David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

We're all painfully conscious of the prevalence of malicious emails in our sector, and the M25 Consortium is no exception. We are aware that some of our members have recently received a malicious email referring to the M25 Consortium. We have taken immediate and appropriate measures, including reporting it to the relevant authorities. There is currently no evidence our systems have been compromised, but if you have any questions or concerns, please email m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

On a more positive note, as I write this I'm looking forward to attending our Leadership Briefing: Dark Sky Thinking at the end of this week. Whilst the

topic - experience of operating within severe financial constraints – may not be cheery, the opportunity to come together to share experience and support each other is always welcome and it promises to be a great session.

I'm also really looking forward to catching up with colleagues at our Networking Event in Marylebone on 4 December, as well as the visit to the University of Westminster beforehand. If you haven't already booked a place at these events you'll find the details below. Hope to see many of you there.

And finally, congratulations to the M25 Diversity Working Group who successfully bid for an award to support their work through our new Innovation Fund. The award will enable the group to stage an event in the new year to share the results of the recent member survey and highlight best practice across our membership. Watch this space.

Best wishes

David

It's nearly time for the M25's Annual Informal Networking Event
Wednesday 4 December
Have you registered yet?

The M25 Networking Event 2024 is taking place on Wednesday 4th December for staff at M25 Member libraries, and invited guests, from 6pm to 9pm in The Regent Room at The Prince Regent Pub, Marylebone. We will be offering complimentary

drinks and canapes.

This event is a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues both old and new from across the M25 Consortium. Staff of all levels at our university, college, national and scholarly libraries come together for an informal evening of networking.

Places are free of charge, as a benefit of M25 membership. For safety purposes, only persons on the guest list will be admitted and numbers are limited, so book your place now by completing the booking form (one per staff member) on the event web page: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/networking-event-2024-2/

Trustees and M25 Support Staff look forward to seeing you there. Don't miss out, register now!

This event is sponsored by SirsiDynix

There will be the opportunity to meet their representatives on the night and find out more about CloudSource OA, a new content and discovery platform.

[Photo of The Prince Regent Pub © The Prince Regent]

[Visit to the University of Westminster Library and Fab Lab](#)
Wednesday 4 December
5-6pm, University of Westminster
35 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LS

We are very pleased to offer a pre-Networking Event visit to the Library and Fab Lab at the University of Westminster.

The visit will include a tour of the Marylebone campus library with Ann Munn, Interim Head of Library & Archive Service. This will include the newly refurbished first floor group study area.

The visit will also include a tour of the [Fab Lab](#) with a member of their team.

Bookings for visits are free of charge but are open to members of the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries only. Please note that advance booking is required. Please email cpd25@london.ac.uk if you are unsure if you have a confirmed booking.

Numbers are limited, so register now: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/visit-to-university-of-westminster/

[Photo of [The Fab Lab](#) © The University of Westminster]

Diversity Group benefit from the M25's Innovation Fund

We are pleased to report that the M25's Diversity Group has been successful in its application to the M25 Innovation Fund.

This is a Fund that awards grants to successful applicants that meet the Fund's criteria and the M25 Consortium's aim to support all members in their personal, professional and institutional development through cooperative and collaborative endeavours. In its first pilot year of operation, applications were restricted to M25 Groups and Networks.

The Diversity Group will be using their Innovation Fund award to put on a high profile event to launch the results of a recent survey to consortium members and other interested parties. They will also offer bursary places and travel costs to enable people to be able to attend where cost might have been a barrier. By doing this, they aim to maximise the impact of the findings of their second Library diversity survey.
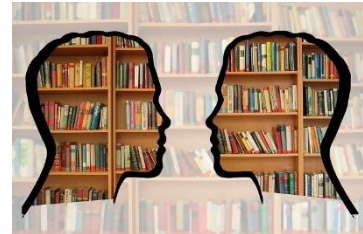
We wish the Diversity Group every success with this work and look forward to the relevant and thought-provoking event next year.

Deaf Awareness Training with Dot Sign Language
28 November
10.30am-1pm
Online

There are still a few places available on our Deaf Awareness Online Training course presented by Dot Sign Language.

Dot's thought provoking and interactive online Deaf Awareness training sessions are great fun, providing attendees with the tools to improve interaction with deaf people internally and externally, breaking down communication barriers.

This session will cover discussions regarding the prevalence of deafness in the U.K, deaf issues, deaf culture and British Sign Language (BSL). They provide practical steps to help attendees actively promote engagement with BSL users ensuring accessibility, and their 'hands on' session in breakout rooms provides attendees the opportunity to learn basic fingerspelling and BSL relevant to your organisation.

Dot's teachers are all Deaf BSL users. They are the best people to teach their language and answer your questions from personal experience. They will teach the session in BSL – so you can immerse yourselves in sign language. They will provide an interpreter to voiceover the session and interpret your questions.

"This was a really useful session and I was able to start learning BSL in a very accessible way."
[delegate feedback, Deaf Awareness course, 24 January 2024]

Trainer: Kathleen Grehan, Director, Dot Sign Language

Cost
£25.00 members

Don't delay, find out more and book your place: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/deaf-awareness-training-with-dot-sign-language-tg2-awareness-2/

Browse all our upcoming events here: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/

Wellbeing: Resources for Library Staff

Between 2019 and 2021 the M25 Task & Finish Group on Wellbeing investigated the ways that academic libraries can promote student wellbeing through their own activities and by working with other groups within the university. It also looked at how libraries are supporting the wellbeing of their own staff. The Group and its associated Wellbeing Blog are now closed but the excellent resources that they curated, including videos and articles, are all on our website.

You can view them here: www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/wellbeing-resources-for-library-staff/

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 Tom Pratt, Associate Director (User Experience and Engagement) within Library, Archives and Learning Services at the University of East London. Find out what motives Tom at work and what team he supports and browse our past interviews here: www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/m25-speedmeet/

What's your role and where do you work?
We'd love to feature you! It's easy to do and a great way to increase your professional profile. If you'd like to be featured on our M25 SpeedMeet page, send an email to 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
WHELF: 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