

University of Sussex
Library Consultative Group

Notes of the 95th meeting held on Wednesday, 22 November, 2000

Present: Stephen Ashby (CCS SJC), Cynthia Barnes (Library - Head, Teaching Support), Dr. Denise de Caires Narain (AFRAS), Roger Discombe (Computing Service), Maggie Fieldhouse (Sub-Librarian), Andrew Harvey (GRC (Hums)), Sara Hinchliffe (CCE), Barbara Merchant (SPRU), Professor Robin Milner-Gulland (EURO), Linda Newman, (Sub-Librarian), Victoria Pigott (Library), Dr. Gareth Rowlands (CPES), Rene Schilling (Maths), Dorothy Sheridan (Library - Head, Special Collections), Deborah Shorley (Librarian (Chair)), Sara Turnbull (V-P (Education) USSU), Dr. David Weir (COGS)

Apologies: Kristian Berggreen (Bookshop), Dr. Luke Martell (SCS), Dr. John Pryor (USIE), Professor Cedric Watts (EAM)

738. The notes of the 94th meeting were confirmed.

739. There were no matters arising.

740. Librarian's Report. The Group noted :

At the beginning of October Deborah Shorley had taken up the post of Librarian on Adrian Peasgood's retirement. During the Autumn term she had met Deans and Directors to establish their requirements, and next term would arrange meetings with Directors of GRCs, other key individuals and Library staff. Only when she had consulted them all would she make proposals for changes to be implemented, hopefully, by the start of next session.

The flood at Lewes had had an enormous impact on the Library and taken up a great deal of staff time.

Concern was expressed that the total amount of compensation received from the insurance claim should be credited to the Library alone. The Librarian said she hoped this would be the case and would fight to see that it did.

In answer to a question whether there would be subject budgets the Librarian said that she had not made up her mind about this complex subject. The Library maintained an overview of the collection as a whole although it was vital to consult and inform. It was pointed out that the policy of not having a budget for each subject served to prevent disagreements between different groups since one book could be used in several subjects.

741. Flood at the Library store in Lewes.

The group was shown a video of the devastation at the Library store after the flood. The Librarian further reported:

The Library's disaster plan had proved extremely useful.

The Chester Music Collection had been brought out as soon as the water went down and was now deep frozen, awaiting further decisions.

On first inspection loss adjusters judged that nothing could be salvaged but it was subsequently agreed that everything except the newspapers should be salvaged and kept in cold storage pending further decisions.

A list of the contents of the store was on the Library's web page. In due course Subject Groups would be consulted about the strategy for replacing lost material. It is likely that not everything will be replaced item by item but that items may be sourced elsewhere and digitised, microfilmed or acquired electronically.

The Librarian had visited Norwich with the University Finance Director and received valuable advice from officers who had dealt with the aftermath of the fire at Norwich Public Library.

742. Any other business.

- Arts curriculum changes. These proposals would have considerable impact on provision of multiple volumes for teaching support.
- The shape of the academic year. This proposal would affect staffing arrangements in the Library as well as student demand for key texts.

Comments on both were being prepared and would be submitted via the Pro-Vice-Chancellor.