

Why join a CPD25 task group?

I joined a CPD25 task group as a way to network with colleagues and to get involved in the training being provided.

Working with a CPD25 task group has met those ambitions and provided me with far more than I expected! I have had the opportunity to meet with library staff both in the CPD25 membership but also nationally, visit other libraries, gain confidence in public speaking and get free training.

The task group members get together 3-4 times a year to brainstorm ideas for training. If you have something happening in your own library that you need to research or plan for then chances are that is often of interest to others too! Sharing experiences within the task group is really valuable and even if it doesn't lead to a training session you gain knowledge from colleagues that you can take back to your own library. We can also suggest libraries to organise a visit too. Once an area for training is agreed in the group, then the group puts together ideas to find speakers with experience and knowledge in the area. We then work with one or two other group members to contact the prospective speakers. Next we set a date for the event, not as easy as it sounds getting a date everyone can do and not clashing with other events. Finally we pull together marketing materials such as speaker bios, a brief event outline and talk titles for the CPD25 administrator to put up on the website for us. We have guidance on how to do this (but as library staff are born organisers it's not a hard task) and any one new to the group works with other experienced group members for their first couple of events. From my experience, it's rare for people approached not to agree to speak, as I think everyone in our profession is always interested in sharing information.

On the day, the group members who pulled together the event are the event hosts whether in person or online. You get to attend the event and hear all the speakers alongside meeting the attendees and the speakers. It helps grow your confidence in public speaking and meeting people when you represent CPD25 at the events.

So why not give joining a CPD25 task group a go – free training for your time in organising an event in area that you want to know about – it's a “Win Win” situation!

Judith Wells, Customer Services Manager, University Library, ARU Cambridge. Task Group 3 member. May 2024