



LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 14 June 2012

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Professor David Price (Chair)
Dr Paul Ayris
Dr Mike Cope
Mr Luke Durrigan
Dr Caroline Essex
Professor Adrian Forty
Dr Kenth Gustafsson
Ms Caroline Hibbs
Professor Jean McEwan
Mr Rex Knight
Professor Richard North
Professor Philip Schofield
Dr Andrew Wills

In attendance:

Mr Gary Hawes (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Marco Federighi and Dr Hilary Richards.

Key to abbreviations

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| APCs | Article Processing Charges |
| FLC | Faculty Library Committee |
| ISD | Information Systems Division |
| JBR | Jeremy Bentham Room |
| KPA | Key Performance Area |
| LC | Library Committee |
| LERU | League of European Research Universities |
| LSE | London School of Economics |
| REF | Research Excellence Framework |
| SHL | Senate House Library |
| SLMS | School of Life and Medical Sciences |
| SOAS | School of Oriental and African Studies |
| SSEES | School of Slavonic and East European Languages |
| SMT | Senior Management Team |

Library Committee, Minutes, 14 June 2012

33 **INCREASE IN USE OF THE MAIN AND SCIENCE LIBRARIES**

[LC Min.19, 19.3.12 refers]

Received:

33.1 At LC 3-2 (11-12) a report introduced by the Director of UCL Library Services.

Reported:

33.2 The number of active users of the UCL Main and Science libraries had increased from 65,000 to 85,000 active users in the last five years – this equated to more than a 30% increase in active members. The number of actual visits also showed a similar increase, rising from 800,000 to 1,180,000 over the same period (a 47% increase). This had given rise to significant increased usage of traditional library resources and services during the period under review and to a very significant number of complaints and adverse comments regarding the lack of availability of seating and facilities.

33.3

submitted to UCL Estates in May 2012 and had been based on a user survey and discussions with the Dean and the Built Environment FLC. Formal planning meetings involving Library Services, Bartlett Faculty, Estates and project architects would begin in July 2012;

- Contractors started work on the project to reopen the Flaxman oculus in April 2012. Hoardings would be erected in the Flaxman Gallery in June 2012. Work would be completed by October 2012 and would include new interactive digital displays providing information about the Flaxman Gallery, Wilkins building and UCL museums and collections;
- UCL Estates were also investigating the feasibility of opening the Portico doors to open up the views between the Flaxman Gallery and the Front Quad.

Discussion:

34.3 The following main points were raised during discussion:

- Users of the Cruciform Hub would only be able to bring food and drink into the designated eating and drinking areas – however, hot food would not be permitted in these areas;
- The desire for faculty hubs to include designated eating and drinking areas was by no means universal – in fact, user surveys undertaken in some faculties, eg Built Environment, had revealed strong opposition to the inclusion of designated eating and drinking areas;
- UCL faculties would be provided with a list of options so that constituents would be able choose what facilities and services would be included in the Hub for their faculty – these choices would be dictated by local needs as well as pressures on space;
- While some members of LC were generally against the inclusion of designated eating and drinking areas within library spaces, other members noted that it would be

UCL SMT would decide on the funding of the bids by the end of June 2012 and the final outcome would be known as soon as UCL Council had signed off the UCL budget for 2012-13 at its July 2012 meeting.

36 **SENATE HOUSE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS**

[LC Min.22, 19.3.12 refers]

Received:

36.1 Oral reports from the Director of UCL Library Services, the Vice-Provost (Operations) and the Finance Director (Corporate Support Services).

Reported:

36.2 The following was reported:

- Having queried with UoL the reliability and validity of the SHL usage figures for UCL that had been noted at LC's previous meeting, UCL had failed to receive a satisfactory response to account for the discrepancies or the methods that had been employed to collect the usage data. However, having raised the issue with SHL, it was hoped that UCL would now receive more regular feedback which would enable it to more closely monitor the usage data;
- Further analysis of the SHL usage data relative to the combined annual subscription charge for UCL and the School of Pharmacy had revealed that the financial impact of the increases in the numbers of UCL visitors reportedly making use of SHL was not likely to be as great as previously thought. However, the situation would be closely monitored with a view to reviewing this again next year;
- SHL had plans to address the very significant cut in its budget for 2012-13 by withdrawing expenditure on non-core journal and periodical subscriptions in some subject areas and through staff losses. This would be likely to particularly affect UCL students in the Social Sciences, where the majority of the subscription cuts were planned and where books and periodicals were not duplicated within UCL Library Services, and could only point to a worse-off experience for UCL students in terms of a reduced level of service and benefit.

Discussion:

36.3 The following main points were raised during discussion:

- The SHL was an important resource for UCL students, not just in terms of providing access to books and periodicals – it also provided access to sought-after study space. It was agreed to keep the situation under close review.

37 **REPORT ON DIGITISATION ACTIVITY**

Received:

37.1 At LC 3-6 (11-12) a report on Digitisation Activity, introduced by the Director of UCL Library Services.

Reported:

37.2 In support of its Research KPA in the Library strategy, UCL Library Services was prioritising digitisation of its outstanding research collections as an area where progress could be made. The report at LC 3-6 (11-12) focussed on two projects which had been funded by external funders: the digitisation of paper PhD theses in the Library's Store and the complete digitisation of the Bentham papers.

37.3 The successful bid to the Mellon Foundation for the Consolidated Bentham Papers Repository included funding for the development of a searchable digital repository,

curated by UCL Library Services, of the papers of Jeremy Bentham, consisting of digital images of 75,000 folios of original manuscripts

- Unregulated APCs would to some degree replicate the problems that already existed within the current publishing model and merely succeed in transferring that model to the OA landscape;
- Although there would be no planned disruption to the Library Services stores service during the period of the London Olympic Games, it was possible that there might be delays to the service during this time;
- It was agreed that it would be helpful for the Director of UCL Library Services to bring some statistics to the next LC meeting on the interval between purchasing books and monographs and making these available to users;

ACTION: