

M25 SpeedMeet

July 2026



Questions

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

I'm Jessie. I work at Buckinghamshire New University, based on the High Wycombe campus. I'm an Open Research and Publishing Librarian in the Library and Learning Services Directorate. I'm still relatively new to my role, so I'm continuing to learn and shape how it develops.

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

I really enjoy helping people, especially academics that have come from practice and early career researchers. I like to take something that is quite complex (open research) and explaining it in a way that is accessible and easier to apply to their everyday work. I enjoy working with individuals to solve a problem that they're stuck with (often publishing!).

I also really value the variability in my role, from managing the institutional repository to helping academics navigate APCs and publishing challenges, to creating Library Guide, and taking a new Open Access Policy to the Research Committee.

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

I'm motivated by the opportunity to make things better and have a meaningful impact – whether that's improving research culture, supporting things like rights retention, or strengthening the university's research offering more broadly. I think that drive comes from my environmental science background and an interest in sustainable change.

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

The M25 Consortium has been an invaluable learning resource. I'm the co-chair of the Sustainability Group, which has given me the opportunity to lead a working group collaborating on gathering resources and shaping what support for members could look like.

I was also recently invited to give an update at the annual M25 Conference, which marked the launch of our Sustainability Toolkit. I hadn't presented at a conference before, so this was a new learning experience that I really enjoyed!

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

Well, anyone that knows me knows that I love dogs! But it may be surprising to know that I regularly go cold water swimming in an open lake. I go all year around, so rain or shine you can find me doing 400m – 800m laps on an early Sunday morning.

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

Honestly, I didn't set out with a plan to become a librarian. I initially applied for a Library Assistant role when I wasn't getting any luck trying to break into the environmental sector. So, if I hadn't landed that entry level role, I would've most likely pursued something using my technical skills, such as a data administrator role for an environmental charity, drawing on my Master's degree in Environmental Science.

But in a different life, I'd be an abstract artist, surrounded by dogs with a cup of coffee in hand.

Jessie McLean, Open Research & Publishing Librarian, Buckinghamshire New University