



David Archer, Chair of the M25 Consortium



We are pleased to announce a date and venue for our Annual Conference next year: Tuesday 8 June 2027 at the Aga Khan Centre in King's Cross, London.

We are very grateful to the Aga Khan Library, an M25 Consortium member, for the use of the Aga Khan Centre for our Conference. We look forward to welcoming you all there next year. In the meantime, put the date in your diaries now!

If you're interested in contributing to the development of our annual conference, we have two vacancies on our Conference Planning Team. Further details are below.

Our Innovation Fund for 2026-2027 launches today. Find out below how your library could benefit and apply by 3 November.

Finally, if you haven't had a chance to participate yet, our Diversity surveys are open until 30 September.

Best wishes, David

Diversity Surveys

The M25 Consortium Diversity Group are conducting their biennial diversity survey and would really appreciate colleagues taking the time to complete it. They are seeking to understand more about the impact of initiatives and practices that address issues of inequality within member libraries.



This year there are two surveys:

Main survey

The main survey is open to all staff, working at all levels, within M25 Consortium libraries. They would like to receive as many replies as possible so please do circulate to your colleagues. Having survey completions from multiple people in each organisation will be very helpful as the questions are based around how impactful initiatives and practices are.

The survey is anonymous and no one will be identifiable in the analysis or the subsequent report.

[M25 Consortium Diversity Survey \(Main\) – Fill in form](#)

Directors/Heads of Service

The link below is for the Director/Heads version. It allows us to ensure that we are getting at least one

response per member institution. It is mainly factual questions about your library/institution.

[M25 Consortium Diversity Survey \(Directors and Heads\) – Fill in form](#)

The surveys will be open until 30 September.

PDF versions:

- [Main](#)
- [Directors](#)

If you would like to contact the Diversity Group directly as an alternative to responding to the surveys, please email: m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

Thank you for participation.

Davina Omar, Steering Group Representative, M25 Consortium Diversity Group



Reports from Staff Development Award recipients

The M25 Consortium offers Staff Development Awards each year. This year seven Awards were made for colleagues to attend Cataloguing Training, the M25 Annual Conference and cpd25's LISA Conference. The recipients have written post-event pieces that describe their experiences and the benefits of attending. Below are some extracts:

LISA Conference 2026 Reports

Extract from Callum Tilbury, Royal Central School of Speech & Drama

“The first session was an excellent keynote from Helen Rimmer about kindness in times of change. It was an invaluable reminder that, as stressful as change can be in the workplace, we must never let it get in the way of the kindness we show to others, or to ourselves. As the challenges facing the HE sector continue to grow, this idea feels particularly timely.”

Next, we embarked on a library tour...the library at the LSHTM completely blew me away. It felt majestic, but not garish; serious, but not stuffy. The reading room was spacious and warm (as in, the décor, not the temperature, even though that was also true!). Despite all this, though, the thing I was most impressed by was the realisation that the LSHTM must have a very tight collection development policy, because there was so much free space on the shelves! The library I supervise has shelves full to bursting, so there is a valuable lesson to learn there about the weeding of outdated stock.”

Extract from Claire Patient, UAL

“Neil Johnstone’s (UAL) workshop on ‘How do we respond to change?’ was an interactive session with a lot of self-reflection on why change feels hard. It highlighted the cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioural responses we have to change, the psychological factors involved, and how we can more easily embrace change. I found this inspiring and took some useful tools for times of change.

Another great, interactive, session from Thomas Pratt (University of East London). Teaching us to be mindful of sustainable career development and to

consider direction rather than having a specific destination in mind. As someone who has changed career recently, it was reassuring to hear that non-linear careers can help in career development.

My key takeaways to share with my team:

- Resilience is not endurance; resilience is capacity.
- Reflection is useful as it allows you space to understand yourself and your responses better. Looking at what you enjoy and what you find difficult can be helpful with searching for relevant opportunities to grow.
- The career compass
- Kindness is important and should be implemented throughout life and work and especially to yourself”

Extract from Rosemary Johnson, Global Banking School

“Workshop 3: Thomas Pratt introduced us to a useful ‘Career Compass’ made up of direction, capability, energy and support. Instead of career climbing, we can build a sustainable career that grows using our energy and directives.

I found this to be a very intelligent way to look at a career, viewing it as a holistic process in which we grow naturally according to our strengths and desires with the support of people we know and respect. I could see how my CPD experience could be important to this process, and how each course or project I have taken can form part of this compass.

This has encouraged me to continue seeking CPD opportunities that will improve the service I provide to students and academic staff.

Thanks to this fascinating day, I grew professionally in ways I did not expect to. The conference reinforced that professional development is not simply about acquiring knowledge but about applying it thoughtfully to improve both individual practice and the wider workplace.

Practical applications:

- Apply the change management techniques to help me respond more positively to organisational change and support colleagues through periods of transition
- Encourage a supportive teamwork by practising the distinction between kindness and niceness, setting healthy boundaries while remaining approachable and collaborative
- Build on the confidence gained from delivering my lightning talk by sharing ideas more readily with colleagues and contributing to professional discussions”

Cataloguing with Confidence Training May 2026

[Extract from report by Sanmeet Kaur, University of West London](#)

“As a Level 3 Library, Information and Archives Services apprentice, I’m still very much finding my feet when it comes to cataloguing. One part of the day that I found particularly interesting was the discussion around subject headings and critical cataloguing. I hadn’t really considered before how

much impact these decisions can have. Subject headings aren't just neutral labels but they shape how users find and understand resources and reflect the 'voice' of the library.

It made me think more carefully about the responsibility that comes with cataloguing. It's not just about following rules correctly, but also about recognising where those rules come from and how they might evolve. As someone early in my career, it felt encouraging to hear that cataloguing is still changing, especially with ongoing conversations around inclusive and representative metadata."

M25 Consortium Annual Conference

[Extract from Jimmy Lo, University of Greenwich](#)

"A central theme of the conference was celebrating staff achievements and fostering sustainable, fair learning pathways for all colleagues across large, diverse directorates. It has been rewarding to learn from the ways structured professional development can build confidence, leadership, and community. Incorporating structured mentorship schemes, where senior leaders or training professionals mentor early-career staff, provides invaluable peer support and cross-departmental networking."

You can also read the full reports on our website:

www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/staff-development-awards/staff-development-awards-recipient-reports/

Next year's Awards will be announced early in 2027.

Join the M25 Consortium's Annual Conference Planning Group



The [M25 Consortium Annual Conference](#) is open to members and non-members and alternates between online and in-person. In 2027 it will be held in-person on Tuesday 8 June at the Aga Khan Centre, London.

The M25 Consortium Conference Planning Group plans and delivers Annual Conference, with the input of M25 Consortium staff. We are currently seeking two new members to join the Planning Group.

The aim of the Group is to ensure that the Consortium delivers a successful Conference each year which reflects the interests of the M25 community of libraries.

Members of the Group are involved with the planning, delivery and post-event stages of Conference. Each member's roles vary but members may get involved with a wide range of activities.

Being part of the Conference Planning Group provides valuable experiences in event delivery and a great opportunity to work with staff from across M25 member institutions.

Planning for next year's Conference starts now (our first meeting will be in w/c 30 September). The Group will hold regular online meetings in the run-up to Conference.

Interested? Find out more on our website:

<https://www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/annual-conference/annual-conference->

[planning-group/](#)

Apply by sending an expression of interest by email to the Group via Jill Howard, M25 Operations Manager, m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

Business Continuity Resources

The Business Continuity resources section on the M25 Consortium website has recently been updated by M25 Consortium Steering Group members Louise Ashton and Pete Williams.

In this section you will find resources to help with matters such as disaster prevention, incident management, and emergency control. There are also example business continuity plans from UK institutions.

The Business Continuity resources are located within the Members' Area of the website and you need to be signed in to view them. Visit this page to register or login: www.m25lib.org.uk/members-area/



London and South East University Group

From 1 August, the University of Greenwich legally changed its name to become the 'London and South East University Group' (informally it will be known as LASE). The University of Kent merged into this Group on the same date.

LASE University Group is a collaboration bringing together the Universities of Greenwich and Kent



under one super-university model, a first in the UK. They are now England's third-largest university group with more than 50,000 students in the UK and on courses across the globe. Their 7,000+ staff are committed to the highest quality education and research, providing opportunity without boundaries from city to coast.

The change to LASE means that we have updated our [Directory of Members](#) to change University of Greenwich to London and South East University Group. Dave Puplett continues as the M25 Consortium Representative.

We look forward to welcoming all LASE library staff to our events as members, including those at the University of Kent and University of Greenwich.

On a formal basis, we will be asking members to note the change at our next AGM in April 2027.

Further details on LASE University Group can be found here: <https://www.lase.ac.uk/about>



Free Institute of Ismaili Studies' Publications

Aga Khan Library is pleased to offer a selection of complimentary copies of Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) publications to interested libraries.

A range of titles covering Ismaili studies, Shi'i studies, Islamic history, philosophy, and related subjects is available free of charge while stocks last. The full list of available publications can be viewed and requested via the form below:

[IIS Publications Request Form – Fill in form](#)

Please note that although the books themselves are being provided free of charge, recipients will be responsible for covering the postage costs. Once they receive your request, we will contact you with details of the postage charge and payment arrangements before dispatch.

To request a publication, complete the form, indicating the title(s) you would like to receive, the number of copies required and your postal delivery address.

Waseem Farooq, Reference/Instructional Librarian, Aga Khan Library.

Vacancies at M25 Consortium Member Libraries

Collection & Discovery Manager Goldsmiths, University of London

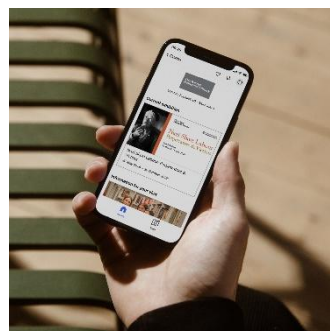
Library Services are looking for an experienced and adaptable professional with strong knowledge of collections, discovery and content lifecycle management. They will bring experience of managing budgets, suppliers, contracts and staff, alongside excellent communication and relationship-building skills.

Location: New Cross Gate, London

Hours: Full Time, Permanent

Closing date: 23.59 hours BST on Wednesday 23 September 2026

[Further details and an application form](#)



Digitisation Officer**The Wiener Holocaust Library**

The Wiener Holocaust Library has a vacancy for a Digitisation Officer. At the end of 2026, the Library will complete its ambitious five-year Digital Transformation Project to revolutionise access to its collections. The successful Digitisation Officer candidate will have a proven track record in photography and digitisation, a knowledge of photographing and processing items in a studio situation, and a deep understanding of the equipment, software and systems used for this.

Hours: Permanent part-time (60% FTE)

Location: based in Central London, WC1

Start date: as soon as possible

Closing date: 22 September, 5.30pm

[Download the full job description and person specification](#)

Send your CV and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience to: Olivia Oakley, Office Coordinator, ooakley@wienerholocaustlibrary.org
For an informal talk, please contact Christopher Gilley at cgilley@wienerholocaustlibrary.org.

Assistant Librarian

Library, Archive & Open Research Services (LAORS), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

LAORS is looking for an Assistant Librarian to work with the existing Information Services team to expand the annual information skills teaching programme and the evidence-synthesis literature searching service.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone looking to actively contribute to the development of the

annual information skills programme during a time of exciting change in LSHTM's education programmes. This post will be responsible for ensuring developments in universal design principles and accessible pedagogy are successfully integrated into the programme. The post-holder will also contribute to the evidence-synthesis literature searching service.

Hours: Full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE and fixed term for 24 months

Location: LSHTM, London, WC1E

Closing date: 10pm on 24 September

[For further details and apply online](#)

Science Museum Librarian

Science Museum Group

Are you passionate about connecting people with world-class collections and making archives and rare books accessible to all? The Science Museum Library provides access to around 8,000 books and periodicals covering the history and biography of science, technology and medicine, as well as being an access point for the Science Museum Group's rich collections of archives and rare books.

Hours: Part-time (0.8/28 hours per week), permanent post

Location: Science Museum Library in South Kensington, London.

Closing date: 25 September

[Further details and how to apply](#)



Apply for an M25 Consortium Innovation Fund 2026-2027

We are pleased to announce that applications to the [M25 Consortium's Innovation Fund](#) are now open. The Innovation Fund is a competitive award created by the M25 Consortium and open to staff at all our member institutions. This year we have doubled the total funding available to £2,000.

Last year the University of Surrey library, received an Innovation Fund award to provide free places and travel bursaries to their training workshops on accessible digitisation.

Successful applicants receive funding to deliver a project, resource, research or other activity that works towards one or more of the themes in the Consortium's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, for the benefit of Consortium members.

To download the application form, find out more about the Innovation Fund and the criteria used to assess applications and to read about past successful applicants, visit our website:

www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/innovation-fund/

If you would like an informal chat before making an application, please contact Christopher Cipkin, Innovation Fund Panel Chair:
Christopher.Cipkin@rhul.ac.uk

Closing date is 3 November.

We look forward to receiving your applications.



SpeedMeet Profile: Joanne Cawkwell

September's SpeedMeet profile is Joanne Cawkwell, Library Assistant in Library & Learning Services at Kingston University. Joanne presented a Lightning Talk 'Pause Point at Kingston' at our [Annual Conference](#) this year.

Find out more about Joanne's role and what motivates her here: www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/m25-speedmeet/

It's all about you

We're looking for staff at our member libraries to feature. Send an email to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk and showcase you and your library service.



Upcoming events

15 October

[Accessible Digitisation for GLAMs: From Low-Cost Cameras to 3D Models for collections](#)

University of Surrey Library, 9.30am-4.30pm

21 October

[Open Educational Resources – Moving Towards Sustainable Collections?](#)

Online, 2.00-4.15pm

4 November

[Visit to London Transport Museum Library](#)

London Transport Museum Depot, 2.00-4.00pm

12 November

[Managing Student Behaviour](#)

Online, 10.00am-1.00pm

[Browse all our upcoming 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://whelf.ac.uk/>

WHELF: <https://whelf.ac.uk/>

M25 Consortium website

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