



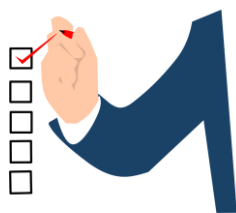
Newsletter

Looking back over the past 12 months there is a certain circulatory to events- from the lockdown last Christmas, to the relaxation of restrictions, the approach of the much heralded “new normal” in the autumn and now a return to an increase in home working at year end. This pattern may repeat across several years but the flexibility and adaptability of libraries within the M25 and across the wider sector is readily apparent. It has been truly impressive to see how library staff have adapted to the changing circumstances, and altered the ways in which they provide services and resources accordingly to ensure their users receive support.

The Consortium has also continued its support of members, with volunteers from all areas of the membership collaborating to provide valued services- including cpd25 courses and the conference adapting to running successfully online; and the Diversity and Wellbeing task and finish groups have continued their work to identify resources and examples of best practice likely to be of general interest. Planning has taken place on a new mentor scheme for M25 members-aligned with the Sconul scheme to provide opportunities for staff to be involved throughout their career. Feedback is always welcome and you will see below a link to the Member Engagement Survey-if you haven't had a chance to complete it yet please do so and help shape future M25 activities.

I wish you all a well deserved rest and a peaceful and relaxing winter break.

Matthew Lawson, M25 Consortium Chair



Member engagement survey

We would be grateful if all staff at M25 member libraries would complete the member engagement survey at the button below. Your responses are an essential part of our work to ensure the Consortium's services are as relevant and accessible as possible. The survey will close on 5 January.

[Member engagement survey](#)

Diversity in M25 institutions

The M25 Diversity Task and Finish group invites you to complete a survey to help us understand what initiatives member libraries are undertaking to address issues of racial inequality within their organisations. The results of this survey will be used to report on current approaches across Consortium libraries and to share best practice. The survey is open to all members of staff in M25 Consortium libraries and should take 5-10 minutes to complete. We would very much appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. The survey will close on 14 January.

[Diversity in M25 institutions survey](#)

Recruiting new members

The M25 Diversity Task and Finish Group are recruiting new members. If you're interested in joining the group or have any questions, please email Katie Winter at k.winter@surrey.ac.uk. You can read about the



group and look at case studies gathered by the group [here](#).



New for 2021-22 M25 Mentoring Scheme

We're delighted to introduce the M25 Mentoring Scheme. The core purpose of the M25 Mentoring Scheme is to support library staff in their professional growth by facilitating mentoring relationships with more experienced colleagues. The scheme is intended to support non-senior staff in the Consortium's member libraries and will dovetail with SCONUL's mentoring scheme for senior staff.

Call for mentors

Are you working in an M25 member library and have experience as a mentor or would like to try mentoring for the first time?

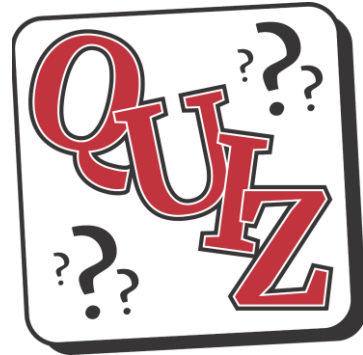
We are looking for mentors who want to support the professional development of others and in doing so, contribute to their own professional development. Mentors should have at least two years' experience at a level equivalent to or higher than the proposed mentee, therefore, we are seeking mentors from a wide range of library roles and levels of experience.

[Further information, guidelines, and details on how to apply can be found on the website.](#) Questions about the scheme should be sent to the M25 Executive Manager, Rachel Telfer, at rachel.telfer@london.ac.uk.

Interested in being a mentee? As soon as we've established a pool of mentors we will share information on how mentees can apply.

Save the date: Members' Quiz

Staff from M25 member libraries are invited to join us for a general knowledge quiz on Tuesday 8th February at 5 pm. The event will be held on Zoom and all members are invited to join. Registration will open in January.



TG2: Quality Standards and Legal Frameworks

cpd25 is currently seeking a new member to join [Task Group 2](#). Membership of Task Groups is open to all staff in [M25 member institutions](#), with Task Group members normally drawn from a cross-section of member institutions, job roles and levels. Each Task Group meets approximately 3-4 times per year, and there is an annual cpd25 planning event. If anyone interested would like more information before making a decision, please contact the cpd25 Chair, [Sara Burnett](#), for an informal discussion. Formal expressions of interest, not exceeding 400 words, outlining relevant experience and reasons for wanting to get involved should be made to [Sara Burnett](#) by **Noon on Friday 28th January 2022** please.

M25 SpeedMeet

Every month we meet someone working in an M25 member institution and ask them to tell us a little bit about themselves. We're delighted to share with you the recent SpeedMeet with M25 Steering Group member Christopher Cipkin, Director of Library, Learning Support, & Culture at Royal Holloway, University of London. To read the current and past SpeedMeet interviews please [click here](#).



This opportunity is open to staff at all levels working at M25 member libraries. If you're interested in contributing to the SpeedMeet please contact rachel.telfer@london.ac.uk.



Would you like to write a post for our wellbeing blog? Get in touch!

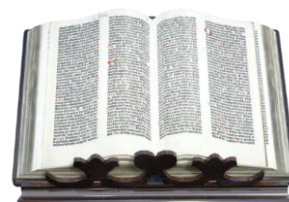
We invite members to share case studies on wellbeing in your libraries for the [M25 Wellbeing blog](#). If you would like to contribute to the blog please contact rachel.telfer@london.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

The M25 Task & Finish Group on Wellbeing has made available a number of excellent resources on the M25 Wellbeing Blog and M25 website looking at the ways academic libraries can promote student and staff wellbeing. You can view the resources by clicking the button below.

[**M25 Wellbeing Resources**](#)

Join the M25 Curators and Exhibitions Network

The Curators and Exhibitions Network supports individuals working in M25 Member libraries with curatorial responsibilities or holding curator roles within the library service. The aim of the network is to share experiences, best practices and to act as a professional support network.



We encourage members of staff from all levels of experience to join the Network. Please email your name, job title, and institution to rachel.telfer@london.ac.uk.



Search25 update and Buddying Scheme

This is a reminder that the **Search25 discovery tool was decommissioned on 31 July 2021**. We are encouraging members who are not already doing so to contribute their bibliographic metadata to the Jisc Library Hub. We have introduced the 'Buddying Scheme' to match those members not yet using Library Hub with an institution that has already made the transition to Library Hub. If you feel you could benefit from this scheme please contact rachel.telfer@london.ac.uk to find out more.

Notice for M25 Reps

We would be delighted to meet with you to discuss how the Consortium's services can support you and your team. We also welcome suggestions and feedback from staff at member institutions. If you feel you could benefit from an informal meeting (in-person or virtual) with the M25 Executive Manager, please contact rachel.telfer@london.ac.uk.



Invitation to participate in an online research conversation

On behalf of Victoria Edwards at the University of Sheffield

I am currently studying towards a PhD in Information Studies at the University of Sheffield's iSchool. The purpose of my research is to explore both library and e-book supplier workflows surrounding the quality management of the bibliographic metadata of e-books and the relationships between these two parties. The research will also examine attitudes towards the value of cataloguing and how this relates to perceptions of roles within the changing environment of the academic library sector. The project also aims to consider communities of practice that key actors are involved in and the structures and norms of these communities. I am inviting senior managers and cataloguing staff from libraries within the M25 Consortium to participate in an online research conversation that will last approximately 45-60 minutes. If you are interested in taking part in this project, please email me: veedwards2@sheffield.ac.uk

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 (Formerly Northern Collaboration &

NoWAL): <https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk>

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

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

Apologies for cross-posting

If you're unable to view the images in this email please click 'unblock content' at the top of this email or contact m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

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

