

**Executive Summary of Business
for Teaching and Learning Committee**

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Teaching and Learning Committee

November 2012

Library Update

National Student Survey

We have received our highest score ever in the NSS, achieving a satisfaction rate of 86% and making up all the ground we lost in 2011. Satisfaction rates recorded in the 2012 NSS are a helpful affirmation of the results of the survey we conducted of all Library users in autumn 2011 and we remain committed to continuing to improve and tailor our collections and services to meet the needs of our diverse user community.

We are currently analysing the 2012 NSS data, including the free text comments, in order to identify priority areas for improvement in relation to Q.16

Library Survey

We will be conducting an online survey of Library users again this autumn, from 12th November 2012 for two weeks.

Academic Services

Learning and Teaching

Reading Lists and Aspire

The Aspire reading list system is currently being used by 45 HEIs in the UK and its adoption at Sussex is a core element of our strategy to provide inspiring and technologically advanced learning environments to contribute to an excellent student experience.

The Library has been working towards extending the reach of Aspire across the University, investing a considerable amount of time in advocacy, developing guidance materials and talking to academics about the most appropriate use of the tool. Over 29 group presentations and 35 1-to-1 sessions were delivered over the spring and summer to academics and support staff across virtually every School.

This intense engagement, combined with recommendations from the portfolio review and the introduction of the new academic year structure, resulted in an unprecedented number of lists being submitted to the Library during August and September this year. This influx of lists has resulted in a significant increase in the number of items ordered by the Library. During September, for example, 2,621 orders were received in the Library, compared to 528 in September 2011. Similarly, requests for digitised readings are up, from 24 in September 2011 to 192 in September 2012. A full breakdown of items received into the Library between 2009/10 and 2012/13 can be found in Appendix A to this report.

Since the implementation of Aspire at the University in 2009/10, 1,913 lists have been created on the system. Of these, 1,279 are currently live and 634 have been archived.

Library Induction

We gave presentations to around 2,500 UG and PGT students during the 2012/13 induction period – 500 (25%) more than we saw last year. Our library tours were particularly successful this year, possibly as a result of their inclusion in centrally produced induction programme. We saw 1,284 students, representing a 70% increase over the 2011 figure. The Open Learning Space was used very successfully as the starting point for Library tours, resulting in more effective interaction with students and far less noise and congestion in other parts of the building.

Research Support

Research Hive Scholars

We have appointed three new Doctoral students as our Research Hive Scholars for 2012/13. They are Rachel Wood (studying for a PhD in Gender Studies), Frank Verano (Film Studies) and Charlotte Morris (Sociology). More information about the Scholars can be found here: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/staff/research/hive>.

Open Access Week

As part of International Open Access Week (22nd-28th October), we organised a series of drop-in sessions in BMEc, LifeSciences, Global Studies and BSMS to promote both Sussex Research Online but also to talk about Gold Open Access and the benefits that our recently purchased memberships of BioMed Central, PubMed and the Royal Society offer for researchers at Sussex.

Research Data Management

We have begun a project to assess the data management requirements of Sussex researchers. As well as providing the Director of Research and Enterprise with information on the support required for data curation and storage, the results will allow the Library to explore its role in developing training and support for Schools in research data management. The projects will focus on a School from each of the three subject clusters: arts and humanities, social science and science.

Special Collections

The Keep

Preparations are going well for the move of Special Collections to The Keep in 2013. The building itself is on track for handing over to the partners in early summer and our work on packing up the material and bar-coding the boxes is progressing as planned. An external company has been appointed to produce a website and overarching search interface to the catalogues of the three partners, both of which will help us with publicity and raise the profile of The Keep for the move early in 2013.

The physical move to The Keep will take place over the summer of 2013 and we cannot guarantee access to any of our special collections after the end of May 2013.

“Observing the 1980s” and SCARLET+

Our two JISC funded projects are progressing to plan. “Observing the 1980s” will create a number of Open Educational Resources, using written Mass Observation directives from the 1980s and Oral History material held in the British Library. Dr Lucy Robinson is working with colleagues in E-learning and Special Collections to put together these resources which she will use in her teaching in the Spring Term 2013. These will then be made openly available for all under a Creative Commons licence. At the same time our SCARLET+ Project will use some of this digitised Mass Observation material to produce an Augmented Reality app that Dr Robinson will use with her students. We hope to develop this technology for use in The Keep and with different audiences.

Library Operations

Lending Services

Customer Service Excellence

Work is progressing well on building the portfolio of evidence we need to provide in order to achieve the Customer Service Excellence standard and are on track for submitting this evidence in February 2013. We should learn the outcome within a month of submitting our portfolio.

Photocopying

Copy cards still cost £3.00, but now include £1.00 of credit. We have thus been able to pass on savings made due to the lowering in overall costs of photocopying and card purchase price to our users.

Library Systems, Technical Development and Technical Services

Electronic Library

We have introduced a new search interface for the Electronic Library, using a product called Metalib+. The new interface is easier to use and has additional features, including the ability to save and export information. The new service has received positive feedback so far.

Library Catalogue

Our new library catalogue, Prism 3, is now live. This replaces Aquabrowser and the old standard catalogue.

Sussex Research Online

Sussex Research Online (SRO) – the online repository of research from Sussex – has now been live for several months and holds over 23,850 records for research outputs dating back to the 1960s when the University first opened. The Library checks and completes all new records added to the system and provides support and guidance. These processes are now being embedded into the Library organisational structure, with Technical Services managing the metadata and Research Support providing support to researchers in using the system..

EThOS: Electronic Theses Online Service

The Library, working in partnership with the British Library, has now digitised 1,500 Sussex doctoral theses, making them publicly available online. The Library's print theses collection holds the majority of doctoral theses produced since the University opened in the early 1960s. 25% of the collection has now been digitised and made openly available on EThOS (ethos.bl.uk). The Library catalogue record clearly indicates when a thesis is available electronically on EThOS and provides a link through to the EThOS search page.

While print theses submitted before October 2009 can still be consulted in the Library, Sussex students are increasingly accessing the full-text online via EThOS. 30% of recent downloads by Sussex researchers were for Sussex theses.

EThOS now harvests theses added to Sussex Research Online so e-theses submitted from October 2009 will soon be available on the EThOS database.

Planning and Administration

Refurbishment

The 12 month defects period following completion of the Library refurbishment project has ended and all outstanding issues have been resolved or transferred to long term maintenance. We have continued to monitor use of the refurbished spaces and make modifications as required in light of user feedback and our own observation of how the building is being used. Over the summer, for example, we have added flat desk spaces in the silent study areas and installed a water fountain on the first floor.

Library Budget

The Library budget, although not yet formally confirmed, is currently on target. We have yet to receive confirmation of our financial position at the end of the 11/12 financial year, but projections suggest that the figures show a spend of approximately £6,000 over budget.

Appendix A
Items into the Library

