



David Archer, M25 Consortium Chair

The M25 Consortium is entering a busy period of the year: the cpd25 events and visits programme has lots on offer and we're also holding our in-person Conference on 24 June. If you're planning to attend our Conference using your free member place, don't forget you still need to register (full details below). Do please also spread the word about the excellent professional development opportunities available at the Conference through presenting Lightning Talks and Posters, as well as the Conference bursary places on offer through our Staff Development Awards.

Another opportunity for personal development is our new Sustainability Working Group. The Group is holding its first meeting at the start of April but there's still time to get involved. Do contact Michelle Wake, Steering Group sponsor of the



Sustainability Working Group, if you're interested in joining the Group or would like to find out more.

Our AGM is on 29th April online. It's a key point in the year for the Trustees to present updates to our members and for members to elect representatives to the Steering Group (there's still time to be nominated as the closing date is 8 April). We're keen to ensure our members' views are heard, so please do consider sending a Proxy if your Member Representative is not available to attend.

Finally, after an approach from the Horniman Museum, we've included information on their initiative to donate to the Khanenko Museum in Kyiv. If you have surplus collection material on world heritage and arts you may wish to consider donating. Details are below.

Best wishes

David



Book Now for [M25 Consortium's Annual Conference](#)

Tuesday 24 June 2025
Old Royal Naval College,
University of Greenwich
10am-4.25pm

Our annual conference this year is a face-to-face event. It takes place on 24 June in the Queen Anne Building on the Old Royal Naval College campus at

the University of Greenwich. The programme is taking shape and we're pleased to announce the following confirmed speakers and sessions:

- **Keynote Presentation: "The Wolves are at the Door: An argument for a trophic cascade in libraries"** by Lawrie Phipps, Senior Research Lead at Jisc and Dr Donna Lanclos, Researcher and Speaker, Anthropologist and Folklorist

Much has been written about how technology needs to disrupt and transform libraries and library work, mostly by vendors or those who are writing or working with vendors. But what if it already happened, and it happened incrementally and over a period of 30 years so that we didn't notice it? What if, in fact, most of us advocated for it?

- **Oyebanji Adewumi**, Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Greenwich, will talk about the ways to make an impact in an EDI strategy
- **Jon Ray**, GLAM Environmental Sustainability Manager, Oxford University Gardens, Libraries & Museums (GLAM) will look at our sector's digital footprint
- **Helen Rimmer**, Kindness and Wellbeing Coach will present on Wellbeing in Libraries: Steps to Creating Kind, safe workplaces

- **Regina Everett** (and others tbc) will lead on on the successes and challenges of delivering library space projects

Register now to attend: first member place free!

Don't forget that you still need to register to attend for your free member place. Every member institution receives one free place and the early bird rate for additional member delegates is just £125 (available until 17 April).

Find out more and register to attend here:

page: www.m25lib.org.uk/events/m25-annual-conference-2025-shaping-the-future/

Conference 2025: Call for Lightning Talk Speakers and Posters is Now Open

The theme of this year Conference on 24 June is “Shaping the Future”. What issues are shaping our future services, library collections and buildings, institutions, careers and professions? How do library staff want to shape the future?

The talk or poster could detail a particular project your library service is leading on or look at higher level developments in the sector as a whole, reflecting the theme of the Conference. We would like delegates to return to their workplaces with practical ideas or issues for discussion to consider in their own service.



Lightning Talks

If you would like to present a paper, apply for one of our three lightning talk slots. These will be short 5-8 minute presentations. The presenters can, if they are happy to, form part of a Panel at the end of the session to answer questions and discuss issues arising from the Lightning Talks.

Posters

Posters need to be printed (at least A3 size) and, if appropriate, also shared to the Conference organisers digitally as a PDF. Above all, a poster should be a networking tool.

[How to apply](#)

Applicants must currently work for an M25 Member library.

Abstracts outlining the subject of your talk or poster, of not more than 250 words, should be submitted to the Conference Planning Group via email to M25 Consortium Operations Manager M25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **Wednesday 30 April 2025**. All applicants will be notified of the outcome in the following weeks.

We warmly encourage individuals from all levels and types of role to apply, particularly if they have not previously presented at a Conference. We encourage submissions from those working outside the Higher Education sector, to reflect the diversity of M25 membership.

Free Place at Conference!

Successful applicants will be awarded with a free delegate place to the conference.

This is a great professional development opportunity so do circulate widely to library staff at your institution: www.m25lib.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/M25-Conference-2025-call-for-lightning-talks-and-posters.pdf



Conference 2025: [Visit an award-winning library building](#)

At the end of the Conference day, delegates can choose to visit the University of Greenwich's Stockwell Street Library.

The University's library and academic building was designed by Heneghan Peng Architects and won a RIBA London Regional Award and the award for best London Town Centre Project in the London Planning awards. Arranged over five floors, the main feature of the library is the huge steel central staircase offering fabulous views from different angles.

Only registered Conference delegates can sign up to have a tour of the library and discover this fabulous library space.

Find out more and register here:

www.m25lib.org.uk/events/visit-to-university-of-greenwich-stockwell-street-library/

Applications are open for our Staff Development Awards

The M25 Consortium offers [staff development awards](#) each year for staff of our member libraries. We are committed to enhancing the experience of those working within our member libraries and these awards directly support this. We recognise that supporting all staff to achieve their potential is key to the success for our members.



This is a fantastic opportunity for staff working in any role at any level to enhance their professional development and to network with others.

The Awards

- Free attendance at the equivalent of one full day of [cpd25 training](#) (Three awards available)
- Free attendance at the [M25 Consortium Annual Conference](#) (Two places available)

Apply Now: the Deadline is 11 April

Applications are invited from any individual currently working at a member library. The completed application form should be submitted to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk by midday on Friday 11 April 2025.

Find out more, read the terms and conditions and download the forms here:

www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/staff-development-awards/



Member Survey coming soon

Our new Member Benefits Task and Finish Group, comprising trustees, Steering Group members and a member of staff has had its first meeting.

One of the Group's key tasks is to get feedback from our members through an online survey. The survey isn't just for Member Representatives and we're keen to get input from many staff from each member institution/library. We interested in what services you use, how you get involved and engage with us and whether there's something else we could potentially develop and deliver for you.

The survey will go out via our jiscmail lists next week. We would be very grateful if you could give us about ten minutes of your time to complete it. Thank you.

29 April: M25 Consortium's AGM

This year our AGM takes place on 29 April at 11am. It is an online event using Zoom. All Member Representatives have been sent an email and a calendar invite to attend the AGM.



At the AGM members will be considering four new institutions for membership to the Consortium, electing members to the Steering Group, looking at revised M25 policies and hearing reports from the Chair, cpd25 Chair and Treasurer.

Steer the Consortium

There is still time to apply to join the Steering Group. Playing a role on the Steering Group is an excellent way to influence the work of the Consortium, to work with other senior library leaders, and to grow your own profile as you help to deliver the M25 Strategy to inspire and transform the working lives of all members and member libraries.

Member Representatives are invited to submit nominations to the Secretary by **5pm** Tuesday 8th April. The nomination form has been sent to Representatives on the LIS-DIRS jiscmail list or contact the Secretary, Dave Puplett: d.r.puplett@greenwich.ac.uk to receive one.

Upcoming relevant dates for the AGM are set out below:

- Tuesday 8th April - closing date for Steering Group Membership Nominations

- Friday 11th April - deadline for Agenda Items, should any member wish to propose an agenda item or formally request the opportunity to speak
- w/b 14th April – Agenda and papers issued
- Tuesday 29th – AGM

Proxy Voting

Should you be unable to attend, it is possible to appoint a proxy. The form has been sent to Member Representatives via our LIS-M25DIRS jiscmail list or request the form by sending an email to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk

Spring is full of cpd opportunities



We have lots of cpd25 events, both in person and online, on offer throughout April, May and June. So why not take a look at our events calendar and register now.

Here's a selection:

3 April: [Role of Libraries in supporting access to HE for refugees and asylum seekers](#)

20 May: [Your Career Plan](#)

17 June: [Cataloguing with Confidence](#)

24 June: [Annual Conference](#)

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

Books to Ukraine

M25 Consortium member, The Horniman Museum, contacted us to promote this initiative to members:



The [Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko National Museum of Art and Culture](#) in Kyiv is Ukraine's leading museum of art and culture, and as such it is no surprise that it has been targeted by the Russians as they seek to destroy Ukraine's heritage and identity. This video tells the story of the Khanenko's efforts to serve the people of Kyiv since the reinvasion:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQmGF9OvI80&t=825s>

The Horniman is exploring a number of elements of a partnership with the Khanenko. During our conversations, the Director General (Yuliya Vaganova) has asked if we can help them to restock their reading room, by donating or funding books, both old and new, about world art and culture.

We are keen to help, and would welcome the participation and support of our friends across the range of M25 Consortium libraries.

Subjects

World art and culture: The Khanenko focuses on European, Asian and Ancient Art, and will shortly be presenting Ukraine's first ever exhibition of African Art.

If you have suitable books (and it is within your policies and

remit to donate), The Horniman will co-ordinate the gathering of any donations and their transportation to Ukraine. The exact details of where and how are still being finalised.

Please contact Jonathan Whitson Cloud, Head of Knowledge and Information Management, by email: jwhitsoncloud@horniman.ac.uk to express interest or with any questions. We are aiming to have a sense of the extent and variety of what might be sent by the end of May.

Thank you.

Gordon Seabright (Horniman CEO)

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Sustainability Group: call for additional members

Further to a recent callout, the [Sustainability Group](#) is being developed. We are now looking for more colleagues to join the Group, to support a major theme of the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries' Strategy 2023-2026.

The Group's current focus will be on environmental sustainability, however this will be reviewed by the Group and expanded to consider sustainability more broadly as needed, with economic, social

and environmental sustainability interlinked.

The M25 Sustainability Group will:

- Regularly gather information from member institutions about sustainability initiatives, analyse responses and disseminate via reports and events.
- Provide opportunities for staff at member institutions to network and share initiatives, needs, and challenges around sustainability
- Provide an online toolkit of sustainability resources.
- Highlight guidance and recommendations of best practice.

Meetings

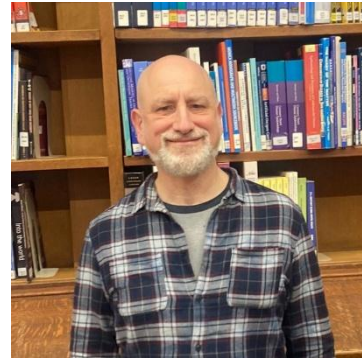
Meetings will take place six times a year via Zoom. Guest speakers will contribute throughout the year.

Join Now!

If you are interested in joining, contact Michelle Wake, Steering Group rep for the Sustainability Group, via email: m.wake@ucl.ac.uk

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 John Heyderman, Library Assistant at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Find out about John's links to music and time travel here: www.m25lib.org.uk/m25-resources-and-activities/m25-speedmeet/



Be the next M25 SpeedMeet person

We have varied roles and activities, interests and stories. If you'd like to share yours (and promote the work of your library at the same time) send an email to m25libadmin@london.ac.uk.

Press play for a profile

We welcome recordings. You don't have to write your answers. Instead, why not send us a recording and we'll share it (via our private YouTube account) on our website.

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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