

University of Sussex
Library Consultative Group

Notes of the 98th meeting held on Wednesday, 20 February, 2002

Present: Stuart Anderson (GRC HUMS), Julie Applin (Library Clerical & Related staff), Prof. Tom Collett (BIOLS), Maggie Fieldhouse (Deputy Librarian), Roger Discombe (USCS), Andrew Harvey (GRC HUMS), Mary Hoar (CCE), Shirley Kirby-Turner (Library Faculty), Margarete Kohlenbach (EURO), Barbara Merchant (SPRU), Victoria Pigott (Library Clerical & Related staff), Dr. John Pryor (USIE), Dr. Gareth Rowlands (CPES), Prof. Geoffrey Sampson (COGS), Prof. Rene Schilling, (SMS), Dorothy Sheridan (Special Collections Manager, Library), Deborah Shorley, (Librarian (Chair)), Prof. Brian Short (CCS), Prof. Cedric Watts (EAM), Dr. Rupert Young (EIT)

Apologies: Andrea Dalton (EURO SJC), Sarah Hinchliffe (CCE), Dr. Luke Martell (SOC), Prof. Cedric Watts (EAM)

752. The notes of the 97th meeting were confirmed.

753. Matters arising.

741. Lewes flood. There had still been no settlement of the University's claim (amounting to approximately £2.9 million) and negotiations were continuing. The Group agreed to encourage their Schools to support the view that the Library should receive all of the eventual settlement. It had already been agreed that £250,000 of it would go towards the MLE Project, the Project Officer having recently been appointed. It was considered important for the Library to play a key role.

755. The problem of graffiti in the public toilets had not been solved by the anti-graffiti black paint.

754. Library Review update: Considerable progress had been made since the last meeting. The next tier of posts in the new staffing structure had been advertised within the Library with a closing date of 25th February.

755. A new agreement had been struck with Elsevier for Science Direct, (the database of Elsevier), a new, user-friendly Library resource which was demonstrated to the group by Shirley Kirby-Turner, Head of Periodicals. The database provides for all sciences, and most social sciences. It is very up to date, with not only most recent issues of periodicals but articles going to press, also periodicals backdated to 1995. It costs 7% extra for access to on-line journals (£10.5K + VAT this year but with a 6% cap on the cost of print subscriptions.) Access is available from any PC on campus; from off campus with user name and password obtainable from the Enquiries/Helpdesk in the Library. The Group discussed the merits of Elsevier compared with other providers; and which areas of the University would benefit most. Elsevier had been chosen by the Library as giving the greatest good to the greatest number of people.

756 Noise in the Library. Stuart Anderson, a post-graduate student, was invited to attend the meeting after he had contacted the Librarian through the Library Suggestions & Comments box about the level of noise in the Library.

He believed:

- the level of noise had increased considerably since he arrived four years ago
- that new students arriving in the Library assume the noise level to be normal and so it increased year after year
- everyone should take responsibility to address the problem
- the problem should be raised at a higher level.

Proposals included

- Tutors should explain to new students how to use the Library and also how to behave in the Library
- Library staff should reinforce this lesson.
- Penalties should be introduced for offenders, e.g. withdrawal of library card for a week. Alternatively, it was suggested that persistent offenders' library cards should be marked and their school notified so that it became a disciplinary offence. (At Warwick fines are imposed for using mobile phones in the Library while at Sussex periodic PA announcements were made but were only effective for a short time.)
- Ribbons on computer screens as a reminder were considered to be a good idea as ordinary signs tended to be ignored.

757. Any other business.

Request to borrow back issues of journals older than five years. Because two or three years are bound into one volume many parts would thus be unavailable to other readers. Therefore it would be preferable to photocopy the required part.