

# **I CAN'T DO ANY MORE WITH LESS!**

Collaborative and innovative ways to enhance library  
spaces, collections, and engagement without over-  
stretching ourselves

**@THE VENUE DMU  
WED 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPT  
2026**

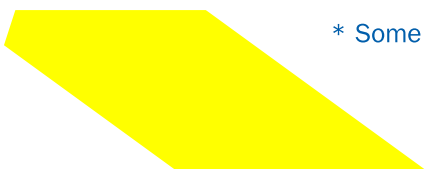


**#MERCIAN26**



# Schedule<sup>\*</sup>

|             |                                                                      |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>0915</b> | Arrival and Registration                                             |
| <b>0940</b> | Platinum Sponsor Session 1                                           |
| <b>0950</b> | Mercian Chair's Welcome                                              |
| <b>1000</b> | Keynote                                                              |
| <b>1100</b> | Break and Sponsors                                                   |
| <b>1130</b> | Sessions 1                                                           |
| <b>1300</b> | Lunch and Sponsors                                                   |
| <b>1400</b> | Sessions 2                                                           |
| <b>1500</b> | Break, Sponsors and Posters                                          |
| <b>1535</b> | Platinum Sponsor Session 2                                           |
| <b>1545</b> | Plenary: From What is To What If - What would you do on Monday if... |
| <b>1620</b> | Conference Closing Summary                                           |
| <b>1630</b> | Conference Closes                                                    |



<sup>\*</sup> Some session timings may be subject to change

# Meet your Keynote



## **Anne-Lise Harding** (She/Elle)

Strategic Training Lead

*House of Commons Library*

Anne-Lise Harding is a highly experienced, chartered library leader and the Strategic Training Lead at the House of Commons Library. In her role, she oversees the quality and impact of training provided to Members of Parliament, their staff and the wider parliamentary workforce. Her work focuses on information literacy, democratic engagement and strengthening Parliament's resilience to misinformation and disinformation. She is the creator and lead on the House of Commons Library's Good Information Toolkit.

She is Co-Chair of the CILIP Information Literacy Group, a committee providing national leadership, advocacy and expertise in this field. She is also a non-executive director at Full Fact, contributing her expertise to the UK's independent fact-checking charity and advising on training strategy.

Her professional interests include information literacy, education to information, advocacy and leadership. She recently co-authored a chapter on informed society and representative democracy in *The Ideas-Informed Society* (Emerald Publishing).



# Sessions

## **Beg, Steal or Borrow? Finding Ways and Means to Transform the University of Buckingham's Library Service**

Malcolm Meaden-Pratt & Rachel Pollard  
*University of Buckingham*

## **Beyond the Digital Walls: Enhancing Library Services and Presence through Institutional Ambassadorship**

Agnieszka Wolańska  
*Coventry University*

## **Changing Institutional Amnesia: How Reshaping Special Collections Can Foster Collaboration, Increase Engagement, and Spearhead Research**

Angus Harker & Natalie Bevan  
*University of Warwick*





# Sessions

## **Data Analytics in Collections Management**

Cristiana Ilie

*University of Warwick*

## **Diversifying Children's Literature then and now: progress toward a more inclusive School Experience Collection at Birmingham Newman University Library**

Adele Champken

*Birmingham Newman University*

## **Impactful Intervention: Transitioning from 1-to-1 Support to Group Support**

Selina Lock & Merinne Whitton

*University of Leicester*





# Sessions

## **Knowing me, Knowing you: Examining the Library Induction Process for Academic Staff**

Beth Gomm  
*University of Worcester*

## **Reflections One Year into Piloting Peer Study Groups: Is This a Model of Engaging and Providing Peer Support to Masters and Distance Learners?**

Han-Na Cha & Helen Hawksworth  
*University of Birmingham*

## **Step into the Spotlight: Illuminating Every Team**

Sarah Coulbeck & Georgina Young  
*University of Nottingham*





# Sessions

## **Students' Perceptions of Information Literacy: Insights from the Development of a Student-Informed Framework**

Andy Calvert

*University of Warwick*

## **Sustainable and Collaborative Solutions to Showcasing Your Resources**

Nicola Dennis

*Aston University*

## **Sustainable Service Growth Through Workforce Development**

Deborah Munro & Kerry Bonehill

*Aston University*





# Sessions

## **‘Now’s Not the Moment for a Press’: Relaunching (Maybe) a University Press Amidst Financial Tensions**

Dr Gaz J Johnson  
*University of Warwick*

## **When Less Forces Change: A Phoenix Approach to Rebuilding Research Support from Restructure Ashes**

Joanne Marsh & Michelle Mayer  
*Coventry University*

# Plenary

## **From What is To What If - What would you do on Monday if...**

Lux Gagos  
*University of Nottingham*





# Workshops

## **Encouraging Engagement with Reading Lists - A Roundtable Discussion**

Brittany Moster Bergonzi  
*University College Birmingham*

## **Do More... or Do What Matters? Designing Library Support for Partnerships**

Chantelle Wilcox and Jane Faux  
*Birmingham Newman University*

## **User Experience Workshop**

Claire Browne & Emma Hibbert  
*University of Birmingham & Loughborough University*





# Poster Displays

#Mercian26 will again be hosting posters submitted by Mercian members as part of the day's activities and knowledge sharing. The posters will show off a range of innovative projects from across the member institutions in an exciting visual way.



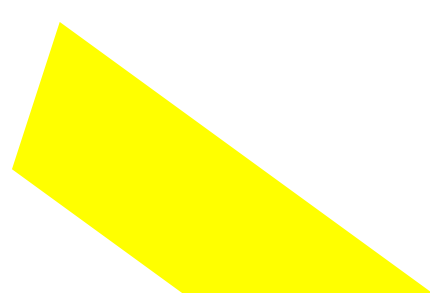
# Meet our Sponsors and Supporters

**Platinum Sponsor**



overton

Overton is the world's largest searchable policy database. Our platform lets you discover millions of documents from governments, IGOs, think tanks, NGOs and see what research, people and policy that they reference. You can track how evidence is used across the policy landscape, giving you unparalleled insights into how ideas flow from research to policy as well as from policy to policy. Use our app to find grey literature and reports or as a tracking tool to measure the real-world impact of your research. Overton brings transparency to policymaking, helping you understand the mechanisms of engagement and influence.





**Platinum Sponsor**



Founded in 2013, Kortext is a leading academic library supplier and student experience expert. Our catalogue aggregates more than 3.6 million eBooks (both textbooks and monographs) from over 10,500 global publishers. The Kortext Open Resources Collection contains almost 40,000 Open Access titles and Open Educational Resources, curated by in-house librarians. Our product suite for libraries includes Kortext acquire, for seamless content procurement, KeyLinks, our dynamic reading list platform, and Talis, the online reading list and resource management platform used by universities worldwide, now part of the Kortext family. For more information, please visit: [kortext.com](http://kortext.com) and [talis.com](http://talis.com).



## Gold Sponsors



Bloomsbury Digital Resources is committed to serving a global community of students, scholars, instructors, and librarians by providing creative online research and learning environments that deliver excellence and originality. Whether it be primary documents, critical texts, historical archives, or the latest in video and audio resources, we are committed to enhancing the research experience with innovative, engaging, and dynamic digital resources of the highest quality.

---



The commitment shown by library professionals across the industry is deeply valued, particularly during these demanding times. Dedicated to serving your needs, our responsive, UK-based Customer Care and Regional Account Manager teams work closely with libraries to ensure reliable and timely access to the resources required to support your users.



Burgundy represents a range of publishers from around the world. Drop by our booth to catch up with our Account Managers and to discover new products and services from our publishing partners - American Mathematical Society, BioOne, Mary Ann Liebert Publishers and SPIE Digital Library.



We create collections of critical research and learning materials. We contextualize them and provide tools and supporting materials so that they can be used for learning and research. We add content that's uncatalogued, undiscoverable, uncitable, prone to link rot, and likely to disappear. Where content is in danger of being lost forever, we make sure that it's stabilized, findable, and preserved in a permanent home. Visit us to learn about our policy documents, virtual reality educational experiences, materials from and about the Global South, and unique historical archives.



INFORMATION SERVICES

EBSCO offers high-quality information resources and technology solutions to help academic, medical, corporate and public/community libraries build and manage their collections, meet their patron's information needs, promote lifelong learning, and transform lives. Providing access to books, eBooks, journals, magazines, and various reference resources alongside user-friendly search platforms, a managed open-source library system (FOLIO) and through our linked-data technology solution (Bibliograph) which transforms the visibility of library catalogues on the web, EBSCO is ideally placed to work with all libraries. For more information on EBSCO's resources, please visit [www.ebsco.com](http://www.ebsco.com)



Manchester University Press

At Manchester University Press (MUP), we aim to advance research and learning worldwide through high-quality publishing. Founded in 1903 and based at the heart of a leading UK university, we have a long tradition of scholarly excellence.

We publish over 200 books and five journals annually in the Humanities and Social Sciences, working with established and emerging scholars globally. We are committed to innovation in scholarly communication while responding to the evolving needs of academia. Our focus on discoverability, accessibility, and inclusivity is paired with strong author care, design, and production standards, ensuring lasting value for our authors and readers.



**Taylor & Francis Group**  
an **informa** business

Taylor & Francis partners with researchers, scholarly societies, universities, and libraries worldwide to bring knowledge to life. As one of the world's leading publishers of scholarly journals, books, eBooks, and reference works our content spans all areas of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Behavioural Sciences, Science, Technology, and Medicine.

Taylor & Francis is also one of the world's largest publishers of open access research.

---

# VitalSource®

VitalSource has powered digital content delivery across the higher education ecosystem for over 30 years. Winner of the 2024 CODiE award for Most Innovative Ed Tech company, VitalSource delivers more than 20 million learning materials globally each year. With unmatched scale, the VitalSource Learning Delivery Network is trusted by thousands of content providers and institutions worldwide to deliver impactful learning experiences, fuel affordable access programs, and drive a learning advantage for every student. Learn more at: <https://get.vitalsource.com>



**Silver Sponsor**



Your first, best step toward a linked data future for libraries  
Does your library speak linked data? Help people find their way to your library's resources from more online locations. With OCLC Meridian, your catalog can immediately speak the language of organizations that use linked data. Scientific research, government information, museum collections, genealogies, digital humanities, economic data - if they use linked data, you'll find new connections and create your own.





[merciancollaboration.org.uk](http://merciancollaboration.org.uk)