

University of Sussex

Library Consultative Group

Notes of the 80th meeting held on Wednesday, 22 November 1995.

Present: T.N. Arvanitis, (COGS), Ms. C. Culver, (Students' Union), Ms. Y. DeBrett (CLS), R. Discombe (Computing Service), G. Gillingham (MAPS), Ms. A. Gormley (ENGAM), Ms. A. Hallsworth, (SOCS.), Dr. M. Howard (CCS), Dr. R. Howes (Library), M.G. Lewis, (Library Faculty), Ms. L. Lindskog (ENGG), A.N. Peasgood (Librarian), Ms. C. Piercy (AFRAS), Mrs. V. Pigott (Library Clerical Staff), P. Rai (Social Anthropology Post-graduate), C.P. Ravilious (Library), Dr. J.A. Scholte (EURO), Dr. F. Watts, (Biology), Ms. M. Winder (SPRU), Dr. G. Wraith (SMS),

Apologies received from: K. Berggreen (Bookshop), L. Martell (SOCS), Ms. L. Dart (USIE), Ms. D. deCaires Narain, AFRAS, Ms. S. Hinchliffe (CCE), Dr. P. Way (ENGAM)

623. Notes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

624. There were no matters arising from the previous meeting not elsewhere in the agenda.

625. Stage 4

Blaise Coonan of Feilden & Mawson, Architects of the new Library extension and the related Library refurbishment, was present for this item. He presented a model of the Library including the new extension to the west of the present building together with an artist's impressions of the exterior from different viewpoints and described the design strategy for the new building and its main features. Chris Ravilious outlined the main features of the intended associated rearrangement of the existing building.

The AV carrells on the western wall of the ground floor would be removed in order to 'break through' to the new extension; at this point a new light well would provide daylight not only to the extension but also to the ground floor of the existing building. The central staircase in Stage 3 would be removed and a new 'primary route' would lead from the main entrance through to the western side of the building, changing the emphasis of the building layout from N-S to E-W. This primary route would be repeated on the first and second floors and would act as a division between the noisier staff and public transactions areas at the south end of the Library and quieter stack and reading areas at the north end.

The need to maximise bookstack capacity, together with the constraints imposed by the dimensions of the original building grid meant it would not be possible to have a complete alphabetical arrangement of classmarks as had been hoped, but books would be re-arranged in a more convenient way, e.g. Social Sciences would be near Documents.

It was noted that the recommendations that the Reserve Collection and the Teaching Support Office should be more visible to users, recently reported in the Reserve Collection Development Fund Project, had not been acted upon. The Librarian explained that unfortunately the timescale dictated by HEFCE meant that the general outline of the space plan had emerged before details of the research became available; nonetheless efforts would be made to incorporate project findings as far as possible.

Building work would inevitably cause disruption to staff and users especially during the refurbishment, though efforts would be made to keep this to a minimum. The refurbishment was a very complicated logistic exercise but hopefully it would not be necessary to close the Library. It was pointed out that the changes to the existing building were still subject to approval by English Heritage, structural engineers' reports, and to finance being available.

It was reported that several schemes giving improved access to the building for disabled users had been rejected for practical reasons and this problem had been referred to the architects for attention.

626. Charges for Inter-Library Requests

In response to a request to decrease the charge of £1. per request announced in the summer, it was again pointed out that it was a legal requirement to pass on to users some of the charge for retention copies obtained through the British Library service and the Library had tried to pass on a charge to the requester which was equal to the cost of an item held in the Library and copied on a self service photocopier. The charge of £15. for material from overseas had been in place for some years and reflected high British Library charges for this service. Neither charge covered Library staff costs. Figures on the use of the Interlibrary Request service showed the highest users were Engineering postgraduates; on average they each made 15 requests a year. This total should be borne in mind when the impact of the charge was being considered.

Procedures for cross-charging schools had been set up and it was reported that these were running smoothly, though it was surprising that only one Arts GRC - Social Science - had purchased vouchers; most use of the service was by Science fund holders.

One school meeting had suggested that a scheme be set up to make generally available items received through ILR and no longer required by their requesters. It was pointed out that (a) legal problems relating to copyright could result, and (b) most inter-library requests were for specialised articles unlikely to attract further use.

627 Librarian's report.

The Group received the Librarian's report for the period from June-November 1995. It was noted that the final budget out-turn for last year was a modest deficit rather than a surplus as stated in the report.

With regard to the paper The Crisis in Teaching and Learning Support, the Academic Audit Committee was calling for further attention to be given to this paper, with particular emphasis on statistics detailed in a new appendix (agenda paper LCG/80/6a) which indicated a steady fall in Long Loan borrowing and acquisition while Short Loan issues and acquisitions were being maintained. The Librarian pointed out that should this trend continue, the Library would be providing duplicate copies of reading list books, and journals, but not acquiring material for the core monograph collection. Increased purchasing of Long Loan material could only be achieved at the expense of journal subscriptions or duplicates to support teaching. This was not a decision to be taken by the Library alone, and the Academic Audit Committee had been asked to circulate these figures to identify any collective view of priorities. It was suggested that one solution would be to have a large reference only teaching collection to be used on site; a reason for the relative unpopularity of the Reserve Collection was perceived to be that it was possible to borrow from it for only 24 hours, whereas students wished either to have materials on more extended loan or to photocopy them so that they controlled their own timetables - to force them to travel daily to the University would not be an acceptable solution.

The new area for Computing Service PCs had been converted and would be in service as soon as technical aspects were completed.

A paper had been circulated to TaLAG and academic staff calling attention to some of the main results identified by the Reserve Collection Project. The Group noted and approved the amended times for return of Reserve loans.

628. Any other business.

In reply to the question "Do people in COGS who cannot access the Library PC Network have some arrangement whereby they can access it particularly from UNIX work stations?" it was stated that Library staff were experimenting with a possible technical solution which might provide access to some CD-Roms but maybe not all.