



Awards 2024

Outstanding Library Team of the Year

Institution Name	University of Nottingham
Submission title or project name	Digital Accessibility
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	From an inauspicious starting point, University of Nottingham Libraries has transformed our Digital Accessibility offer into one that is now sector leading. As well as adopting new technologies to effectively meet the needs of users, a programme of cultural change has been embedded to ensure good practice and governance throughout the University of Nottingham. A dedicated Digital Accessibility Team provides proactive advice and guidance across the institution, via a package of training, resources and support for a Community of Practice. A sector-wide Special Interest Group has been established, which shares outputs and supports the development of guidance for the sector. This work culminated in the sector's first Digital Accessibility Conference in June 2023, with over 300 delegates attending in person, with a further online conference scheduled for June 2024. The real measure of success for the programme has been in creating truly accessible teaching and learning experiences.



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Institution Name	Dublin City University
Submission title or project name	Walls into Walkways: DCU Library Secondary School Engagement
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://www.dcu.ie/library
Submission	Dublin City University (DCU) has been at the forefront of widening access to its Library spaces. In 2022, DCU piloted providing free access to library study spaces for Leaving Certificate students. This was the first time such a service support was formalised by an Irish academic library and proved to be very popular providing safe, quiet study areas in advance of and during pivotal exams. A large percentage of the spaces were reserved for students coming from DEIS (Delivering Equality of opportunity In Schools) and disadvantaged areas. In 2023, the service was mainstreamed and numbers jumped from 790 to 1,651 registered students. In 2023, DCU Library also piloted classes in English and Irish for secondary-level students, drawing on the expertise of the DCU authors in residence, Dave Rudden and Megan O'Connor. 200 students from over 80 schools participated, gaining access to free expert tuition and unique insights.



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Institution Name	Cardiff University
Submission title or project name	Living our Values
Nominee / key personnel	Tracey Stanley, Library Director
URL	
Submission	Cardiff University Library has demonstrated visible leadership of groundbreaking work on anti-racism, EDI and sustainability, which is embedded within the library strategy for 2023-27. In putting our words into action, we work across the university and with other sector partners to advocate for change and make it happen. The library strategy, approved by Senate, includes the following commitments: • We aim to create a welcoming environment for a diverse body of staff and students, to attract and retain more diverse staff who better reflect the customer base and enrich our services through their lived experience • We seek to promote a cultural shift and active challenge to the status quo in a UK library workforce, which is 97% white • Ensure we have the physical infrastructure to support the ambitions of the university and can deliver a future-proofed and environmentally sustainable library service



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Institution Name	University of Chester
Submission title or project name	An exploration into the diversification and decolonisation of reading lists within the curriculum
Nominee / key personnel	Charlotte Gleeson, Senior Librarian (Learning and Teaching Engagement); Jenny Warren (Collections and Content Librarian); Debbie Spencer (Academic Liaison Librarian); and acknowledging our four fantastic students who worked on this project
URL	
Submission	Supporting our University strategy to enhance the student experience, our library teams collaborated with students through our University “students as partners” initiative to create a decolonising and diversifying toolkit for reading lists. The team worked together focusing on four objectives: • conducting a literature review and research on information and toolkits created by other Universities • an audit of a select group of internal reading lists to gain an enhanced understanding of the authors and voices being represented • the creation of the toolkit • a video explaining diversification and decolonisation and how it relates to the library collection The resources produced are available via our internal library pages. Following the completion of the project, the team have shared the work at external events, and one of the staff members is working with one of our faculties with the aim to embed the toolkit further within programme delivery.



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Institution Name	University of Edinburgh
Submission title or project name	Library Research Support
Nominee / key personnel	Library Research Support Team
URL	
Submission	In 2022, the University of Edinburgh's Library Research Support Team introduced the UK's first "Rights Retention" Publications Policy, allowing authors to comply easily with complicated Open Access Requirements, and retain more control over their publications. This sparked a shift in scholarly communications, and 30 UK universities have now adopted such a policy, making life easier for authors and libraries and potentially saving the sector millions of pounds. Early in 2023, Library Research Support also introduced one of the first Library-based Citizen Science & Participatory Research services, which supports researchers to use library collections, spaces and services to actively and positively involve individuals and community groups in research projects. Sharing information about both these initiatives with academic libraries across the UK and further afield, we hope to change practice internationally. Our colleagues come from diverse professional backgrounds and employ interdisciplinary approaches; we are the modern face of research libraries.



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Institution Name	Newcastle University
Submission title or project name	Helping staff and students to navigate AI successfully
Nominee / key personnel	Emily Dott and the Library's Academic Liaison Team; Terry Charlton and the Learning and Teaching Development Service
URL	https://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/thelma-2024-showcase/
Submission	Generative AI poses both challenges and opportunities for educators and students. Using videos, critical evaluation checklists, online tutorials and self-assessments, we have created practical tools for students to enhance their studies. Our Learning and Teaching Development Service colleagues have created parallel guidance for academics, including AI-focused workshops to introduce AI and how to optimise its use. All resources have been well received. Within a week of launching, they had attracted 2,024 unique views. From April 2023 to date, they received over 18,300 unique views, and several universities have approached us for permission to reuse materials. Our work has been recognised professionally, and we have been invited to collaborate with colleagues in other higher education institutions to develop subject-level resources. Co-creation, feedback and co-evaluation with students underpin all of this work and ongoing feedback will inform future phases of development – nothing stands still in the world of AI.