SCURL STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2019

SCURL is the principal grouping of the university and research libraries in Scotland. For the benefit of those who use our libraries, SCURL works

- To improve and develop services for users and maximise access to resources through collaborative action and shared services
- To collaborate with other organisations, sectors and domains towards the creation of a cooperative library infrastructure in Scotland
- To advocate matters of shared interest on behalf of members to funding & planning bodies and other professional organizations

SCURL's membership comprises all nineteen Scottish University and HEI libraries, the two major public reference libraries in Glasgow and Edinburgh, the National Library of Scotland, the National Museums Scotland Research Library, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Library, and the Open University. Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University are Associate Members.

SCURL works closely with SLIC to coordinate and promote developments with the wider Scottish library and information sector and with SCONUL on UK university library matters and initiatives.
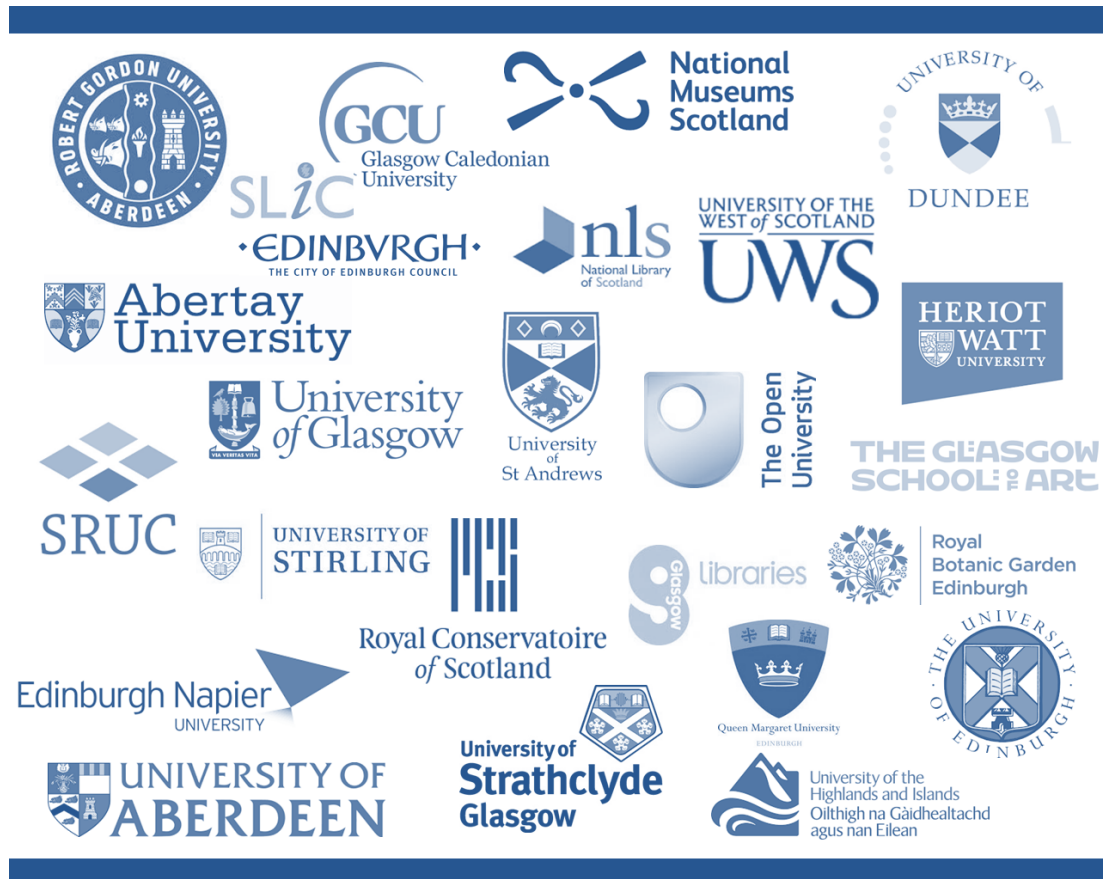
Scotland's higher education sector is one of the best in the world and Scotland is home to world-leading research of outstanding impact. SCURL member libraries are essential to these educational endeavours and the libraries are evolving and responding with enthusiasm to the new opportunities and challenges for higher education, the information society and knowledge economy.

SCURL MEMBER LIBRARY LOCATIONS ACROSS SCOTLAND

SCURL membership ranges from some of the oldest university libraries in the world to some of the newest. Each library is a product of their particular history and disciplinary mix, their different academic and student communities and their location. Some libraries support a broad-based education; others are renowned for their specialism. In total SCURL members support a huge breadth and depth of educational opportunities, including over 4,500 courses in 150 subject groups alongside engagement with independent researchers, adult learners, schoolchildren, subject enthusiasts and local community groups. Amongst our members, we have libraries that are pioneers using the latest technologies to make library resources and services accessible to all. We have libraries that hold and provide access to unique and distinctive print and non-print heritage collections of world class importance. These include the memory of the Scottish nation in books, maps, film and manuscripts.

Beyond the Scottish community, the collections – and their online digital surrogates – are used tens of thousands of international visitors each year. SCURL members support student and researchers at Scottish HEI campuses in London, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Singapore; as well as over 25,000 European and 31,000 international students in Scotland.

There are 300,000 individual members of SCURL libraries including students, researchers, and members of the public. The collective collections held are vast including over 20 million printed items and huge digital collections – over 30 million downloads are made each year.

SCURL Strategic Priorities 2017-2019

Through SCURL the Scottish university and research libraries have been working collaboratively for over 30 years. Our strategic priorities for 2017-2019 are:

- ➤ Collaborative Content Procurement
    - ○ SHEDL: Build on the longstanding successful record of collaborative content procurement across Scotland. Negotiate contracts which deliver high returns on investment for members, and value for Scotland's education and research sector.
    - ○ Represent SCURL members' interests in UK-wide content negotiations as appropriate.
- ➤ Collaborative Collection Management
    - ○ Work on collaborative print retention and shared off-site storage
    - ○ Work on sharing of, and shared analysis of collection metadata e.g. to deliver enhanced knowledge of duplication and scarcity of titles across all members.
    - ○ Play a leading role in UK print monograph management projects e.g. National Monographs Steering Group and National Bibliographic Knowledge Base.
- ➤ Shared Action on Access
    - ○ Seek to engage the Scottish public and the many visitors to Scotland in the unique and distinctive collections held in member libraries e.g. joint promotion activities based around the Visit Scotland themed years of History, Heritage and Archaeology (2017) and Young People (2018).
    - ○ Sustained actions on APCs in SHEDL procurement contracts; ongoing work on fair and equitable walk in access; review access for FE students.
- ➤ Shared service development and provision
    - ○ Maximise opportunities for developing and promoting collaborative services in order to minimise duplication of effort across institutions, realizing increased efficiencies that deliver value for money and improve the quality and enhancement of the user experience.
    - ○ Facilitative new initiatives in library service provision e.g. review impact of shared LMS procurement framework; investigate shared university press initiatives, collaborative virtual reference provision and shared digitisation project ideas.
- ➤ Effective advocacy and mutual support
    - ○ Encourage the exchange of ideas and provide a forum for mutual support for those working within SCURL libraries
    - ○ Ensure colleagues across our member institutions have the opportunity to contribute to delivering SCURL objectives through participating in Task and Finish groups and engaging with one day events.
    - ○ Ensure that our online presence, publications and communications meet current needs; enable effective promotion, information sharing and collaboration; and are appropriately targeted.
- ➤ Co-operation with other organisations, sectors and domains towards SCURL objectives.
    - ○ Choosing our objectives wisely and knowing when action is best taken with another partner such as SCONUL, SLIC, CILIPS or JISC.

Approved at the January meeting of the SCURL Business Committee