



Awards 2025

Outstanding Library Team of the Year

Institution Name	Royal Northern College of Music
Submission title or project name	Royal Northern College of Music library and archives team
Nominee / key personnel	Sarah d'Ardenne (head of library services)
URL	https://www.rncm.ac.uk/research/resources/library/
Submission	The Royal Northern College of Music's award-winning library service combines a warm welcome, specialist knowledge and expertise with a wealth of resources to support teaching, learning, performance and research through responsive, innovative and student-centred practices. RNCM library provision supports students during their studies and sets them up for life with a dedicated team of 11 music subject specialists ensuring that every student journey is individually supported. One-to-one specialist copyright guidance – unique to the conservatoire sector – provides essential professional training, in 2023-24 equipping 230-plus students with vital, discipline-specific knowledge, indispensable to their degree and their future music career. Consistently performing well above benchmark levels in National Student Surveys, the RNCM library's small but mighty team deliver an exceptional, deeply personalised, specialist music service. Its friendly, student-centred approach opens the doors to learning resources, providing bespoke and adaptive support throughout learners' time with the RNCM, from offer to graduation and beyond.



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Institution Name	University of Strathclyde
Submission title or project name	Celebrating the oral history of the University of Strathclyde: a diamond jubilee project
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://www.strath.ac.uk/oralhistorytrail/
Submission	To mark the University of Strathclyde's diamond jubilee in 2024, the Andersonian Library led a collaborative project to create a unique oral history trail, both online and across the Glasgow campus. Drawing on interviews from "The University Experience, 1945-75", an oral history project by the Scottish Oral History Centre, the trail features memories that reflect not only university life but also broader social issues of the time. Seven locations around campus were chosen to display quotes and images, encouraging exploration and engagement. The library's archives team curated content from the collection, while colleagues from the conferencing and events team helped to deliver a high-quality design and promotion strategy. The trail stands as a long-lasting tribute to Strathclyde's heritage, showcasing its cultural resources and offering global digital access. It's the university's first project of this kind, highlighting how historical archives can be meaningfully integrated into campus life to celebrate collective memory and institutional history.



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Institution Name	University of Chichester
Submission title or project name	Low cost, high impact in financially challenging times
Nominee / key personnel	The University of Chichester library team, led by Karen Lloyd (university librarian)
URL	
Submission	During a financially challenging year, the University of Chichester library team embraced the opportunity to work in different ways to enhance the student experience. Actively seeking out learners' views allowed the team to focus their energies on delivering on student requests. Targeted inclusive activities such as a dedicated assisted library service Moodle page, volunteering opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and a family fun day for students with children increased our profile and made us more welcoming and approachable. A small supportive library team took the initiative and created their own video content to free up staff time and encourage students to access self-directed training at point of need. All these initiatives lead to positive feedback from staff and students, including: "the environment and library resources are great" and "the staff at the library are helpful in supporting our academic studies through offering one-to-one or group/online sessions".



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Institution Name	Royal College of Art
Submission title or project name	A hub for creative community engagement and student well-being
Nominee / key personnel	RCA library team
URL	
Submission	The Royal College of Art's library team has built on its role as a high-quality student learning resource to become a hub for community engagement and student well-being at the college. Initiatives during the year included artists-in-residence, exhibitions highlighting the experience of neurodiverse students, Dada poetry workshops and the inaugural reading of the RCA Africa Society. The team also created a dedicated Calm Space to provide a space to reflect and relax from the pressure of teaching, research and studio activities, and compiled extensive e-book and audiobook collections to support students on topics such as anxiety, stress, depression, insomnia and loneliness.



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Institution Name	Birmingham Newman University
Submission title or project name	Empowering academic excellence through generative AI support
Nominee / key personnel	Birmingham Newman University Library team
URL	https://libguides.newman.ac.uk/home
Submission	As generative AI reshapes academia, Birmingham Newman University Library has led efforts to provide structured guidance for students and staff, ensuring responsible AI use. In September 2023, we launched a dedicated microsite featuring clear resources on AI ethics, research applications, citation practices and academic support. Supplemented by video content, this was the first AI guidance at our institution, and it has influenced university-wide policy. In October 2023, we introduced interactive workshops, giving students hands-on AI experience while fostering ethical discussions. Originally optional, these workshops were later integrated into embedded teaching, ensuring structured AI literacy across multiple disciplines, including theology, English, psychology and education courses. By collaborating with academic staff and the e-learning department, we've contributed to institution-wide AI discussions and the development of practice, strengthening ethical AI engagement. As AI continues evolving, we remain committed to expanding our work, ensuring that the library remains a pioneering force in generative literacy.



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Institution Name	University of West London
Submission title or project name	UWL's inclusive library
Nominee / key personnel	Davina Omar
URL	
Submission	University of West London Library Services have responded to the challenge of making an inclusive and supportive environment for learners by centring students' personal academic preferences, understanding that students are individuals with varying needs and requirements. Through activities including arranging convenient appointments with librarians either online or in person, offering embedded information literacy teaching in modules using videos or live lectures, updating the physical library to better respond to their needs, investing in more than 1 million e-books and providing a £100 bursary at levels 5 and 6 so that students can personally choose the material that they feel best will support them, the library team has given students the confidence to develop their literacy skills and academic knowledge. Success is shown through the library receiving its highest level of satisfaction – 92 per cent in the Module Evaluation Survey in both semesters in 2023-24.