



David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

At the end of January the M25 Consortium Steering Group held their annual Planning Day: a chance to come together in person to discuss the Consortium's activities in greater detail and take a strategic look at our current priorities and challenges. In small groups we discussed the best ways to ensure that our member institutions and individuals get the most value from M25. Key ideas and actions will be incorporated into our plan of work over the coming year.



We have formally announced that our AGM for 2025 will take place on 29 April at 11am online. All Member Representatives should now have received an email and a calendar invite to attend. The AGM is a key point in the year for the Consortium where members consider the proposed budget for the coming year and elect

Trustees and representatives to the Steering Group.
We very much look forward to many of you joining us on 29th April.

Sadly our current cpd25 Chair, Sara Burnett, is reaching the end of her term of office and we are on the search for her replacement. This is a first class professional development opportunity in the sector. You can find out more about the role (and read what Sara says about it) below. Please do consider applying and circulate this vacancy to your teams.

Our cpd25 programme includes events, conferences, training and visits. Visits are a key member benefit and a popular, informal cpd opportunity. Make sure you're ahead of the curve by visiting our website to browse our events listings as new events are added regularly, and sign up to receive our weekly cpd25 newsletter by email.

Finally, we're very pleased to announce that 2025 marks the return of the M25 Consortium Annual Conference as an in person event. We'll be at the University of Greenwich on 24 June from 10am-4pm, with a programme including presentations, workshops and lightning talks. The theme is Shaping the Future, and there will be sessions of interest to all of our members. Every member institution receives one free place and very reasonably priced early bird places for additional member delegates will be available. Save the date now and register your place from 6 March.

Best wishes
David



Attend the AGM on 29 April 2025

This year our AGM takes place on 29 April at 11 am. It is an online event using Zoom. All Member Representatives have been sent an email announcing the date of the AGM and a calendar invite. Further details, including the agenda and papers, will be sent to Member Representatives soon.

The AGM is the opportunity for you to hear reports from the trustees on the work and achievements over the past year, to formally vote on accepting new institutions into membership and to elect members onto the Steering Group Committee.

The trustees and support staff look forward to see you all online on the 29th April.

Are you our next cpd25 Chair?

We are sadly saying goodbye to our current cpd25 Chair, Sara Burnett, at the end of July 2025 as she has reached the end of her terms of office. So we are looking to appoint our next Chair. It's a fantastic key voluntary role in our organisation.



Sara's says of the role:

I would strongly encourage anyone who has had involvement in cpd25 activities, or more generally in staff training and development within academic

or specialist libraries, to consider this role.

While there is, naturally, a time commitment required, this is more than balanced by the experience and satisfaction that the role delivers. In addition to providing the opportunity to influence the cpd25 programme (in support of the M25 Consortium strategy), the post holder is key in encouraging and supporting the Task Group Chairs and their members, all of whom are fundamentally volunteering their time and energies on behalf of their organisations.

It is extremely gratifying to connect with a range of individuals who are so committed to the work of cpd25. All roles within the organisation provide the chance to meet and network with other professionals, from a variety of positions and at different points within their careers. I have found this element to be a real pleasure, as well as benefiting from the experience (as Chair and Trustee) professionally.

Overview of the role of cpd25 Chair

The principal task of the cpd25 Chair is to lead the team of four Task Groups which provide the programme, and thus it is important that applicants have experience of supervising. The cpd25 Chair recruits new members to the Task Groups and recruits and appoints new Task Group Chairs as necessary in consultation with task group members.

They also liaise regularly with the M25 Administrator (Events & Programmes) to ensure

that the programme is carried out effectively and covers its overall costs. They are also a member of the M25 Consortium Steering Group and an Officer of the Consortium (trustee of the charity and director of the company).

Main tasks

- Chair meetings of the cpd25 Working Group, which comprises the chairs of the Task Groups
- Chair the annual cpd25 planning day and ensure that the programme of events is planned and delivered
- Attend regular meetings of the M25 Steering Group (quarterly) and Officers (monthly)
- Make regular reports on cpd25 to the M25 Steering Group
- Meet regularly (usually monthly) with the M25 Administrator (Events & Programmes) and, where necessary, with the M25 Operations Manager.
- By invitation, speak at or chair cpd25 events
- Communicate regularly with the M25 Administrator (Events & Programmes), Task Group chairs and event organisers, and other M25 officials

How to apply

For the cpd25 Chair, there is a recruitment process which is led by the trustees. Applications are invited from staff with the appropriate skills and experience who work in M25 Member institutions.

Candidates should submit an application statement, not exceeding 400 words, outlining why they would be a good appointment to the role. The statement must also explain their motivation for applying and their intentions in the role.

Send the statement, in confidence, to the M25 Operations Manager, Jill Howard, by email (m25libadmin@london.ac.uk) no later than 4pm on **Friday 21 March 2025**.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a Zoom interview with trustees in the w/c 24 March 2025. The appointment commences on 1st August 2025.

For an informal discussion about the role please contact Sara Burnett, cpd25 Chair s.burnett@kingston.ac.uk For any questions about the application process please contact Jill Howard, Operations Manager m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

Key Dates

- 21st March – Deadline for applications
- w/c 24th March - Interviews to take place



Valuable Visits

We know that staff across our Member Libraries highly value the member-only visits we arrange because of the insight into a variety of fascinating library spaces and the informal sharing and networking opportunities they give. We currently have the following visits on offer, with more to

follow:

- [Emily Wilding Davison Library](#), Royal Holloway, University of London
26 February
- [Royal College of Art Colour Reference Library](#) NOW FULL, waiting list only
11 March
- [RHS Wisley](#)
2 April
- [RHS Lindley Library](#)
13 May
- [Royal Society of Medicine](#) NOW FULL, waiting list only
25 June

Don't Miss out, Book Now.

Skills and knowledge for library staff

Looking for more cpd opportunities for 2025? Have a look at our upcoming events

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

M25 Consortium Annual Conference - in person for the first time since 2019!

Save the Date: 24 June 2025, University of Greenwich

We are very pleased to announce that our annual conference this year is a face-to-face event. It will



take place on 24 June 10am-4pm at the Old Royal Naval College campus at the University of Greenwich.

The theme is 'Shaping the Future'. The programme is in development but is likely to include some of the issues that shape the future of our library services including sustainability, shared services, student voice, equity, career and economic issues.

Every member institution receives one free place and early bird places for additional member delegates will be available for just £125. Bookings will open on 6 March and more details will be announced over the coming weeks.



LMS suppliers to M25 Consortium members

In the Members' Area of our website you can see which LMS suppliers our Members use: www.m25lib.org.uk/members-area/current-lms-suppliers/

After our shoutout last month, we'd like to give a big thank you to the many members who contacted us with their updated LMS information.

Statistics from the updated table reveal that there are 17 different LMS products in use. The top two are Sirsi Dynix Symphony and ExLibris Alma. Innovative Sierra and PTFS Koha are also popular.

If your LMS supplier or other details have changed,

there is still time to update us, please send an email to: M25libadmin@london.ac.uk

cpd25 Task Groups Two and Three seeking a new member

Two cpd25 Task Groups are currently seeking a new member to join them to contribute to the development and delivery of our training and events programmes.



Membership of Task Groups is open to all staff in M25 member institutions, with Task Group members normally drawn from a cross-section of member institutions, job roles and levels.

Each Task Group meets online approximately three to four times per year, and there is an annual cpd25 planning event when topics are considered to inform the following academic year's programme planning.

[Task Group Two: Workplace Standards & Legal Frameworks](#)

provides training and development in areas such as equal opportunities, accessibility, disability, health and safety, copyright and data protection.

[Task Group Three: Operations Management](#)

provides training and development across all operational aspects of library work such as staff management, space management, collection management, communications, staff and student

services, research support, knowledge management and strategy.

Please do circulate to your teams. If anyone interested would like more information before making a decision, please contact the cpd25 Chair, [Sara Burnett](#), for an informal discussion.

Formal expressions of interest, not exceeding 400 words, outlining relevant experience and reasons for wanting to get involved, should be made to [Sara Burnett](#) by **noon on Thursday 27th March**.



[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 Ian Clark, Academic Services Manager at the University of East London. Find out what is the key focus for their library service and how being involved with cpd25 Task Groups has positively impacted Ian's career.

You can read more about Ian and many other members, on our M25 SpeedMeet page:

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

Share your story with an M25 SpeedMeet Profile

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.

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: <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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