

The logo for the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries Newsletter. It features the text 'M25' in a large, bold font, with 'M' in grey and '25' in orange. Below this, 'CONSORTIUM OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES' is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word 'Newsletter' is written in a grey, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background within a white rectangular frame, which is itself set against a larger orange background.

M25
CONSORTIUM
OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES
Newsletter

David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

The visit to the University of Westminster at the start of this month followed by our Networking Event in Marylebone was a lovely opportunity to catch up with old colleagues and to meet some new ones, and a nice way to close out 2024 and my first year as M25 Chair. The conversations over the course of the evening were rich and varied, and some sparks were lit for exploring new areas within the M25 programme in the coming year. Thanks to everyone involved in putting this and all of our events and activities over the past year together.



I'm delighted to welcome Paul, Milla, Hannah and Chris to the M25 Steering Group following their formal co-option this month, and look forward to

working with you all as we take the M25 into 2025 and beyond. The M25 Trustees and Steering Group members will be coming together at our annual Planning Day on 28 January to set the priorities and direction of travel for the Consortium for the next year or so. This follows hot on the heels of the Symposium for Regional and National Consortia on 24 January, which will explore how we can best work together on some of the burning issues affecting our members at present, including demonstrating the value of libraries in challenging times.

As you'll have heard me say many times, people are at the heart of everything the M25 Consortium does, and it's important that we continue to support and address the needs of staff working at all levels across our member libraries in the region. If you have any comments on our current resources, programmes and activities, or suggestions for new areas of work the M25 could usefully undertake, please do get in touch – I'd love to hear from you. We'll be reaching out to you all more formally in the new year to seek your views as we set about shaping what we do on behalf of our members during 2025/26 and beyond.

In the meantime, I wish you all a peaceful break and a very happy new year.

Best wishes
David



Moving into Management

Dates: 19 & 20 February

Venue: London Mathematical Society, De Morgan House

57-58 Russell Square

London WC1B 4HS

In person training course back by popular demand!

Fee for members: £350 (including lunch and refreshments)

How do you harness the power of a team? Motivate others and deal with challenges?

This interesting and engaging training course will provide an insight into what it means to be a manager.

This two day workshop will be led by trainer Nicole Godetz, Director of Management Consultancy, Noo Thinking Ltd. The purpose of the workshop is to equip new managers to develop their skill set and to give those who are thinking of moving into management, a sense of what is involved. It is designed to address both the practical and the interpersonal elements of management.

Outcomes from the course include:

- What good management looks and feels like
- How to measure employee engagement
- How to have effective development conversations
- How to uncover motivation and motivate others
- Setting effective career goals and performance goals that can be measured

- How to delegate effectively
- How to give high quality feedback – good and developmental
- Develop the ability to prioritise and manage ‘up’
- Learn new tools for managing your time
- Develop basic project management skills
- Practice a process for running an effective meeting

"We've run Moving into Management on several occasions, with the last in January 2020. This is an in person event to enable participants to fully engage with activities and develop key management skills. It's always been popular, with attendees appreciating the opportunity to learn alongside other library colleagues. It also presents excellent value for money for a two-day workshop." (cpd25 Task Group Four)

Previous delegate feedback:

"The whole two days was excellent and a lot of these techniques feel like they could benefit non-managers too"

"It was very successful in that you were given the techniques and then asked to go into deeper understanding by practising it"

[Don't Miss out, Book Now!](#)

Looking for more cpd opportunities for 2025? Have a look at the events and visits to attend in January and February 2025

here: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/

Welcome to our new Steering Group members

We have now filled the vacancies on the M25's [Steering Group](#) and are delighted to welcome the following Member Representatives onto the M25 Steering Group (co-opted until the AGM on 29 April 2025):

- Camilla Churchill, British Medical Association
- Chris Foreman, University of the Arts, London
- Hannah Woodley, The National Gallery
- Paul Johnson, University of Surrey



What does the Steering Group do?

The Steering Group's role is as an advisory and consultative body to support the work of the Trustees. Steering Group members also contribute to the aims of the M25 Consortium by participating in committees and working groups.

How long do they serve?

Members (who can be co-opted during the year) stand for election at the AGM and, if elected, serve for two terms of two years.

Camilla, Chris, Hannah and Paul will be attending Steering Group meetings, getting involved in M25 activities and events, such as the new Sustainability Working Group and the Conference

Planning committee. They will also take an active role in planning the M25's work over the next year at the M25's Steering Group planning meeting which will take place on 28 January 2025.

Chris Foreman is also featured as our M25 SpeedMeet profile for December.



June-December at the M25 Consortium

It's been an exciting, busy and fulfilling time since I joined and, as the year closes, I wanted to focus on a few key points in my first six months as Operations Manager at the M25 Consortium.

20 May 2024: I joined the Consortium as the new Operations Manager, working 21 hours a week.

8 June 2024 Virtual Annual Conference 2024: We delivered an excellent [online Conference](#), with a focus on transformed and transforming libraries: technology, space and people. You can watch the recorded presentations from the Conference on the [Virtual Learning and Development page](#) of the Members' Area of our website.

June and July As well as getting to grips with key tasks of my new role, I incorporated some visits to members as part of my induction including the library spaces at the London Metropolitan University and Kew, giving me a flavour of the varied

membership of the Consortium.

July: The M25's [Diversity Group](#) launched a survey seeking to understand the initiatives that libraries and institutions have that aim to address issues of inequality.

August: I was working on improvements to our website and reviewing the contracts we have with external suppliers. I also undertook some personal professional development including attending a superb cpd25 online training session on 22 August delivered by Ash Charlton on [How to stay positive and happy](#)

September: The M25 Consortium launched a new [Innovation Fund](#) to award grants to enable, deliver and/or support a project, resource, research or other activity that works towards one or more of the Consortium's current [strategic themes](#). The first year of the Innovation Fund 2024-25 was a Pilot Year, with applications open to M25 and cpd25 Task Groups, Working Groups and Networks.

November: On 22 November, the Consortium delivered its first Leadership Briefing of the year, [Dark Sky Thinking](#), at the Royal College of Nursing, providing a valuable opportunity and a safe space to share experiences in the current context of financial constraints.

Dave Puplett, Secretary of the M25 Consortium, and I met to work on M25 policies at the University of Greenwich's Medway Campus in the Drill Hall Library, a fascinating space with hidden history in its rafters and the longest library building I've ever

been in!

4 December: We held our [annual Networking event](#) in person which was the perfect opportunity for me to meet and chat with more members from across the Consortium.

Finally, as we will soon be sliding into 2025, for my next six months in the role, I look forward to overseeing a great range of events and activities. You can see what's on offer in January and February here: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/

We'll be presenting our online AGM 2025 on 29 April and an in person Conference towards the end of June (date and details to be announced soon!). I also look forward to working with the trustees on seeking your views about what you value about the M25 Consortium to frame what we deliver.

Jill Howard, Operations Manager
[M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries](#)
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I work three days a week, usually alternate weeks of Tuesday to Thursday and Wednesday-Friday.

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 Chris Foreman, Associate Director of Library Services at University of the Arts, London. Chris works across a number of library sites and shares his connections to the M25.



You can be featured in 2025!

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.

Browse our past interviews here:

www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/m25-speedmeet/



Closure Dates

The M25 Support Staff will be taking a well-earned rest and the last working day for most of the team is Monday 16 December. We will then be closed for the rest of December and early January and will be available again from w/c Monday 6 January. We will respond to your emails as soon as possible on our return. We wish you all a restorative break and look forward to delivering M25 events and programmes in 2025.

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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