

University of Sussex

**Library Consultative Group**

Notes of the 83rd meeting held on Wednesday, 20 November 1996

Present: Ms. A. Boe (USIS), Prof. B. Graham (EURO), Ms. L. Dart (USIE), R. Discombe (Computing Service), Ms. M. Duru (AFRAS SJC), Dr. L. John (BIOLS), Ms. B. Merchant (SPRU), Ms. A. Gormley (ENGAM SJC), D. Kredler (EURO SJC), Mrs. R. McGoldrick, (CCS SJC), R. Nandi (ENGG SJC), A.N. Peasgood (Librarian), Dr. J. Rusted (EP/BIOLS), Prof. C. Watts (EAM), Dr. F. Watts (BIOLS), Mrs. P. Williams (USIS)

Apologies: K. Berggreen (Bookshop), Ms. C. Culver (Students' Union), Ms. S. Hinchliffe (CCE), Dr. M. Howard (CCS), Dr. L. Martell (SOCS), Dr. G. Wraith (SMS)

643. The notes of the 82nd meeting were confirmed.

644. There were no matters arising.

645. [The Librarian's Report](#), June - November 1996, was noted. In particular:

Extension:

Since the report had been written, formal renegotiation of completion date of the Library extension had become necessary; notification had been received that completion would be delayed by several weeks.

Refurbishment:

The cost of the refurbishment of the present building was causing major concern. A meeting with consultants would be held shortly, after which, hopefully, it would be known what work could be afforded.

The present access to the Library for disabled users did not conform to current statutory requirements. A condition of planning permission for the extension was provision of access for disabled users by way of the main entrance. Various proposals had been examined taking into account constraints imposed by English Heritage. The most favoured plan at present was that a lift would be attached to the northern side of the southern parapet - effectively a moving platform, which would not be visible from Falmer House looking towards the Great Court. The lift would probably be key operated. Unfortunately it would probably not be possible to make arrangements to replace the unsuitable front doors before the lift was fitted.

Financial matters.

No changes in service or activity levels were expected during the current year.

It was suggested that rather than spend the unexpected surplus on refurbishment of the Library it should be used to supplement the periodicals budget. It was pointed out, however, that none of the surplus could be used without application to higher authority and although there had been an unprecedented drop in periodicals inflation last year, commitment to additional expenditure from a one off surplus would not be prudent management.

Respondents to the Periodicals Review should do so without making assumptions about next year's budget: in particular, without assuming cuts to be inevitable.

Services:

Public toilets were now being cleaned twice daily and the group agreed that the closure of both sections for ½ hour during cleaning was tolerable. The Librarian explained that facilities would be increased in accordance with building regulations when building use increased with completion of the extension

Miscellaneous.

Copyright.

(1) The CLA Licence would expire in January, and a further extension was expected. Its mandate from publishers would expire in the Spring, and might not be renewed.

CVCP negotiators had in the past been under-aware of the importance of study packs - largely a feature of new universities' provision - but substantial lobbying by SCONUL had persuaded the CVCP negotiating team of their importance, and any new deal should be more helpful..

(2) Worldwide developments on copyright were almost uniformly inimical to the interests of university libraries and their users.

646. University examination papers on USIS. Amanda Boe, USIS Editor, reported that a bid for development funds was being considered in support of a project to mount past examination papers on USIS, the University electronic information service available on World-Wide Web. A discussion of the advantages (it would alleviate pressure on staff time in the Library and School offices, improve security and solve the problem of missing pages, and provide wider access across campus) and possible disadvantages (e.g. technical obsolescence, problems of access to PCs and/or through modems, handling scientific symbols not held in electronic format) ended with the Group giving positive support to the project. A bid would be made to TLDF in January with a view to appointing a research assistant in the Spring so that a pilot scheme would be ready in October 1997.

647. Any other business. The following subjects were raised by members.

- European Documentation Centre. The Librarian advised that tutors should contact Jackie Edgell, the Head of the Documents Section, to organise familiarisation with the EDC for students who felt they were not able to make best use of the service.
- Signposting in the Library. Complaints had been made in the Suggestions Book and elsewhere regarding inadequate signage in the Library. The Librarian replied that additional signs had been installed in classes A,B and D which were seriously affected by the temporary screens and corridors associated with the building works; maybe even more were needed.
- Lack of technically qualified staff at weekends (especially for photocopiers). In reply it was pointed out that a modern library was a very diverse and complicated organisation; evening and weekend staff were selected to cover a range of required skills, and each team should have competence in core skills, but it was impossible to provide service and support for everything at all hours. It had been suggested that if an individual with a particular skill was on duty that skill should be available. Library policy was that it should not be so; the Library user who benefits from that skill once would be disappointed if it were not available all the time. The Librarian acknowledged that there was a difficulty but did not think any extension of out of hours services was practicable at present; services would be reviewed afresh when the Library building programme was complete.
- Study skills tapes in AV section. Many students say there are not enough to meet demand. The Librarian said he would check; also, that until the building works were complete there was no space to provide for any increase in AV use.