

M25 Consortium Newsletter April 2021

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The annual conference is always a highlight of the year so it was with regret that we had to cancel the 2020 event during lockdown. Having learned a lot from the series of successful cpd25 sessions run virtually during the pandemic, the Steering Group felt that we could run an online conference in 2021: the theme of The Future of Libraries was more relevant than ever and we could offer an opportunity to speak to people who had prepared last year, as well as to colleagues with new experiences to share.

Despite the careful and detailed planning and organisation from the team, to be honest none of us were quite sure how it was going to go-would Zoom work; would anyone attend; would the speakers come across virtually without an audience in the room? I was delighted (and relieved) that on the day over 100 delegates joined the conference for a series of interesting, engaging and challenging presentations, which made good use of the format and went off with almost no technical hitches!

Feedback on the day was very positive-it was felt that use of chat encouraged a wider range of questions and comments; and the online format made attendance much more time-efficient, without all the travelling. There were also useful suggestions for the future including possible use of breakout rooms for networking between sessions. We will bear all of these in mind for future events.

If you were unable to attend or would like to revisit some of the highlights, a selection of the talks are now available in the [Members' Area](#) of the website (If you can't remember your password you can [reset it here](#)) - including the fascinating keynote from Professor Shân Wareing who drew parallels between the worlds of Star Wars and the world of libraries! There is also a selection of [posters and commentaries created for the 2020 and 2021 conferences](#) so do have a look if you have a chance and please let us know your thoughts on future events and the medium which would suit you best.

Matthew Lawson, M25 Consortium Chair



50% discount for members on cpd25 events!

From 1 August 2021 M25 member institutions will receive a 50% discount on the full cost of cpd25 event rates.* This is a significant increase on the 25% discount currently in place. We will also continue to provide free member-only events as part of the programme. To be added to the cpd25 mailing list and receive weekly event updates please email cpd25@london.ac.uk.

We're recruiting! **cpd25 Chair**

Deadline: noon Monday 10th May 2021

The M25 Consortium's Officers seek to recruit a Chair for its cpd25 programme, to take up post on 1st August 2021 for a term of two years. The principal task of the cpd25 Chair is to lead the team of four task groups that provide the programme. The cpd25 Chair is also an Officer of the M25 Consortium, being a trustee of the charity and a director of the company. The position is unpaid and the annual time commitment is around 10-11 days for meetings throughout the year, plus associated deskwork. Applications are invited from directors and senior staff in M25 Member institutions. [To learn more about the role and how to apply please click here.](#) We look forward to hearing from you!

M25 Annual Conference resources

'The Future of Libraries'

Thank you to all the conference speakers for a diverse range of talks and a brilliant day at the M25 Conference. We're delighted to share with you a recording of the keynote talk from Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Northampton, Professor Shân Wareing, '**The Future of Libraries: what can we learn from Star Wars?**' and a recorded presentation from Kingston University, '**Libraries: the most truly democratic space?**' exclusively in the [Members' Area: Virtual Learning and Development section](#) of the website.



[Slides and posters from the day are available on the website at this link.](#)

Members' Virtual Learning and Development



Search25 update and Buddying Scheme

This is a reminder that the Search25 discovery tool will be decommissioned on 31 July 2021. Please make your staff and users aware of this deadline. We are encouraging members who are not already doing so to contribute their bibliographic metadata to the Jisc Library Hub. Following the recent Members' Seminar, we have introduced the 'Buddying Scheme'. Using an institution's Library Management System as the main criteria, we will match those members not yet using Library Hub with an institution that has already made the transition to Library Hub. The 'buddy' institution will offer informal advice, tips, and support where needed. If you feel you could benefit from this scheme or would like to offer your expertise as a buddy, please contact rachel.telfer@london.ac.uk to find out more.

[Annual Action Plan 2021-22](#)

Following the Steering Group Planning Day in January 2021, the Steering Group has published an [Annual Action Plan](#) for the final year of the 2019-22 strategy [Connecting Libraries, Developing Staff](#).

The Annual Action Plan reflects on the Consortium's achievements in 2020-21 and details the plan for our activities in 2021-22.



[Diversity in academic libraries](#)

The [M25 Diversity Task and Finish Group](#) is gathering case studies and examples of best practice from across member libraries. Our focus is on BAME staff experiences and we're particularly exploring four strands of work: active allying, starting conversations, diversity training, and positive action. **If your library has done work in any of these areas, we want to hear from you!** Please email Group Chair, Katie Winter at k.winter@surrey.ac.uk.

We're pleased to share with you case studies from the University of East London and the University of Surrey [View the case studies here](#).

[M25 SpeedMeet](#)

Every month we meet someone working in an M25 member institution and ask them to tell us a little bit about themselves. This month we meet Rowan Williamson, Associate Director of Library Services and Support, University of the Arts London. If you're interested in contributing to the SpeedMeet please contact



m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

[View the latest SpeedMeet interview here.](#)



M25 Vouchers

Deadline 31 July 2021

This is a reminder to all members with M25 vouchers remaining from 2019-20 or 2020-21 that voucher credit will remain valid until 31 July 2021. Vouchers can be redeemed against membership subscriptions, cpd25 events, the M25 conference, and events. For further information on vouchers please visit the Members' Area or contact m25sgadmin@london.ac.uk. M25 Vouchers for 2021-22 will be available from May 2021.

[Members' Area](#)

Wellbeing in Libraries

228 of you have visited the M25 Wellbeing Blog from the [Wellbeing Task and Finish Group](#) in February! If you haven't yet had a chance to visit the blog you can use the link below. Don't forget to share these resources with your colleagues.



[M25 Wellbeing Blog](#)

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/>

Northern Collaboration: <https://northerncollaboration.org.uk/>

NoWAL: <https://www.nowal.ac.uk/>

SCURL: <https://www.scurl.ac.uk/about>

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

Apologies for cross-posting

* The full rate is the same as a non-member rate. Members will be charged 50% less than non-members for cpd25 events from 1 August 2021.

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[M25 Consortium website](#)



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