

Joining instructions for UX in Libraries VI



Hello there! Got questions about the conference? Fear not, help is at hand. Here's everything you need to know in one useful document...

How are you feeling?

Like us you're probably a mixture of excited and nervous about attending an in-person conference again after so much time apart from other human beings. It's been a tough few years, for some of us unbearably tough, and our hearts go out to anyone who has lost a loved one since our last conference back in 2019. On the

subject of COVID, we'd ask that attendees respect the choices of those people who continue to wear masks during conference sessions. We'd also like to reassure you that we completely understand if you personally feel unsafe at any time and choose to take yourself out of a group situation. The new normal is a highly personal thing for everyone. Be true to yourself rather than others.

Where is it and how do I get there?

The conference will take place in the City Campus East building (CCE1) at Northumbria University near the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne. Postcode: NE1 8ST.

By air: Newcastle International Airport is 7 miles/11km away from the city centre and the conference venue. You can get to the city via a 15-minute taxi ride or take a Metro train direct from the 'Airport' station to 'Haymarket' or 'Monument' station. Metro trains leave every 12 minutes and the journey takes 25 minutes. The Metro light rail network is the best and most affordable way to explore the city and surrounding area, including the nearby coast and beaches if you have time before or after the conference.

By train: Newcastle Central Station serves the city centre an easy 15-minute walk of the conference venue. Fast trains to Newcastle from London and Manchester take approximately 3 hours. Central Station is also on the Metro line.

By car: The 'A1(M)' passes through Newcastle upon Tyne. Car parking is not available at the conference venue but there are several public car parks nearby. We recommend the NCP (John Dobson Street, NE1 2SU), MEA House (Ellison Place, NE1 8SX), College Street (NE1 8JG), and The Civic Centre (Sandyford Road, NE2 1DF).

For more information on travel see: <http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/coming-to-northumbria/getting-here/>

Where to stay

If you haven't already booked your hotel accommodation, check out the map and guide on the UXLibs website which also gives information on walking times to the conference venue: <https://bit.ly/uxlibs6info>

When and where do I need to register?

Registration opens at 8:15am on Tuesday 7 June in the foyer of the CCE1 building (the conference venue) ahead of the conference start at 9am. Queues are always longer between 08:45am and 09:00, so we encourage you to arrive earlier if you can - it really does help us out! Apart from avoiding queues you will be able to grab a drink and either a bacon stottie (that's a type of Newcastle bread), a croissant with jam and butter, or a vegan yoghurt granola pot.

At registration, you will receive a handy conference bag, your personalised badge (which contains details of the sessions you have been assigned), our conference booklet and some freebies.

You will also have the opportunity to 'pimp your badge' in the foyer with stickers, unicorns and other sparkly things.

The conference proper will start promptly at 9am so don't be late.



What's happening on the Monday evening before the conference?

A lot of people like to meet up ahead of the conference - the community aspect is a huge part of UXLibs - so this year we have hired a function room at the popular Pitcher



& Piano (108 The Quayside, NE1 3DX) on the beautiful Quayside.

Here you can expect a free drink from 7pm (until the tab runs out behind the bar) and also some free food from 7:30pm. You are welcome to order your own food choices here if you prefer. There is no requirement to attend this event but it would be lovely to see you there!

Conference dress code

We're an informal bunch so you can leave your power suits and shoulder pads at home (unless you need them for the Gala Dinner - see below). The most important thing is that you feel comfortable during the conference so dress accordingly.

WiFi

This is the most important bit, right? Free WiFi is available throughout the venue. To log on just open your web browser, click on 'WiFi Guest', and follow the instructions.

Twitter

Many UXLibs delegates are on Twitter. It's a great way of interacting during the conference and to share the conference content with the outside world. The hashtag to use is simply #uxlibs. It's a good idea to follow @uxlibs too and like and retweet the content that we (the committee) put out, we will find that encouraging and heart-warming in equal measure!

What is the language of the conference?

The conference will be in English but remember that UXLibs is an international conference and that for many people attending English is not their first language. Please be considerate. Give people time to find their words and listen to what they're trying to say without interrupting.



Where is Tuesday night's Gala Dinner and what is the dress code?

The Gala Dinner is at The Biscuit Factory (16 Stoddart Street, NE2 1AN) and the menu will consist entirely of biscuits. Not really. There will be a great menu taking your dietary requirements into account and plenty to drink.

We start the evening at 7pm with a drinks reception in this venue's art gallery before we are guided into dinner at around 7:45pm.

There is no seating plan so you can sit wherever you like. The dress code this year is 'fabulous'. That can mean whatever you like really, but extra points if you're not wearing jeans and a t-shirt.

After dinner, we will be joined by talented singer-songwriter Hattie Briggs (who pre-pandemic toured as support to West End musical star Alfie Boe). Hattie is a world-class musician with several albums under her belt - all on Spotify - including her latest brilliant release *Half Me, Half You* - why not check it out before you travel? Anyway, Hattie's voice is spellbinding. You are in for a real treat!



Have you sorted my dietary requirements?

Yes, we absolutely have.

What do I do with my luggage on the last day?

It's probably easiest to leave your luggage at the hotel, but if you need to bring it with you we do have a small luggage room available. As much as we don't like to, we have to say that items are left at your own risk.

What time does the conference end on Wednesday?

4:30pm possibly a little before. You won't want to miss the best paper prize-giving at the very end though.

Still feeling nervous?

You will definitely not be alone. We know that for many of you this is your first UXLibs conference, and that for some of you it's your very first library conference. Then there's coming out of the pandemic people anxiety on top. Whatever your situation you are absolutely not alone. Perhaps you signed up for Helen's Buddy Scheme, but if that wasn't your thing there'll be plenty of opportunities to get to know people through the team challenge (look out for people with the same colour badge ribbon as you) and other activities.

Feeling confident?

Please look out for people who look lost or nervous. Strike up a conversation. Compliment them on their shoes. Above all else, be kind and helpful.

Who do I go to if I have a question or need help during the conference?

Approach either Andy, Bryony, or Helen who will all be wearing rainbow lanyards. If you'd rather DM them on Twitter their handles are @andypriestner @librarygirlknit and @lemurph. We take delegate safety and wellbeing very seriously and have a code of conduct for attendees which is detailed on our website and in the conference booklet (which you will receive at registration).

What if I have a question now, before the conference?

Email our administrator extraordinaire Marisa on admin@uxlib.org.

We are very excited to welcome you to UXLibsVI and can't wait to see you!

Andy, Bryony, Helen xxx

