

University of Sussex

Library Consultative Group

Notes of the 79th meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 1995.

Present: Mrs. J. Benning (Library Clerical Staff), K. Berggreen (Bookshop), R. Discombe (Computing Service), Ms. C. Donovan (GRCSS), Ms. S. Hinchliffe (CCE), Dr. M. Howard (CCS), Dr. R. Howes (Library), S. Kaenena (AFRAS SJC), Ms. B. Merchant (SPRU), Ms. E. Nuttall (Students' Union), A.N. Peasgood (Librarian), Dr. J.A. Scholte (EURO), Dr. A. L. Thomson (MAPS), Dr. F. Watts, (Biology), Dr. P. Way (EAM)

Apologies received from: Dr. V. Griffiths (ICAPE), Dr. S. Dubow (AFRAS)

617. Notes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

618. Matters arising:

600. CVCP Agreement with Copyright Licensing Agency. There have been three meetings between the CLA and a new CVCP team to renegotiate the licence which runs out next month. It was noted that the CLA has a mandate from its members only for another two years, so if a reasonable agreement is reached, it will last for two years at the most.
615. Services available to students. Spoken of at the last meeting in relation to part-timers, discussion had since widened to include levels of service available to students with a variety of relationships with the University, and the Library and the Computing Service were prominent in these discussions.
616. Stolen books. The intended report of a meeting of the Student Union Vice President (Education), PVC Brooks and the Librarian was not possible; the meeting had been postponed.

619. Librarian's Report

The Group received the Librarian's Report for the period February to June 1995. Among the points arising were:

- Building works. The second paragraph of the Librarian's Report was incorrect; the disabled route would be available during the period mentioned.
There would not only be a great deal of disruption in the Library during this summer vacation, but also during the next three summer vacations due to building work, moving in to the new extension and the refurbishment of the present building. While all efforts would be made to minimise the disruption, it was in everyone's interest that the work was completed as soon as possible, and priority would be given to this.
- G24. The conversion of this area to a PC room was in response to the University's acute shortage of space for PCs. Library stock at present stored there would not normally have been selected for storage remotely, but after consultation the University decided that the conversion was economically justified. The area would be well suited to its new role having relatively little natural light and being enclosed, so that there would be no disturbance to other users.
- Library extension. The Librarian's report gave an overview of the situation; he reported that the grant from HEFCE was the fourth largest to any of the old universities for this purpose. There would initially be more reader places in the new extension to allow for increased student numbers; in the medium term at least the design would ensure adaptability to balance the relative needs of reader places, print and paper and electronic resources. At least some books in the Lewes store would be brought back to the main

building; the use of rolling stack for these items was possible but could cause problems from the point of view of health and safety.

There was some unease about the possibility that a delay in construction work, due to be completed in Spring 1997, would affect the examination season.

- Budget outlook. Since the Librarian had written his report it had been found that the outlook for the year was approx. £10-12,000 worse than at first thought. There would, however, be no significant changes to services in the coming session.
- The Academic Board of the Institute of Education had recently agreed the suggested closure of the Education branch library and to move it into the main Library when the space became available.

620. Introduction of charges for Document Supply Service

The Group received a detailed report, giving reasons for the introduction of nominal charges for this service.

It was noted that in the current year the number of requests for material would be about 17,000. If a charge of £1. was set for every transaction the resulting total payment to the Library would be far from covering total administrative costs and if that charge was made only for satisfied requests the income would be lower and the administrative costs higher. It should be possible to devise a scheme which brought in significantly more than its own running costs: half the university libraries in the country made some charge and it was unlikely that they would all be running schemes at a loss.

A certain dip in demand was expected in the first two or three years, but after that a return to previous levels was likely.

It was suggested that in order to reduce overheads, block payments could be made by Schools for members' costs over a stated period, though it was pointed out that the concept of the Act was that the liability to charges was an individual's responsibility. Block cross-charging at the end of term was suggested as being relatively simple but there would be more work for those who authorise cross charging in schools, and some complications for those without School affiliations. However, block payment seemed sensible if it would satisfy the letter of the law.

On a related issue it was reported that the Library was currently absorbing a 12% year on year increase in demand by readers for interlibrary loans; this could not continue indefinitely against a financial background dominated by the fall in the unit of resource. It was suggested that the Library should have a more direct call on any extra money arising from RAE gradings.

621. SUSPER Index

The Group noted the development of this index of periodical titles held by libraries in the Greater Brighton area. Within a few months one search would automatically search all or any specific group of local libraries participating. The great advantage over similar initiatives was that it would be unnecessary to edit the lists of holdings of participants.

622. Any other business

The planned merger with MOLS entailed reconsideration of the Physics library room. As an interim measure some stock was being returned to the main Library. In the medium term a merger of the residual outlier stock with the library room in MOLS might be arranged. The Librarian noted that any solution involving main Library space would have an impact on detailed planning for the extension and associated works.