



David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

I hope all is going well at this busy time of year for many of our members, and that you are looking forward to the year ahead. There are a number of M25 events and initiatives coming up, so please do read on to find out more.

This month we have launched the pilot of our new M25 Innovation Fund, which provides an opportunity for M25 Working/Task & Finish Groups, programmes and networks to apply for funding to take forward a particular project during 2024-2025 in support of our strategic priorities. Details of deadlines and how to apply can be found below.

Please keep 4 December 2024 free in your diaries for our M25 Networking Event – an opportunity for



staff in member libraries to come together and socialise with colleagues across the M25. We also have an [Exchange of Experience](#) (free member-only) event taking place online earlier that day, this time focusing on supporting systematic reviews. Details of this and other training events can be found on our [website](#).

2023-2024 was a fantastic year for our cpd25 programme. 91% of attendees rated our events as excellent or very good, and those involved in our cpd25 Task Groups designing and delivering the programme also gained a great deal from the experience. A full report can be found below. My thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in providing such great development opportunities for our members, including of course Laura Scullion on the M25 Support Team, who features in this month's [SpeedMeet](#).

And finally a warm welcome to our newest member, the Royal Horticultural Society, who's request to join the M25 Consortium has been accepted by the Trustees and Steering Group ahead of formal approval at our AGM. We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Best wishes
David



M25's Innovation Fund

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new [Innovation Fund](#).

What is the Innovation Fund?

The Innovation Fund is a Fund that will award grants to successful applicants that meet the Fund's criteria and the M25 Consortium's aim to support all members across the South East of England in their personal, professional and institutional development through cooperative and collaborative endeavours.

Successful grants will be awarded to enable, deliver and/or support a project, resource, research or other activity that works towards one or more of our current [strategic themes](#): People: Inspiring and developing our staff, Collaboration: Connecting and collaborating through our membership, Diversity: Celebrating diversity in our institutions and our staff and Sustainability: Acting sustainably

How much grant money is available?

The total amount in the Fund for 2024-25 is £1,000 and applicants can apply for grants from the fund from £100 up to £1,000. The first year of the Innovation Fund 2024-25 is a Pilot Year. In the Pilot Year applications are open to M25 and cpd25 Task Groups, Working Groups and Networks.

How to apply

We warmly welcome all applications. Groups, committees and networks should send a short document to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk addressing the five points set out on our [Innovation](#)

[Fund web page.](#)

Applications will be assessed by the Innovation Fund Assessment Panel made up of an M25 Consortium Trustee and members of the M25 Consortium Steering Group.

2024-25 Timeline

- Deadline for bids: 5pm on Thursday 31 October 2024
- Successful bids informed by Thursday 14 November 2024
- Fund activities to end no later than the end of June 2025

Visit the [Innovation Fund web page](#) for further information including:

- Points to address when applying
- Examples of innovations
- Innovation Fund assessment
- Assessment criteria and restrictions

If you're part of a Task Group or Committee and have any questions, contact the Innovation Fund Assessment Panel via the M25 Operations Manager m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

We look forward to receiving applications!

Save the Date and Join Us: Networking Event, 4 December

We warmly welcome all members to join us at our annual networking event in December. We will be holding an informal drinks reception on **Wednesday 4 December** from 6-9pm at a Central London venue. This will be the perfect opportunity to make connections and catch up with others working in member libraries. We are also arranging a visit prior to the networking event to the University of Westminster's library in Marylebone. We will send out more details soon but for now, please save the 4th December and we look forward to seeing you there.



cpd25 Event Attendance and Evaluation report 2023-24



“The speakers brought so much enthusiasm and positivity to their talks, truly inspiring.”

So you want to be a Subject Librarian?, 20th June 2024

After an excellent year of providing relevant and high quality training, events and visits, cpd25 has recently published its annual [event attendance report for 2023-24](#).

in 2023-24 cpd25 Task Groups put on 17 events; the majority were online with four in-person events.

They also held 18 visits. Across visits and events, the total number of attendees was 551.

Fifty-one per cent of attendees provided feedback on our events and of those, the overwhelming majority (91%) rated the event excellent or very good. Our attendees value attending in order to increase their knowledge, learn new ideas and approaches and to make connections. You can read more delegate comments in the report. Here's just a few:

“It was great to meet and share experiences with other delegates. I found this most valuable”

“The convivial atmosphere and splendid surroundings of Toynbee Hall made it very special – the content and catering were excellent too!”

SLA Conference 2024, 4th July 2024

“Thanks for making it online - it makes it easier to be allowed to attend events like this.”

A Practical look at AI and HE Libraries, 5th March 2024

“Huge thanks to Ned – brilliant training session and I can't wait to try out the ideas shared!”

Presentation Skills, 24th April 2024

“A really great session. I took away a lot of great information, general advice and next steps for how to upskill whilst I look for the right position. Thank you!”

Demystifying Research Support Roles in Libraries, 11th June 2024

[View and download the full report on our website](#)

Get involved

The cpd25 programme is curated by m25 members through the four cpd25 task groups. Veronica Parisi, a member of Task Group Four, has shared her thoughts about being involved:

"Becoming a member of TG4 has undoubtedly been one of the best choices I could make, and I am grateful for the many opportunities it has provided. I highly encourage anyone looking to develop their skills and connect with a vibrant, fun-loving community to join any CPD25 Task Group and help shape its invaluable activities."

Read more testimonials on our website:

www.m25lib.org.uk/cpd25/cpd25-task-group-member-testimonials/

And you can get involved in the programme by joining one of the Task Groups. We currently have vacancies for Task Groups Two and Three.

Read more about the Task Groups on our website:

www.m25lib.org.uk/cpd25/

If you're interested in joining Task Group Two or Three, contact Sara Burnett Chair of cpd25, for more information: S.Burnett@kingston.ac.uk

Welcome to our new member: Royal Horticultural Society

We are very pleased to welcome our newest member: the Royal Horticultural Society* (RHS). Elizabeth Oliver, Deputy Head of Libraries at RHS, is the M25 Consortium Representative.



Widely regarded as the finest collection of horticultural literature in the world, RHS Libraries has been awarded Designated Status by Arts Council England, signifying its national and international importance.

Part of the charitable purpose of the RHS, the libraries are used by researchers, academics, gardeners, students and children - all needing information adapted to their level. Library staff respond to enquiries from all over the world on a wide variety of subjects connected to the science of horticulture, gardening and the history of the RHS.

The RHS Libraries are situated in London, RHS Garden Wisley in Surrey (and RHS Garden Harlow Carr in Yorkshire). They provide access to a collection of over 100,000 items; with cutting edge horticultural research, practical gardening and children's books sitting alongside many rare and precious materials including RHS archives, rare books and photographic and art collections.

You can read more about the RHS Libraries and their collections online at:

www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs

and

www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/collections

Elizabeth is exploring the possibility of hosting library visits: one to their library at RHS Wisley and the other to the Lindley Library London and we eagerly look forward to those visits.

* In line with the M25's Articles of Association, RHS's request to join has been accepted as a member by the Trustees and the Steering Group. Their recommendation of RHS as a member will formally be put to the membership at the next M25 Consortium AGM in 2025.

Visits in November



The visit to the Wiener Holocaust Library on 1 November is now fully booked. But you can join the waiting list by completing the registration form on our website: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/visit-to-the-wiener-holocaust-library-tg4v-wiener/

[Shakespeare's Globe Library](#)

There are still spaces available to visit Shakespeare's Globe Library at 2-4pm on 24 November.

The Library & Archive team will give a talk on the library and archive collections at Shakespeare's

Globe, using items from the collections to illustrate. This will cover the development of the Globe by Sam Wanamaker; items and recordings from their performance archive including prompt books, wardrobe notes, programmes, posters and photographs; rare books and some costume items from the clothing archive.

Find out more and register your place here: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/visit-to-shakespeares-globe-library-tg4v-globe/

All upcoming events are listed on our website: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/



Diversity Group survey: last few days to complete the survey!

The M25 Diversity Group is seeking to understand more about initiatives that aim to address issues of inequality within member libraries. The results of their survey will contribute to a report outlining current practice in member libraries and will share good practice examples with the M25 community.

This survey is open to all staff, working at all levels, within M25 libraries.

Thank you to our members who have already completed it. The survey closes on 30 September

so now's the time to click on the link to add your views: <https://forms.gle/4M4qT6rdpRa8dVrE9>

Thank you.

[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 one of M25's own staff members: Laura Scullion, Administrator (Events and Programmes). Many of you will have had contact with Laura regarding our Events so it is a pleasure to profile Laura, find out more about her role and what she enjoys about her job.



[Read Laura's profile and browse our past interviews](#)

What's your role and where do you work?

We are on the lookout for more M25 SpeedMeet people! It's easy to do and a great way to increase your professional profile. Whatever your role, we'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to be featured on our M25 SpeedMeet page, send an email to m25libadmin@london.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

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[M25 Consortium website](#)

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