



**M25**  
**CONSORTIUM**  
**OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES**

**Newsletter**

Happy New Year, and welcome to our first M25 Consortium Newsletter of 2024. The start of a new year is often a time to both reflect and look forward. As you will know, Stuart Hunt stepped down as M25 Chair at the end of November with his move from the University of Reading to the University of Durham to take up the post of Director of Library Services and Collections and University Librarian. We are grateful for Stuart's thoughtful leadership of the M25 Consortium over the past 18 months, and for his valuable contributions as a member of the M25 Steering Group prior to this, and wish him all the very best in his new role in the north east. I was pleased to be co-opted by the Trustees to the role of Interim Chair of the M25 Consortium from 1 December until the 2024 AGM, when an election will be required. I look forward to working with you all in this new capacity over the coming months to deliver on our plans and programmes in line with our Strategy 2023-2026.

In mid-December we advertised for a new M25 Operations Manager. This newly configured post will be responsible for leading and managing the M25 Support Team, working closely with the Chair, Trustees and Steering Group to implement the Consortium's objectives, promote our work and activities and actively engage with our membership. Please do share the details with your networks. Deadline for applications is 28 January.

This month we have relaunched our M25 SpeedMeet, a chance to meet someone working in an M25 member institution and hear a little bit about them. Do take a look over the coming weeks, and get in touch if you or a colleague would like to take part. We will also shortly be inviting applications to the 2024 M25 Staff Development Awards. I encourage you to circulate the details amongst your colleagues and teams once announced. Staff development remains central to our mission, and the M25 Mentoring Scheme and cpd25 Programme continue to provide opportunities for staff working within M25 member organisations to consolidate skills, exchange experience and explore new areas. Planning for our first M25 Leadership Briefing of 2024 is also well underway. Watch out for further announcements in due course.

Wishing you all the best for 2024.

David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

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### **Job vacancy: M25 Consortium Operations Manager**

The M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries is seeking an [Operations Manager](#) to lead and manage the Consortium's support team and work closely with the Consortium Chair, Trustees and Steering Group. The post holder will be employed by the University of London and seconded to the M25 Consortium.

More details about the post, including how to apply, can be found through this link:

[M25 Operations Manager](#)

**Closing date: midnight on Sunday  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

For an informal and confidential conversation about the role, please contact David Archer (Chair of the M25 Consortium) at [david.archer@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:david.archer@lshtm.ac.uk) to arrange a call.

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### **M25 Diversity Group Webinar: Introduction to Apprenticeship Schemes for Library and Archives, Information and Knowledge Services**



In November, the M25 Diversity group hosted a webinar to share information and ideas on embedding apprenticeship positions into library and information services.

The speakers covered the apprenticeship scheme, its standards, how they have set them up or plan to set them up and fair recruitment. There was also a short talk from current apprentices on their experiences.

Recordings of the talks will shortly be available to watch in the members area of the Consortium's website.

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### **Mentoring Scheme**

The Consortium's Mentoring Scheme and cpd25 ran an online event recently to provide an introduction to mentoring, including best practice

and tips on undertaking effective mentoring conversations, an opportunity to hear from a seasoned mentor about their experience, and an overview of the M25's Mentoring Scheme. Recordings of the presentations are available in the members area of the Consortium's website - visit the Virtual Learning and Development page.

For more information on the Mentoring Scheme and contact details, please see our website.

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### **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 David Archer from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and recently appointed Interim Chair of the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries. [View the latest SpeedMeet and past interviews here.](#)



If you're interested in contributing to the SpeedMeet please contact [m25libadmin@london.ac.uk](mailto:m25libadmin@london.ac.uk).

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#### **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/>

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[M25 Consortium website](#)