events, lecture theatre and breakout rooms for Conference and a space for a speaker and mingling for our Networking event

If your library service/institution would be able to host an M25 or cpd25 event, we would love to hear from you. Contact Jill Howard, M25 Operations Manager: m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

cpd25 Prize Draw winner announced



cpd25 is delighted to announce that the winner of the prize draw to win a free place at any cpd25 event in 2026-27 is **Ian Ward**, from **Regent's University London**.

Attendees at online cpd25 events over the past year were offered entry into the prize draw as an incentive for completing the online event feedback form.

The prize draw will be taking place again in July/August 2027 so do complete the event feedback if attending online cpd25 events between September 2026 and July 2027 - the next winner could be you!

New member focus: Global Banking School

Global Banking School (GBS) is a higher education provider offering a range of sector-relevant courses across ten campuses in London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester. Working in partnership with several of the UK's leading higher education providers, we deliver vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.



Our libraries provide services and resources to students studying a range of programmes including finance, computing, accounting, business, construction management, health care and social work, and more. In addition to print materials, our online databases provide access to an array of resources to support students in these areas.

Our diverse student body reflects GBS' commitment to its vision of 'Changing lives through education'. Many of our students come from backgrounds that have prevented them from accessing an advanced degree. They may be from underrepresented communities and may be the first generation of their family to pursue a career through higher education.

Our student cohort is also mature compared with other institutions; the average student age is 37. GBS puts into practice its commitment to widening participation in higher education, and our library services reflect this commitment.

Our library staff provide the tools and skills our students need to succeed academically, tailored to our unique cohort. We offer workshops on academic referencing, research skills, and one-on-one support sessions to facilitate learning for our students. Together we strive to equip our students to succeed both personally and academically.

www.m25lib.org.uk/members/global-banking-school/



[SpeedMeet Profile: Jessie McLean](#)

July's SpeedMeet profile is Jessie McLean, Open Research and Publishing Librarian in the Library and Learning Services Directorate at Buckinghamshire New University. Find out more about Jessie's role and what she does, all year round, whatever the weather: www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/m25-speedmeet/

Your chance to be in the spotlight

We're looking for staff at our member libraries to feature. What Member Library do you work at and what's your role? Or what cpd25 Task Group or 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 events



6 August

[Visit to UCL East library](#)

7 Sidings Street, London, E20 2-4pm

7 September

[Thriving with resilience in times of uncertainty](#)

Online, 2.00 - 3.30pm

Browse all our upcoming events, including visits, here: <https://www.m25lib.org.uk/events/>

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/>

M25 Consortium website

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*** Apologies for cross-posting**

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