

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

10 June 2009 1400 Meetings Room, The University Library

MINUTES

Members present

Mr I Bonar (Chair)
Dr S Claridge
Mr T Goodhead
Dr T Sinha
Dr P Starie
Ms A Worden
Ms E Wildgoose

In attendance:

Mrs S Kennedy (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr D Loydell, Mr A Minter, Mr M Pearce, Dr P J Scott, Dr C Sharpe, and Mr S Topazio. Dr B Gremont, Mr A Machin and Dr J Thomas did not attend.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Terms of Reference and Membership (Min 2)

Mr Bonar reported that the Terms of Reference and Membership had been approved by the Academic Policy Committee at their meeting on 10 March 2009. APC had also asked that the Committee give consideration to the inclusion in the Constitution of either the Director of Research or a member of the University Research Degrees Committee. Members were happy to agree to this, and Mr Bonar will consult with the Director of Research on an appropriate nomination.

Building Issues (Min 4)

Mr Bonar reported on the measures which have been taken to deal with the problems with the front doors, and the temperature in the Atrium. He said that we would require another period of cold weather before we could judge the efficacy of these actions.

Authentication (Min 4)

All major suppliers have informed us that they intend to be Shibboleth compliant by the end of July 2009. The Library will therefore not renew the Athens subscription after that date. There are one or two small databases which do not intend to move to Shibboleth, and they will thereafter only be available on campus, or off campus via webcache.

4 STUDENT DISSERTATIONS

Members received a paper giving an update to the Library's Collection Management Policy, which now reflects the decisions taken by individual Faculties regarding the submission of dissertations to the Library.

5 COMPARISON OF SERIALS/ELECTRONIC RESOURCES EXPENDITURE 2007/08 AND 2008/09

Members received a paper detailing journal expenditure by faculty for 2008 and 2009, with the increase in pounds, the percentage increase and an indication of the average inflation rate increase on like-for-like purchases. Mr Bonar said that this highlighted the increase in the cost of journals, which had been compounded by the unfavourable exchange rate. The Library budget for 2009/2010 has been set at a level which will effectively provide the same amount of cash as for the current year. However, this will represent a cut in funding when set against the increase in journal costs.

Members also received a paper on the Electronic Journal "Big Deals" giving information on costs as compared with the number of downloads. Mr Bonar said that this highlighted the advantages of the bundled deals, which represent good value for money for the University as a whole when compared with, for example, the cost of interlibrary loans.

6 INTERLIBRARY LOAN RECHARGES

Mr Bonar gave some background to this item. Some 20 years ago a nominal charge for interlibrary loans was introduced into devolved budgets to encourage budget-holders to consider the appropriateness of an interlibrary loan, as against the purchase of books or journals. The money was allocated for interlibrary loans, but could be moved to another area of the budget if required. The nominal cost has remained at £5.00 an item, but the true cost of such a loan is now around £10.00. It was proposed that the Committee recommend an increase in the nominal charge to £10.00, to make comparisons with other types of purchase more realistic. It was emphasised that this is a

nominal charge internal to the overall Library budget, not a charge on Faculty budgets, nor on end-users. The Committee agreed to this increase, which will be introduced for the next financial year.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bonar said that this would be his last meeting as Chair of the Library Committee. He thanked members past and present for their support during his time as Chair, and the members wished him an enjoyable retirement.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 2 December 2009.