

University of Sussex
Library Consultative Group

Notes of the 107th meeting held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 June, 2005
in the Library Meeting Room

Present: Professor Jon Cohen (BSMS), Maggie Fieldhouse (Deputy Librarian), Lynn Gibbs (SocCul), Adrian Hale (Library) Yael Heffer (LifeSci), Sarah Hinchliffe (SAMS), Dr. Anne Hole (TLDU), Roger Hylton (USSU), Barbara Merchant (SPRU), Dr. Robert Ray (LifeSci), Professor Geoffrey Sampson (SciTech), Deborah Shorley (Librarian, Chair), Josh Siepel (SPRU)

Apologies: Emily Manser (HUMS), Julia Sutherland (Sussex Institute)

803 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

804. Matters arising

802. The Librarian was pleased to report that the Vice-Chancellor had publicly welcomed the planned refurbishment of the Library basement toilets this summer.

805. Chair's communications

Savings Review Group

- The Library's plans to achieve the required spending cuts by voluntary redundancies and limited recruitment had been agreed by the Savings Review Group.
- It would be necessary to make changes but the Library would strive to provide a good service nonetheless.
- Many false rumours had been circulating about the effects of the cuts on Library services. For true and accurate information people should consult the Library website (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library>).
- There would no longer be a dedicated Library Subject Support team. Instead dedicated support for (1) learning and teaching and (2) research would be provided. Three new professional posts would be filled.
- Library faculty would not normally attend School/Subject meetings in future, so it would be essential for the Library to have a named contact from every department. Senior Library staff would be meeting representatives from Schools, or Deans, to identify these contacts shortly.

806 Formulaic allocation of Library resources

The Group discussed the agenda paper setting out the formulaic allocation of Library resources to Schools. The Librarian reported that following failure to reach agreement on the allocation at the University Senior Management Group, the Vice-Chancellor decided the Teaching/Research ratio should be 37.5/62.5 and that journal subscription costs for Science Direct be part of the Library top slice. This arrangement would continue for the foreseeable future unless overturned by SMG in future. The Science Direct subscription was due to run out at the end of next year and a new package for Higher Education was being negotiated. Members expressed concern about discontinuity of journal subscriptions. The Librarian cited the SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) initiative which was championing open access publishing. (<http://www.arl.org/sparc/>)

807 Reading Lists

The Group discussed the agenda paper setting out new procedures for reading lists next session. The new procedures would reduce the workload for Library staff which was necessary given the reduced budget. The Group recommended that all reading lists should be submitted electronically. This would be reconsidered for future years.

808. Documents and Grey Literature

The Group received the agenda paper on reorganisation plans for Library's Documents and Grey Literature Collection.

- This project would create a sustainable collection to support teaching and research.
- The remit of the Library's Documents Working Party to investigate space problems had been broadened to assess the Documents Collection.
- The Library Collections Management Policy (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/aboutus/CollectionManagementPolicy.pdf>) specified that some monographs would be transferred from Documents to the main collection. In accordance with this, the International Collection was being transferred to the main collection.
- Certain material (including House of Lords publications) would be returned from on-site store when available space was identified.
- The three remaining collections (British Official publications, European Documentation Centre material, and Pressure Group material (Grey Literature) would remain within the current classification scheme
- The grey literature was more problematic because much of it was fragile and old. A scoping study would identify other collections and stock holders in the University who would find this material useful.
- The Library was providing more material electronically but some Library users had asked that Parliamentary papers be kept in hard copy. EDC material would also be held in hard copy because availability to the public (who may not be able to access electronic files) was a term of deposit.

809. Library Collection Management Project 2005

The Group considered the paper setting out the Library's planned Summer book relocation exercise to create more shelf space and rationalise the Documents Collection. This would include a review of journal holdings and replacement of some print with electronic versions from the JSTOR archive of Arts & Science journals (<http://www.jstor.org/>).

810. Full Economic Costing

The University is now expected to provide Full Economic Costing data to demonstrate what it spends to support specific research projects, e.g. cost of books, use of Library by researchers, etc. The Group received the agenda paper detailing means by which Library costs could be allocated to individual departments.

In answer to a query it was pointed out that data from the Library entry system was already used to assess requirements and costs for Library opening hours

811. Any other business

The Librarian reported that Maggie Fieldhouse, Deputy Librarian, would be leaving at the end of September and thanked her for her excellent contribution to the work of the Library in recent years.