

Further Information

LILAC Learning Sets: Sustaining LILAC connections beyond the conference

The annual LILAC conference [consistently generates](#) immense energy, collaboration, and a deep sense of community among information professionals. However, the intellectual momentum and professional connections forged over three days can dissipate in the months following the conference. We would like to explore ways to keep the energy from LILAC going over the year between conferences, as well as enabling newer members of the community to build the kinds of connections and relationships that have been so valuable to so many of us.

At LILAC 2026, the Information Literacy Group (ILG) is piloting an annual LILAC Learning Sets programme. This will be a formal structure designed to harness the conference enthusiasm and maintain connections and professional engagement throughout the subsequent year.

What is the LILAC Learning Sets programme?

[Action Learning Sets](#) are a model of peer collaboration and learning. They are frequently used within organisations such as healthcare settings, often with the goal of solving a specific workplace problem. They can be approached in many ways but typically include regular meetings of 5-7 people, in a psychologically safe environment where they can discuss problems they are facing and collaboratively come up with solutions.

We propose piloting this initiative starting with attendees of LILAC 2026. At the conference, we will hold a workshop to launch the Learning Sets for 2026. Workshop attendees will be allocated into Learning Sets, composed of colleagues from diverse organisations, geographical locations, and career stages.

The ILG will then host four structured, online meetings for the Learning Sets, spaced at regular intervals over the 12 months after LILAC 2026. These facilitated sessions will provide intentional time for accountability, shared discussion, and focused reflection on both professional challenges and concepts introduced at LILAC. Outside of these facilitated meetings, Learning Set members will be empowered to organize and maintain their own informal communication channels and meet-ups as they prefer.

This initiative represents an exciting opportunity for LILAC to pioneer a sustainable model for continuous professional development rooted in peer support and collaborative reflection.

Why should I take part?

Participants in the Learning Sets will be equipped to forge meaningful, cross-sector contacts with other librarians and information professionals, expanding their professional networks beyond their immediate workplace. The programme will provide opportunities for continuous, deep reflection, and discussion of learning points and ideas encountered at LILAC. We hope that participants will be able to build on and develop these concepts throughout the following year, learning from each others' practice and developing their knowledge of information literacy

teaching and initiatives in different organisations. Participation could also provide valuable evidence for professional development such as [HEA accreditation](#) or [CILIP Chartership](#).

How do I take part?

As this is a pilot programme, we are limiting participation to **in-person attendees** at LILAC 2026. Depending on the success of this pilot year, we may consider expanding this in future years to enable participation of those unable to attend LILAC.

If you would like to take part in this pilot, please register your interest using the form below. The form is to gather expressions of interest only, and is not a binding commitment to take part in the pilot. If you are unsure yet if you will be able to attend LILAC 2026 but are interested in the Learning Sets programme, please register anyway and we can keep you up to date as the programme develops.

[Expressions of interest form](#).

The contact details gathered via the form will only be used for administering the LILAC Learning Sets. If after completing the form you decide not to attend LILAC 2026, or are no longer interested in taking part in the LILAC Learning Sets, we will remove your contact details from the list on request.

What happens next?

If you have registered your interest using the form above, then thank you! We will be in touch when the workshop bookings open for LILAC 2026 with further details on how to take part.

To give you an idea of what to expect, taking part in the programme will involve:

- Attending the LILAC Learning Sets workshop at the [LILAC 2026 conference](#).
- Attending four online meetings with your Learning Set throughout 2026-27.

A full meeting schedule will be confirmed shortly. Proposed dates are as follows:

- Initial workshop: Exact time/date tbc. Will be held in-person at LILAC 2026, 30 March-1 April 2026, University of Sheffield.
- Learning Sets meeting 1: Tue 12 May 2026, online, 15:30pm GMT.
- Learning Sets meeting 2: August 2026, time/date tbc.
- Learning Sets meeting 3: November 2026, time/date tbc.
- Learning Sets meeting 4: February 2027, time/date tbc.

We hope to see you at LILAC! If you have any questions or suggestions about the pilot, please contact the Information Literacy Group on cilipilg@gmail.com.