Academic Libraries NORTH

Revolutionary thoughts: constructively disrupting the status quo in libraries for the new normal

21 June (online via Teams) - 22 June (in-person at St George's Centre, Leeds) 2023

#ALN23

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Contents

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Abstracts
The latest news from the OCLC cooperative

Overcoming systemic bias in cataloging

The recording for "Reimagining Description for Libraries, Archives, and Special C... anti-racist approach" is now available for viewing. This presentation led by Mary ... Vice President, OCLC Product Management, and Merrilee Proffitt, Senior Manag... acknowledges outdated and harmful terminology that remain embedded in desc... classification practices. Mary and Merrilee also discuss an initiative to produce a... agenda to inform research, learning, and other actionable steps to reimagine de... practices.

Watch the video

Abstracts
The latest news from the OCLC cooperative

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO BICOCCA

...mpus dell'università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca"
...A 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

...g Italian institution, University of Milano-..., makes a ground-breaking decision

...of Milano-Bicocca will use OCLC's WorldShare Management Services (WMS) as ...es platform. The move marks a shift away from the status quo of library systems ...ards a new generation of partnerships. The new cloud-based platform, with its ...nological solutions, will help the university reach its goals in teaching, research, ...ties, said Library Director Maurizio di Girolamo. "User satisfaction and the quality ...is at the heart of everything that we do. With OCLC as our partner, I am sure we

...nnouncement

Abstracts
The latest news from the OCLC cooperative

New powers for a BIG collection

In an historic move for a group of independent universities, the University Library Deans and Directors of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in the US have committed to managing their separate collections as a single collection.

Their justification, put simply, is to enable each library to focus more deeply on the aspects of their work and collections that are distinctive. The decision was motivated by a report commissioned from OCLC "Operationalizing the BIG Collective Collection: Consolidation vs Autonomy". It comes at a time when many libraries are revisiting the balance of owned and held materials, as the ongoing shift towards digital looks set to accelerate.

Read the announcement

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2

Conference Theme and Context
Revolutionary thoughts: constructively disrupting the status quo in libraries for the new normal

Academic libraries function in a complex environment from the pressures of changes in UK Higher Education, to the rise of digital collections, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to adapt to the so-called 'new normal'. During the pandemic, libraries swiftly adapted to support their users. These changes have encouraged us to develop new ways of working, to disrupt our normal activities and to embrace revolutionary thoughts. This conference encourages us to reflect on how disrupting the status quo brings benefits and to take stock of the changes that stuck and those that did not.

Conference programme

You can access the full programme with timings and abstracts for each session here.

Conference Planning team

Members of the conference planning team will be available throughout the conference. You can see the 2023 team members here. The team will pick up any queries sent to alnconferenceteam@gmail.com during the conference and on the in-person day they will all be wearing blue lanyards.

Keynotes

We are delighted to have two keynote speakers:

Emily Drabinski

Emily Drabinski is Critical Pedagogy Librarian at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

She publishes and presents widely on topics related to knowledge organization, information literacy, and critical perspectives in librarianship. Drabinski edits Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies, a book series from Library Juice Press/Litwin Books. She is a contributing writer at Truthout. She will serve a one year term as president of the American Library Association starting in June.

Title and Abstract: Organizing for Change

Most of us have looked around our libraries and communities and said, "We shouldn't do it that way." Whether it's cataloguing practices that exclude and offend, collections that reflect only the powerful, or rules and regulations that keep more of us out than in, there are so many ways our libraries can and should change. But how? Drawing on experiences inside and outside libraries, Drabinski will share tactics for making the world we want.

Jen Bayjoo

Jen Bayjoo works as an Academic Support Manager (Research) at the University of Salford, where she is interested in open research, responsible metrics, and the future of content. She is also the Professional Services representative on University Council, was previously the Chair of the BAME staff network, works on the new ALN Global Equity Network, and set up a library diversity network called Diversity in Libraries of the North (DILON). When not advocating for anti-racism and allyship, she enjoys crafts, reading and comedy.

Title and Abstract: Reclaiming Radical

How often do you wake up in the morning and feel… radical? Tackling oppression and accessibility in libraries will take radical acts of allyship – but many of us feel overwhelmed and unable to tackle the big changes that we need to make, or are nervous about putting ourselves out there. In this keynote 'Reclaiming Radical' Bayjoo will explore the necessity and reality of radical work, and how small, long-term actions are possible for all of us to ensure a more equitable future.

Day 1 - Online

Accessing the sessions

The online day of the conference opens at 9:30 and will be delivered via Microsoft Teams and hosted in three "rooms"; Main, Parallel A, and Parallel B.

During the week of the conference, delegates will receive three invitations, one for each "room". This invitation email will have the name of the conference, and the room name in the subject line, e.g., "ALN Conference 2023 - Parallel Room A". You will need to be able to access all three rooms. The programme will let you know which session will be delivered in each room, you do not need to pre-book your selection, just open your chosen room meeting at the scheduled time. As in real life, you should leave one room before entering another.

If you are having problems accessing the conference, please email **alnconferenceteam@gmail.com** and we will provide further support.

In the Sessions

Each room will open a few minutes ahead of the scheduled session to allow the facilitators and presenters to prepare before delegates are admitted, delegates can then access the room about five minutes prior to the scheduled start time.

All sessions will be facilitated by a member of the conference planning team. Your camera and microphone will be muted by default as you enter the room. During conference sessions, we will ask all delegates to ensure microphones remain muted whilst others are presenting. You may be invited by the room facilitator to unmute to ask a question.

You will be able to attend sessions, participate in chat, and pose questions in the Q&A section, as well as move between the different rooms at the end of each session, just as you would move between rooms in real life.

The Teams Q&A function will be available as well as the Chat. Please only post questions in the Q&A to enable the room facilitator to easily locate them. We can't guarantee to address all questions posted.

The Chat is available for greetings and general discussion.

At the end of each session the room will close, and delegates can take the opportunity for a wellbeing break away from the screen before the next sessions start.

Accessibility and Recordings

Presenters have been asked to ensure their presentation slides are accessible and inclusive. All sessions will be recorded and made available following the conference.

You can use the accessibility options, including captions, within Teams to customise your experience.

If you have any concerns, please email the conference team in advance of the event: ALNConferenceTeam@gmail.com

Day 2 - In person

St George's Centre, Leeds

St George's Centre (a trading arm of St George's Church) is a venue for meetings, conferences and events in addition to delivering support, food, emergency accommodation and more to vulnerable people in the area. Take a virtual tour of the Centre here.

Getting there

St George's Centre is situated on Great George Street, next to Leeds General Infirmary and opposite Firehouse Fitness Health Club, beside the footbridge. The entrance is located adjacent to St George's Church steps.

If you're arriving by train, a picture directions map from Leeds Train Station is available here. There is also a find us section on their website.

There is no general onsite parking available at St George's Centre, limited disabled parking is available at the front of the centre, please contact alnconferenceteam@gmail.com if you need a disabled parking space. Details of nearby public car parks can be found here.

The St George's Centre recommends using Google Maps instead of Sat Nav when locating the centre. Enter the postcode LS1 3DL and select St George's Building, 60 Great George Street, Leeds.

Registration

The registration desk will open at 9:30am. Please make sure to bring a name badge and lanyard to the conference as these will not be provided. This could be your own name badge or, if you're feeling particularly creative, you could make your own on the day (pens and card will be provided).

Accessibility

- Entrance at ground floor level
- All rooms are on the ground floor
- Hearing loop

Registered Guide Dogs are permitted at the St George's Centre. If you wish to bring an unregistered Guide Dog or an emotional support animal please contact the centre direct on 0113 383 2140.

Photography

Please note, the conference team will be taking photos throughout the day. The images taken will only be used for purposes of promoting Academic Libraries North. If you have any concerns, please email us in advance of the event, or speak to one of the team on the day, they will be wearing blue lanyards.

Wifi

Free Wi-Fi is available at the St George's Centre, the password will be posted throughout the conference venue on the day.

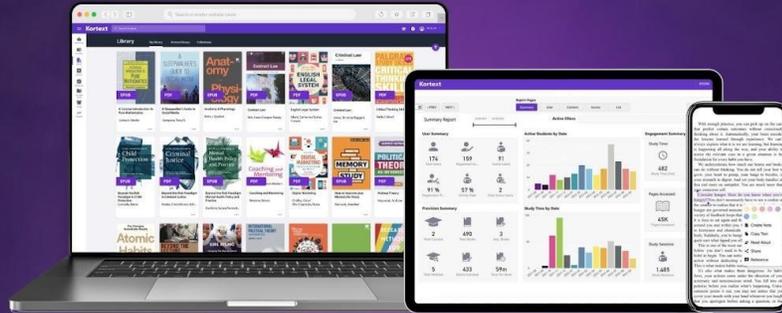# Discover archival collections, learn how to use them, or create your own

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Arcturus' AI study tools validate knowledge, break language barriers, summarise material, and provide enhanced tools to revolutionise learning. A game changer for students!

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Privacy

All delegates at the ALN Conference 2023 will be able to access the event via Microsoft Teams. Your name and profile information will be visible to other delegates and exhibitors, who can talk to/contact you through the platform. Your email address is not visible to other delegates. If you are uncomfortable with any of the above, we suggest that you do not accept your Teams invitations which will arrive via email in the days before the event - but this does also mean you will not be able to access the conference.

Your Data

Academic Libraries North is using the data submitted by you at registration to:

- Administer your place at the conference and communicate with you about the event
- Deliver to you a virtual conference, giving you the opportunity to connect and link up with colleagues in other institutions. This means that your name and profile information will automatically be visible to other delegates and exhibitors who can talk to/contact you through the platform.

Event sessions on the online day will be recorded, including any questions asked by participants. The recordings may be shared following the conference and be available for a limited time afterwards.

Engaging with Sponsors

We will have presentations from our Gold and Silver sponsors during the online conference day, Wednesday 21st June. See the full programme for timings of these sessions. Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsors will all have representatives in attendance on both days of the conference, giving you the opportunity to interact and network with them.

At the in-person conference day, Thursday 22nd June, there will be a wellbeing break-out area including outside space that can be used by sponsors and delegates for longer conversations. As our venue is relatively small there will not be a traditional sponsor exhibition area. Sponsor banners will be displayed in the conference venue and there will be a table in the main function room for our sponsors' promotional material.

Panel discussion

We'd like to bring the online day of the conference to a close with a panel discussion – *Discussing the potential and risks of AI in academic libraries*. Ahead of the conference, please submit your questions using this form, either to a specific panel member, or to the panel as a whole. This can be on any aspect of AI in academic libraries. We hope to use as many of the submitted questions as possible.

The panel consists of:

- **Caroline Ball** (she/her) - University of Derby – Biography coming soon

- **Andrew Cox** (he/him) - University of Sheffield - Andrew Cox is a senior lecturer at the Information School, University of Sheffield. One of his research interests is AI and libraries. He wrote the report ***The impact of AI, machine learning, automation and robotics on the information professions: A report for CILIP*** https://www.cilip.org.uk/general/custom.asp?page=researchreport He is the convenor of the IFLA Special Interest Group on AI and the chair elect of the ASIS&T AI SIG.

- **Siobhan Haimé** (she/her) - Acquisitions & Reading Lists Assistant at the University of Leeds and PhD researcher in conversation analysis - Siobhan has completed a Liberal Arts and Science BA focused on AI and her professional interests include (critical) digital literacy, open access, knowledge equity, (digital) collections and human-computer interaction which will inform her reflections and responses

- **Scott Taylor** (he/him) – Head of the Office for Open Research at the University of Manchester – Scott has been involved in the development of scholarly communication services at Manchester since 2008. Alongside leading the Open Research Programme, he oversees the Library's research support services: these include the Library's Open Access Service, Research Metrics Service, and Research Data Management services. Scott's current main responsibility is the delivery of a roadmap of activities that will drive the creation of Open Research services and infrastructure across the entire University.

Competition

There will be one competition running across both days at ALN 2023:

Haiku competition: Create a haiku which describes your conference experience! A haiku is a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, composed in three lines of five, seven, five.

You can submit your haiku any time before 2pm on Thursday 22nd June via Twitter using **#ALN23** or via alnconferenceteam@gmail.com. Winners will be announced at the end of the day!

Social Media

The hashtag for the Conference is **#ALN23** so please tag your Tweets to spread the word far and wide!

Code of Conduct

Academic Libraries North is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone and has developed a **Code of Conduct** to ensure a safe environment for everybody. Please take a look at the Code ahead of the Conference.

DE GRUYTER

De Gruyter and the Jisc Digital Archival Collections Group Purchasing Scheme

5 REASONS
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REASON #1

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The De Gruyter Online Journal Archive comprises the full text content of 342 subscription-based journals from 1826 to 2014.
It is offered to institutions as a perpetual purchase with no ongoing maintenance costs.

JOURNAL ARCHIVE 1826–2014

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De Gruyter currently publishes 350 journal titles in Business & Economics, Classical Studies, Law, Literature & Linguistics, History, Islamic Studies, Materials Science, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physical Sciences, Religion & Theology. 100% of the annual subscription fees are converted to unlimited Hybrid open access publishing.

READ & PUBLISH

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40,000 archive e-Books, including newly digitized works of previously out-of-print titles, comprising the book publishing history of De Gruyter from 1749 to 1999. The archive provides access to high-quality primary sources, making 250 years of publishing history digitally available.

BOOK ARCHIVE EST. 1749

REASON #5

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The databases in the scheme cover everything from German-Jewish history; a unique and indispensable resource for visualized information in linguistics; and the only comprehensive bio-bibliographic encyclopedia of theatre in the German-speaking world.

DIGITAL ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Please contact Toby Andrews, Sales Manager UK & Ireland, for more details:
toby.andrews@degruyter.com

For more information visit:
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digital-archival-collections-group-purchasing
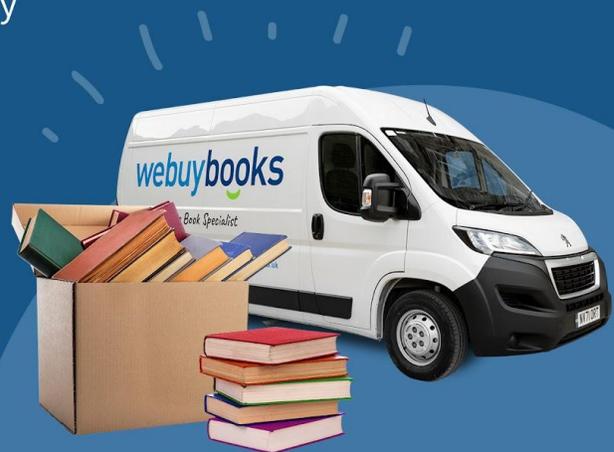
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13

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We are delighted to welcome the following sponsors to #ALN23:

Gold Sponsor

We are delighted that OCLC is our Gold sponsor for this ALN conference.

OCLC is a global library organization that provides shared technology services, original research, and community programs for its membership and the library community at large. We are librarians, technologists, researchers, pioneers, leaders, and learners. With thousands of library members in more than 100 countries, we come together as OCLC to make information more accessible and more useful.

OCLC is headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, with offices around the world. Learn more about OCLC and how OCLC advances understanding, drives innovation and connects people to the information they need through the world's libraries.

Follow them on Twitter @OCLC

Silver Sponsors

AM's digital collections and technology platforms enrich the study, research and teaching of primary sources. With over 30 years' experience working with librarians, educators and archivists, AM is inspired by archival materials and passionate about the technology that brings them to life. AM partners with libraries, archives and heritage institutions to digitise the world's historical and cultural knowledge. With AM, customers can discover award-winning archival collections, learn how to use them, or create their own.

Follow them on Twitter @AdamMatthewGrp

[Kortext](#) is the digital content and student experience expert leading the way for the global education community to embrace digitally enhanced teaching and learning.

Kortext champions inclusivity in education and works closely with its partners to provide equity of access and experience for all students, improving access to and engagement with learning content and ultimately driving outcomes.

This year sees Kortext celebrate its 10th anniversary – a decade of supporting institutions in their mission to boost student engagement, drive outcomes and streamline workflows through our cutting-edge platform, market-leading learner analytics and a growing selection of digital teaching and learning tools.

Follow them on Twitter @Kortext

WeBuyBooks started out as a small bookshop in Rossendale, Lancashire. Since then, we have grown to be one of the UK's leading book re-commerce businesses.

We are committed to offering an environmentally and financially sustainable solution for recycling books all over the UK. Building strong relationships with libraries across the UK, WeBuyBooks provides a free purchase and pick up service to 453 libraries across the UK to help them raise funds and offload all their unwanted books.

All books that WeBuyBooks purchases are either sold on, responsibly recycled, or donated on to other organisations to support our local community.

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- More than 1,000 journals (500 of them Open Access)
- More than 2,000 Open Access books on [degruyter.com](#)
- 88 databases and online resources
- 700 new Publisher Partner titles per
- 100% eBooks archives

Meet Toby Andrews onsite or get in touch with him toby.andrews@degruyter.com

Follow them on Twitter at @degruyter_pub

Bronze Sponsors

[EBSCO](#) supports libraries, students and the wider academic community through subscriptions to online journal, magazine and eBook content within our full text databases as well as acquisition tools to support the individual selection of serials (EBSCONET) along with print and eBooks for outright purchase (GOBI). EBSCO specialises in search and discovery through individual subject indexes or via EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) to serve the needs of researchers at all levels. Advocating 'open' technologies, we have also pioneered the creation of a groundbreaking Library system (FOLIO) which underpins the EBSCO ERM managed service, and Panorama, the modern library analytics platform. We are excited to have released technology (Bibliograph) to help libraries adopt and embrace Bibframe linked-data which amongst other things, is helping to make library catalogues visible on the open web.

Follow them on Twitter at @ebscouk

At PTFS Europe we've been working with open source software since 2007 – software developed by online communities for free use by all.

Like libraries, open source is for everyone. We develop our products and services with the goal of making this technology easy; to help and enable library users and ultimately free libraries to do the things they do best.

People like working with us because we solve problems, we don't sell software. We listen, find solutions and commit to deliver these solutions for our customers as part of our complete managed service and support package.

Follow them on Twitter at: @PTFSEurope

Cabells generates actionable intelligence on academic and medical journals. Cabells Journalytics Academic and Medicine platforms – independent, curated databases of verified academic (13,000+) and medical (7000+) journals – provides researchers with all the data and analytics needed to make confident publication evaluations and decisions. Our Predatory Reports platform – the most comprehensive campaign against predatory journals – reports on deceptive behaviors 17,000+ publications. By combining its efforts with those of medical and academic researchers and publishers, industry organizations, and other service providers, Cabells works to create a safe, transparent, and equitable publishing ecosystem that can nurture generations of knowledge and innovation.

Follow them on Twitter at: @CabellsPublish

BiblioGraph

Utilise **linked data** to easily enhance **visibility** of your library resources anywhere on the web. Make your library search visible on Google. Create and connect resources to **build carousels** and **living lists** of items that **lead back to your library.**

Go to where your users are

Researching a controversial issue?

Writing a persuasive essay?

Preparing for a debate?

UK & Ireland Points of View Reference Centre can help! This database contains a collection of essays covering multiple sides of current issues, including many of regional interest, including:
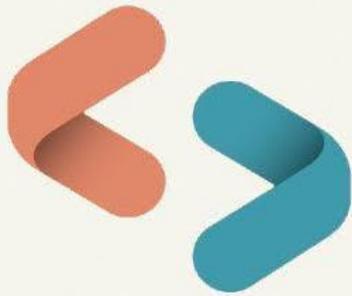
- Brexit
- COVID-19
- Homelessness in UK
- NHS and the Private Sector
- Scottish Independence
- Transgender Athletes
- UK Minimum Wage

UK & Ireland Points of View Reference Centre provides rich, diverse content to help students assess and craft persuasive arguments and essays, better understand controversial issues, and develop critical literacy skills.

Find out more

PTFS Europe

Leading the way in open source library systems and providing a wide range of services to the UK library market

Business

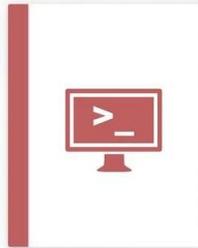3,000+ journals

Computer Science

1,500+ journals

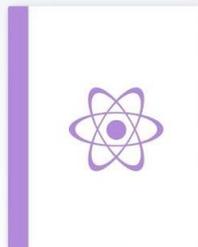**Education**

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Presenter biographies

Fabiha Askari - Lancaster University

Fabiha Askari is a Research, Engagement and EDI Assistant (Graduate Trainee) at the Lancaster University Library and started this role at the end of January 2023. She graduated with a History and Politics (BA Hons) degree last summer and is a local Councillor in Lancaster. During her time at university, she led the 'Why Is My Curriculum White?' campaign and became a founding member of the local 'Lancaster Black History Group'. Her specific interests relate to decolonisation, equity and engagement.

Lauren Aspery - Newcastle University

Lauren Aspery is the Project Coordinator for Bridging the Gap, a collaborative project between the Education Outreach and Academic Skills teams at Newcastle University Library, which aims to empower students to be confident and independent learners through the creation of digital resources. She has spent her career to date working in education, having previously worked as a school librarian and in the EdTech sector in both marketing and publishing. Prior to this, Lauren studied at the university, gaining her MLitt in children's literature at Newcastle.

John Barbrook - Lancaster University

John Barbrook is the Faculty Librarian for Health and Medicine, Science and Technology at Lancaster University. John is involved in supporting both Content and Systematic Reviews, with purchasing and supporting digital resources core to his role, he also supports researchers and students to produce Systematic Reviews, and embed robust systematic searching practice wherever possible.

Sara Bird - Newcastle University

Sara Bird is an Education Outreach Officer at Newcastle University Library. An ex-secondary teacher she specialises in working with teachers and academics to provide workshops and online resources to aid students to become independent, confident learners. She is passionate about putting the student voice at the heart and ensuring that resource development is user led.
Please see: sixthformstudyskills.ncl.ac.uk

Catherine Broadley - Manchester Metropolitan University

Systems and Discovery Librarian from Manchester Metropolitan University. Likes Australian soaps, watching pro cycling, and brutalist architecture.

Sally Dalton - University of Leeds

Sally Dalton is Head of Research Services (Open Research) at the University of Leeds Library. Sally leads on the strategic direction of open research at Leeds, including the co-ordination and advocacy of open research and open access services. Sally has extensive experience of learning and teaching and has a particular interest in researcher skills development. Sally is also Co-Chair of the Academic Libraries North EDI Action Group.

Joe DeVille – Lancaster University

Dr Joe Deville is a senior lecturer at Lancaster University, and is a COPIM project co-lead and co-founder of Mattering Press.

Kirsten Elliott - Fair Library Jobs

Kirsten Elliott works at Imperial College London as an NHS Support Librarian. She started working in libraries as a library helper and library assistant in two University of Cambridge college libraries, and gained a diploma in Library Studies from Aberystwyth University whilst working part-time. She started Fair Library Jobs after seeing the work of Fair Museum Jobs and seeing how necessary it was to have an equivalent for the library sector.

Lesley English - Lancaster University

Lesley English is the Head of Library Engagement at Lancaster University, with a focus on two areas: leading on engagement with staff, students and the local community, and taking a strategic lead for teaching and learning activity across the Faculty Librarian team. Lesley has worked previously as a Faculty Librarian for STEM subjects at Lancaster and a Learning & Academic Advisor at the University of Cumbria, with other jobs across public and academic libraries in the earlier days of her career. Outside of work she enjoys walking her chocolate Labrador, Mabel, and finding lovely places to eat, drink and be crafty.

Joanne Fitzpatrick - Lancaster University

Joanne is a data librarian and former public librarian and is adult diagnosed autistic. She is Research Data Manager at Lancaster University, editor of CILIP International Library and Information Group's 'Focus' and communications officer at Evidence Based Library and Information Practice. Joanne also authors and invigilates assessments in data related apprenticeships. She is (special) interested in how non-rational knowing might apply to data and digital initiatives, particularly in disciplines such as the arts and magic. She also really likes the colour names on Crayola crayons.

Amanda Foster - Northumbria University

Amanda is Content Delivery and Copyright Librarian at Northumbria University Library. After working in Library customer facing roles for 10 years Amanda became Inter Library loans Co-ordinator, working closely with the Interlending community and currently Chair of the FIL (Forum for Interlending) committee. Amanda moved to her current role in 2015 where she is responsible for the On Demand, Copyright and Reading list teams.

Jenny Foster - Edge Hill University

Jenny Foster is the Head of Customer Support for Learning Services at Edge Hill University and has been with the service since November 2017. Previous to that she has worked in both large and small HEIs but started her career in public libraries. Jenny manages the helpdesk and service delivery in Catalyst, a shared building that is home to Student Services, Library and Learning Service and Careers.

Sam Gill - University of Liverpool

Sam Gill is Liaison Librarian for Histories, Languages and Cultures at the University of Liverpool. Having worked in public libraries and as a school librarian before entering the world of Higher Education, he has a wealth of experience in the field. When not assisting academics or stimulating student minds, he makes animated films using old fashioned stop motion techniques.

Tom Grady - COPIM & Birkbeck

Tom Grady is a COPIM project co-lead working on the Opening the Future funding programme for open access books. Previously, he was a founding team member of the UK's first jointly-run and library-led open access publisher, White Rose University Press.

Angela Greenwood - University of Sheffield

I'm Angela Greenwood, Head of Library Information Advisory Services at the University of Sheffield. I manage a diverse team of around 60 staff who all work in customer services, therefore staff wellbeing is a personal priority of mine. I have worked in academic libraries for over 20 years and I am really keen to find out from staff working in our field what their wellbeing concerns are. Hopefully by working together we might be able to share our concerns and also good practice. I am a member of (amongst others) the ALN Mental Health & Wellbeing Project Group and Heads of Customer Services Group.

Siobhan Haimé - University of Leeds

Siobhan Haimé is an Acquisitions & Reading Lists Assistant at the University of Leeds, as well as a PhD researcher investigating storytelling and social interaction. Her BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences was centred around AI and neuroscience, before pursuing an MA in linguistics. Her interests include diversity in teaching and research, digital innovation and equity. She is currently working on eBook accessibility and co-chairs her library's EDI group.

Tia Harriot - University of Manchester

I am a Customer Services Advisor at the University of Manchester libraries. I have a particular interest in promoting and participating in wellbeing and EDI initiatives that benefit both staff, students and the wider

community that are patrons of our Library. As a Wellbeing champion, I work alongside my team to create engaging wellbeing activities for Library colleagues. I also lead the Communications, Engagement and Social Media Specialism, working to improve both internal and external communications in the Library.

Lorna Hibbert - Northumbria University

Lorna is a Collections Librarian at Northumbria University Library. During her career, she has worked at 3 out of the 4 North East University Libraries and has been at Northumbria for 16 years, working in various roles including Subject Librarian and Skills Librarian. Lorna has held her current role for 6 years and is jointly responsible for managing the library's Collections team. Lorna is a member of the ALN Equality Diversion and Inclusion (EDI) network and is passionate about embedding EDI in every element of library provision.

Helen Jamieson - Edge Hill University

Helen Jamieson: Helen is Head of Student Engagement and works within Library and Learning Services at EdgeHill University. Helen is responsible for academic skills support at the University and has particular interests in student engagement and evaluation.

Dr Laura Key - Leeds Beckett University

As a teacher in HE for over 10 years, Laura has worked at the Universities of Manchester and Liverpool, as well as the University Centre at Bradford College. She joined Leeds Beckett University as an Academic Skills Tutor in 2018, leading on in-curriculum support in her current role. Laura first became interested in teaching pedagogy while studying for a PhD in American Literature and she counts resource development as one of her particular strengths. Laura is currently working on research into impact, technologies for learning and international student support, and is co-chair of the ALDinHE LearnHigher Working Group.

Natalia Klasser - Lancaster University

Natalia Klaaser is a Resources Officer with a focus on Metadata and Discovery at Lancaster University Library. Prior to this, Natalia managed the library space, frontline experience and circulation, and the frontline team. Outside of work Natalia enjoys learning how to code, and loves to socialise with friends and new acquaintances alike!

Gilly Langley - University of Leeds

Gilly Langley has worked as a Customer Service Assistant at the University of Leeds Library for 27 years. They are passionate about students and giving them the best customer service. "Wellbeing is so important I wanted to create a dedicated space".

AJ Mackenzie - Leeds Beckett University

AJ Mackenzie works as a Library and Student IT Advisor at the Sheila Silver Library. Prior to this, he studied his MA at the University of Leeds in Security, Terrorism & Insurgency. He has presented and written on 'digital literacy' of the modern student and the terms' conceptualisation and development in higher education alongside demonstrating emerging technology within the sector at national conferences.
Recently he has been examining 'Sense of Belonging in Higher Education, post-pandemic student wellbeing issues and how to build communities in universities as well as data informed process development to support access, retention and achievement.

Jenny McNally - University of Salford

Jenny splits her working week between University of Salford where she works as a Systems Librarian and the WHELF consortium where she works as the Shared LMS Business Manager. She's happy digging into the technical side of systems librarianship but is most interested in supporting users in making the most of library systems and technology.

Alexandra Mitchell - University of Salford

I am currently Archivist at the University of Salford, a post which I have held since 2019, where I manage the archives and special collections. Prior to this I was employed as Group Archivist for The Peel Group where I set up and managed the heritage collection. I have a PhD in History from the University of Manchester. I am a volunteer co-curator of the Alla Horska Ukrainian Folk Art Museum, currently based in Manchester.

Tom Morley - Lancaster University

Tom Morley is an Open Research Officer at Lancaster University Library. He works across the areas of Open Access, Research Intelligence and Research Data Management to coordinate and deliver a range of projects, services and strategic initiatives. Prior to joining the library, Tom worked in several roles at Lancaster University and the University of Manchester including as a REF Project Officer, Research Ethics Officer and Ambitious Futures Graduate Trainee. Tom is also co-editor of the UKSG e-News.

Laurence Morris - Leeds Beckett University

Laurence is an Academic Skills Development Manager with Leeds Beckett Library and an Associate of Leeds Beckett Centre for Learning and Teaching. His role at Leeds Beckett is to guide students and researchers in applying academic skills in their studies. He is currently researching (alongside Laura and other colleagues) international student support and long-term impact of in-curriculum academic skills tuition. Laurence is also a Senior Fellow of Advance HE, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and an ILM-qualified coach, and he has previously worked as an Academic Librarian and for the Ministry of Defence.

Harriet Notman - Fair Library Jobs

Harriet Notman works at Jisc as a Licensing Manager. She focused on negotiating the best offers for scholarly and educational online content. She has worked in libraries for a number of years, mainly HE and some FE and specialist libraries. I've worked in most areas you can from front desk, user facing roles, to acquisitions, subscriptions, scholarly communications, open access and did a brief stint in publishing and worked in editorial. She joined Fair Library Jobs when it first started, because she passionately that we need to do better as a sector, with better pay for our staff, transparent job descriptions and removing barriers that are in place.

Claire Olson - Edge Hill University

Claire Olson is an Academic Skills Advisor at Edge Hill University. With almost 20 years' experience working within education and training, Claire has had held a variety of roles within Museums and Galleries, Further Education and most recently in Higher Education. Having joined Edge Hill University in 2016, Claire currently teaches and supports students with their academic writing via embedded sessions, workshops and one-to-one appointments. Claire holds a BA in Art History, an MA in Museum Studies, a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education, and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Jennifer Paton - York St John University

Jenni Paton (she/her) is currently a Senior Information Adviser at York St John University, with a background in GLAM and School Libraries. Jenni's role is to support and manage the Information Adviser teams who support students across the university. She also leads the Accessibility Support Scanning Service. Her practice focuses on digital development, accessibility and, as the out of hour manager foster independence in students and staff alike.

Adam Paxman - Edge Hill University

Adam Paxman is an Academic Skills Advisor in the Student Engagement Team at Edge Hill University. Adam is currently writing a chapter on post-graduate induction for a book about online pre-arrival platforms, due for publication in 2023. Also due for publication is a chapter / poem on Humpty Dumpty and child development for the Lewis Carroll Society. Adam previously lectured in FE, HE and FE-in-HE, specialising in Contextual Studies for various design programmes. Adam's research has appeared in the Journal of Illustration and North Wind: A Journal of George MacDonald Studies. Adam also independently publishes fiction and poetry via Amazon.

Tom Peach - York St John University

Tom Peach (he/him) is currently Academic Services Manager at York St John University, having been an Arts and Languages teaching librarian prior. Tom's work focuses on teaching and learning, equity and developing accessibility practice, and currently mentors and assesses teaching and learning Fellowship applicants for Advance HE. At Tom's institution he is currently working on improving and developing the Professional Services experience of and access to institutional Fellowship processes, particularly exploring this in relation to wider library staff for whom this has previously been inaccessible or seen as inappropriate.

Paul Ralphs - University of Manchester

Paul has worked at the University of Manchester Library for 22 years. Throughout a variety of roles, he has always had a keen interest in training and development of both himself, and his teams. He currently holds the position of Assistant Customer Service Manager (Training) and has played a key role in the creation, development, and delivery of the Customer Service Specialism Programme. Staff training is part of the foundation of everything a library delivers and finding innovative and engaging methods is vital to creating both a high-quality library service but also a motivated and engaged team.

Amelie Roper - Cambridge University
Amelie Roper is Head of Research at Cambridge University Library. She provides strategic and operational leadership for research activities taking place across Cambridge University Libraries. This includes supporting research funding applications, managing projects once funding is awarded and leading on governance and processes to support library staff to be research active. Prior to this, she worked as Digital Music Curator and then. Research Development Manager at the British Library. She studied music at King's College London and Library and Information Studies at University College London and holds a PhD in book history from the University of St Andrews.

Lydia Street - University of Manchester
I currently work as a Customer Services Advisor at the University of Manchester Library. As a Wellbeing Champion I work on projects that support the general wellbeing of colleagues at the Library. I also lead the Accessibility and Inclusivity specialism, supporting students with additional needs during their journey with us. I am passionate about promoting inclusive practices in the workplace and hope to create more initiatives that improve wellbeing within our team.

Reis Tobolski - University of Salford
I am currently a Senior Information Assistant at the University of Salford. I have worked here since 2021 and began looking after our zine collection in 2022. Prior to this I studied Philosophy at the University of Hull and then did a masters in English Literature at the University of Leeds.

Eddy Verbann - Sheffield Hallam University
Eddy is Head of Library Research Support at Sheffield Hallam University. He leads efforts to advance Open Research and introduced the University's new copyright retention policy in 2022. Before he joined the university, he worked as a lecturer and researcher in the Netherlands (Leiden), Belgium (Louvain-la-Neuve), France (Sorbonne) and the UK (Nottingham and Sheffield). He has Master's degrees in Dutch linguistics and literature, and in information studies. He holds a PhD in history. https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3068-7881

Andrew Walsh
Andrew has worked in libraries for about 20 years, but has only recently started disclosing his neurodivergence. He's a National Teaching Fellow, Academic Librarian at the University of Huddersfield, and ALN Development Manager. Andrew has written books, articles, and given numerous conference talks on topics from teaching in libraries to local folk and fairy tales. He's particularly interested in aspects of play in adult learning, leadership, and most recently how neurodiverse adult play may look different to neurotypical play. He edits the diamond open access Journal of Play in Adulthood. When he grows up he wants to be a pirate.

Eddie Whitaker - University of Leeds
Eddie Whittaker is a Customer Service Assistant at the University of Leeds Library.They are dedicated to customer service and passionate about feedback. Eddie has recently completed a week long UX course which will help gather student feedback in more creative ways going forward.

Tanya Williamson - University of Leeds
Tanya Williamson is a Library Research Support Advisor working in the University of Leeds Libraries' Research Service team. Tanya uses her expertise to support researchers in all disciplines with tasks such as literature searching, referencing and reference management, and increasing research visibility. She is interested in virtually every aspect of librarianship, but teaching and learning, user experience, and workplace culture are her enduring interests. Tanya is a Chartered member of CILIP and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (Advance HE).

Laura Woods - University of Huddersfield
Laura Woods is a subject librarian at the University of Huddersfield, and is also undertaking a part-time PhD in information literacy at the University of Sheffield.

John Wright - University of Liverpool
John Wright is Liaison Librarian for the School of the Arts at the University of Liverpool. John is a Chartered Librarian and Advance HE Fellow with over 15 years' experience in academic skills and information literacy teaching and support, primarily in the Higher Education sector. In his spare time John writes songs in both English and Welsh.

Sarah Wright - Edge Hill University
My name is Sarah Wright, I am the Acquisition's Team Leader at Edge Hill University, responsible for the ebook and book ordering processes, reading lists, ILL's and digitisation. I am chair of the NWUPC Library Category group and a member of several networks including the ALN enabling group, ILL and university led groups including copyright, accessibility and coaching. One of the perks of the job is having a Reading for Pleasure collection that has developed significantly from being just an inherited print fiction collection to an accessible online, audio and magazine offer available to all!

Nicola Wyle - Lancaster University
Nicola is Research Intelligence Manager at Lancaster University, leading the bibliometrics and citations service and advocating for the responsible use of metrics. Data analysis informs and empowers research strategy globally. As a member of the Library Management Team she works across the Library on projects including Rethinking Library Space - a review of how office space is used and considering how this impacts staff wellbeing. She is also chair of Lancaster's (Library) Staff Development Group, a member of the Wellbeing sub-group as well as co-chair of the ALN Mental Health & Wellbeing Project Group.

About Academic Libraries North

Academic Libraries North was formed in January 2021 by the coming together of two successful and dynamic regional consortia: the Northern Collaboration and NoWAL.

Remit & Purpose

ALN is a network of 33 academic libraries in the North of England and a regional subgroup of SCONUL. Through collaborative activities and mutual support, we seek to provide opportunities for our members in the exchange of knowledge and experience. We help facilitate initiatives that respond to emerging opportunities and support our members through future challenges in higher education and the library environment. You can see a map of our members **here**.

Key elements of activity include:

- Providing a high-quality professional development programme (including an annual conference) for all our library staff, that facilitates knowledge exchange, experience sharing and feeds the talent pipeline and contributes to succession planning
- Exploring technology opportunities to increase the efficiency of access to training, events and meetings
- Through Special Interest Groups and Communities of Practice providing our staff with opportunities to work with and learn from their peers
- Exploring opportunities for sharing procurement expertise
- Identifying potential funding opportunities, business models and collaborative projects
- Making connections between library staff and related professional groups and stakeholders across library and wider education sectors

To find out more about ALN, visit **https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/**