

Innovate, Shape & Create Supercharging London's Libraries Conference

19 September 2025
9.00am-3.50pm

The Livery Hall, Guildhall, Basinghall Street, London, EC2 7HH



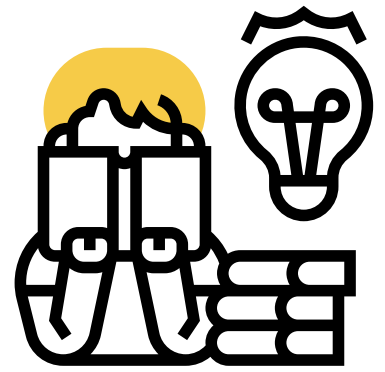
Programme

Timetable



9.00	9.30	Coffee and registration
9.30	9.40	Welcome by Fiona Tarn Chair London Libraries & Past Chair Anita Luby
9.40	9.50	Welcome by Brendan Barns- Chair of Culture, Heritage & Libraries (City of London)
9.50	10.00	The National Picture & Inspiration - Ed Jewell, President of Libraries Connected
10.05	10.10	Sponsor flash film - Solus UK
		Ignite Presentations:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chaos Theory Music Project - Lewisham Libraries• Voxblock Players Project - Lewisham Libraries• Forget Me Not Dementia Project - GLL Libraries• Working with GP's - Barking & Dagenham• How to engage and increase visitor numbers -Hackney Libraries
10.10	10.50	
11.50	11.05	Coffee and networking
		The Europe Challenge
11.10	11.25	Ruxandra Gidei (Europe Challenge) & Alison Hoolihan and Luke Burton (ACE)
11.25	12.25	Break Out Workshops
12.25	13.25	Lunch and networking
13.30	13.35	Sponsors Flash film - CIVICA
13.40	14.10	Keynote: Time with Joseph Coelho
14:15	14:45	London Libraries Priorities and Future workshop
		The Impact of Reading for Pleasure and the Role of Libraries Panel Discussion
		Luke Burton Chair of the panel (Arts Council England); Laura Chesover (British
14:50	15:20	Library); Emma Braithwaite (The Reading Agency); Joseph Coelho (Author); Jonathan
		Douglas (National Literacy Trust)
15:25	15:40	Closing thoughts from volunteers in the room.

Workshops



Workshops will take place at 11.25am. Choose one to attend from the following list.

Tour of the Guildhall Library

Guildhall Library was originally established by the will of Richard 'Dick' Wittington! It holds internationally renowned collections of books on family and local history, Samuel Pepys, John Wilkes and Thomas Moore, plus the libraries of the Clock Makers', Gardeners' and Fletchers' Companies, the Antiquarian Horological Society, Gresham College and the Charles Lamb Society. Join the library team for a unique, behind the scenes, guided tour.

Entrepreneurial Success showcasing collaborations and impactful support from The British Library, GLL and Small Business Research & Enterprise Centre

Wendy Foster, Seema Rampersad (British Library) & Loretta Awuah (GLL Libraries)

This workshop will be facilitated to cover some of the interactive and practical tips that has worked with the expertise at these organisations. Learn how to engage and support users who are using resources and expertise to start and grow their businesses.

Find out how rewarding it is to help users in this journey and how we give them the confidence take those steps forward.

GLAM Racket using Community Radio for Community Engagement **Peter Baxter (Brent Libraries) & Abul Kashim (Camden Libraries)**

Explore the essential role public libraries and their communities can play in the world of community radio and content creation. Together, we'll discuss how to equip staff with the skills to engage their local communities through the medium of radio, while ensuring the GLAM project adds value without creating additional workload. The session will also focus on how radio can support and elevate the incredible work already happening across London Libraries.

This workshop will facilitate a collaborative discussion to understand what is needed to move the project forward. We'll explore how to produce creative content, collaborate with local organisations, and leverage radio as a tool for advocacy, and cultural promotion. Whether you're interested in creating a radio programme, podcasts, sharing local stories, or amplifying your library's initiatives, this workshop will be the first step in defining the direction and resources required to bring your ideas to life.

Workshops

Engaging your VI community during the National Year of Reading

Laura Marshall (RNIB) and Muhammad Haque (London Borough of Barking & Dagenham)

The National Year of Reading is an exciting time for all libraries, and every part of the community should be involved, but what is reading? Is it looking at printed words, listening to words being read or touching dots with your hands? Join Lara from the RNIB and Muhammad from Barking and Dagenham Libraries, as they discuss some practical steps and techniques to engage with blind and partially sighted people in your local area. Understanding the different ways people access information is key to creating inclusive libraries that truly serve everyone.

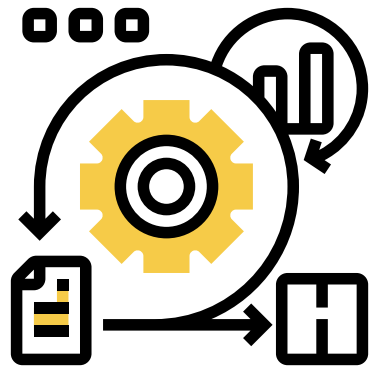
GLL Literary Foundation

Rebecca Gediking (GLL Libraries)

The GLL Literary Foundation was established in 2024 to support emerging children's authors, inspire reading and to champion public libraries. The Foundation offers bursaries, mentoring, and professional development, helping new writers build sustainable careers and connect with local readers.



Workshops



Getting Started with AI: A Beginner's Guide for Librarians **Marion Tessier (Sutton Libraries)**

Artificial Intelligence feels everywhere right now, but what actually is it and what does it mean for libraries? This beginner-friendly workshop is designed for library staff with no prior knowledge of AI. Through clear explanations, interactive examples, and group discussion, you will gain a grounding in the basics: what AI is and what it is not, common myths and misconceptions, and how everyday AI tools already touch your work and your users' lives.

We will explore simple, real-world examples of how AI can support library services, from reader support to digital inclusion, and give you the confidence to take part in conversations about AI in your workplace.

This is not a technical session. No coding and no jargon. Just a clear, engaging introduction that helps you see where AI fits, and where it doesn't, in the library world.

Using AI Responsibly: A practical guide for libraries **Carl Stevens (Arts Council England)**

A hands-on workshop introducing library professionals to Arts Council England's Responsible AI Practical Toolkit. Learn how to identify, plan and run AI pilot projects responsibly, assess risks, get people on board and develop AI literacy across your organisation.

Thank you to the following companies for sponsoring the conference this year. You can visit them in the exhibitor area throughout the day.

