

Group Chairs (August 2026)

Groups Lead on ALN Steering Group



Harriet Davidson serves as Groups Lead, partnering closely with Group Chairs to champion their work and strengthen collaboration across the network. Stepping into the role in May 2026, Harriet brings experience from co-chairing the Service Engagement and Impact SIG for a number of years. Harriet is the Academic Liaison Librarian (Skills) at the University of Sunderland, leading the Study Skills and PASS teams as part of the Learner Development team within the Library.

Academic Librarians CoP



Zoe Johnson is a subject librarian and the University of Huddersfield and co-chairs the Academic Librarians CoP.

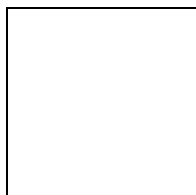


Photo to be added

Andrew Taylor is a subject librarian and Liverpool Hope University and co-chairs the Academic Librarians CoP.

Academic Skills CoP



Dr Kirsty Hemsworth is an Academic Skills Manager at Sheffield Hallam University, where she leads two innovative student partnership programmes within the Library's Skills Centre. Kirsty champions collaborative approaches to academic skills development and digitally enhanced learning. Her current research focuses on student partnership work in central support services, exploring how this intersects with the hidden curriculum and creates opportunities for more authentic work with students to challenge barriers and systemic inequalities. Her favourite part of chairing the Academic Skills Community of Practice is hearing about small wins in student engagement and participation from across the sector. <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-1460-3430>



Sarah Kneen is Open Research Specialist at the University of Manchester and co-chairs the Academic Skills CoP.

Accessibility Group

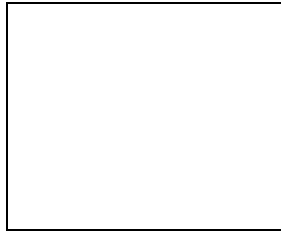


Photo to be added

Alice Bennett works at the Digital Accessibility Unit at the University of York and co-chairs the Accessibility Group.



Rosie Smith is an Assistant Librarian in Customer Services at Newcastle University, where she has worked for the past 4 years. She has co-chaired the ALN Accessibility Group since January 2025, as well as chairing the accessibility group at Newcastle. Her role at Newcastle University also includes feedback, learning and development and customer service excellence accreditation.

Copyright CoP



Louise Koch is Collection Services Librarian Manchester Metropolitan University and co-chairs the Copyright CoP.



Neil Sprunt is the co-chair of the Copyright Community of Practice. He is Teaching and Learning Services Manager and Copyright Manager at the University of Manchester Library. He has worked in academic libraries for over 25 years and as an experienced copyright practitioner is committed to promoting copyright literacy and best practice. In addition to his ALN role, Neil is a member of the UUK/GuildHE Copyright Negotiating and Advisory Committee (CNAC) who negotiate copyright licences on behalf of the HE sector and the ALT Copyright and Online Learning Special Interest Group. Outside of work Neil enjoys keeping fit, art and a bit of gardening.

Customer Services CoP

Co-Chairs TBC

EDI Action Group



Debbie Spencer is a Senior Academic Liaison Librarian for the Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Society at the University of Chester, where she has worked for the past eight years. She achieved Fellowship status in 2024. Her background is in education, having spent 18 years as a primary school teacher prior to joining the university. Whilst teaching, she was the school lead for children with English as an additional language and successfully applied for the School of Sanctuary Award. Debbie is committed to committed to advancing EDI in both the library and across the university and has recently established a dedicated EDI working group within the University of Chester's Learning and Information Services.

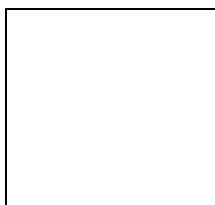


Photo to be added

Kitty Lees-Edmondson works at the University of Hull and co-chairs the EDI Action Group.

Inter Library Loans CoP



Will Grady is Collections Services Librarian at Manchester Metropolitan University and co-chairs the Inter Library Loans CoP.



Photo to be added

Kenny Whyte works at the University of York and co-chairs the Inter Library Loans CoP.

Learning Spaces Group



Maria Carnegie is co-chair of the Learning Spaces group. She is Assistant Director – Head of Customer Services for Durham University Library and Collections, with teams working across libraries and visitor attractions. Previously she was Head Librarian for the Scottish Poetry Library and part of the Senior Management Team at University of Derby, as well as working in FE and public libraries. She is a strong advocate for user experience and the role of libraries in wellbeing and belonging. She is a member of ALN Leadership network, RLUK's Assistant Director's Network and has recently joined the SCONUL EDI Strategy group. She has supported delivery of ALN's Frontline Forum and participated in the pilot RLUK Reciprocal Mentoring programme.

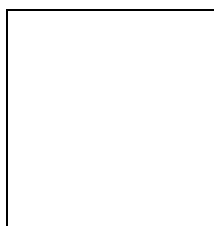


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Sophie North is Library Customer Services Manager at the University of Bradford and co-chairs the Learning Spaces Group.

Metadata & Linked Data CoP



Sam Ziesler is a Collection Metadata Analyst at the British Library. He has worked in libraries for more than 10 years, mostly in the academic sector. His main interest is in library metadata and metadata standards. He has also worked extensively with eBooks and eResources. He is chair of the ALN Metadata and Linked Data Community of Practice.

Partnership Development CoP



Tom Vause is Liaison Librarian and Partnerships Librarian at Leeds Trinity University, a role he has held since 2021. His role includes responsibility for all aspects of library support for all its UK and International educational partners and liaison responsibility for Business, Law, Computing and Construction on campus. Prior to joining Leeds Trinity, he worked at Leeds Beckett University and various School Librarian posts. He is Co-Chair of the Partnerships Community of Practice since its creation. He is interested in further developing library partnership support standards by working with a wide variety of academic institutions.



Leanne Young has worked as a librarian in higher education for 23 years as both as subject librarian and liaising with international partners to provide distance learning support. After gaining a PG cert in Teaching and Learning in HE in 2009, she chartered with CILIP in 2013. She has since participated in several regional committees and was formerly Chair of CILIP North East. She's looking forward to co-chairing the ALN Partnership Development Community of Practice.

Procurement CoP



Anthony Sinnott is Access and Procurement Development Manager at the University of York and co-chairs the Procurement CoP.



Rachel Schulkins is Head of Subscriptions and Publisher Relations at the University of Manchester and co-chairs the Procurement CoP.

Research Support Group



Delphine Doucet is Open Research Librarian at the University of Sunderland and co-chairs the Research Support Group.



Megan Kilvington is Copyright & Scholarly Communications Librarian at York St John University and co-chairs the Research Support Group.

Service Engagement & Impact Group



Julie Cleverley is Resources and Discovery Manager at Leeds Beckett University. She has 25 years' experience of working in HE and has worked as a resources manager since 2005. Her role involves leading a team of 15 to acquire, manage and evaluate all library resources with a clear focus on discoverability and accessibility via the Library Management system and Reading list system. Julie is responsible for managing the library's resources budget, and the future development of the library's collections with a focus on acquiring current, sustainable and accessible resources. She is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and was previously Chair of the Northern Collaboration Content Group. Julie is Chair of the ALN Service Engagement and Impact Special Interest Group and a member of the Procurement and Partnership Development Communities of Practice.



Sandra Tranmer is the Customer Experience and Insight Manager at the Brynmor Jones Library at the University of Hull. She leads on the development, delivery and management of all frontline customer services, with responsibility for the operation of the Brynmor Jones Library and the overall user experience. She started at the library in 2004 as a Library Assistant, shelving books, and has always remained in the same team, progressing through various leadership positions over the years. Sandra provides strategic direction for customer service delivery and fosters a culture of continuous service improvement. She works closely with the Operations Manager and Team Leaders to ensure delivery of a high-quality, consistent service for customers. Her role combines operational leadership with analytical insight, using qualitative and quantitative data to inform decision-making and improve performance of our frontline services.

Special Collections & Archives Group



Alexandra Mitchell is Archivist at the University of Salford, where she supports teaching, learning and research through the management of the University's Archives, Special Collections and zine collection. Alongside her professional role, Alexandra is Co-Chair of the Special Collections and Archives Special Interest Group, a steering group member for the Higher Education Archives Programme (HEAP) convened by The National Archives, and an Independent Trustee of the Co-operative Heritage Trust. She brings experience from the business archives sector, including active involvement with the Archives and Records Association's Section for Business Records, as well as work with community archives and heritage collections, reflecting a strong commitment to widening access and engagement.



Fran Robinson is the Senior Subject Librarian (Psychology and Humanities) (0.5 FTE) and University Archivist (0.5 FTE) at the University of Lancashire. She has worked with the University Archive and Special Collections for around seven years, stepping up to the University Archivist role in 2023. Prior to this, Fran worked in a range of jobs within the HE and FE sector including as a Disabled student support worker and Programmes officer. Fran enjoys being part of the ALN Special Collections and Archives Special Interest Group as it is a friendly space to share ideas and learn from peers – both formal and informal Archivists, librarians and those who look after rare books.

Technology CoP



Lee Blyth is Discovery and Access Librarian at Northumbria University and has been the chair of the Technology CoP for the past few years.

User Experience CoP



Caroline Barratt is the Engagement and Insight Officer at The Open University Library working on evaluation of community perceptions and experience of Library Services to inform our service development. She is a Librarian (MLIS, University of South Carolina) and is UX Certified with a specialty in Research from the Nielsen Norman Group. She loves talking to students and learning about how what the library does supports their academic goals and dreams!



Jenny Morgan is Customer Services Team Manager at Leeds Beckett University and co-chairs the UX CoP.