

MENZIES PRECINCT
SCHOLARLY INFORMATION SERVICES/LIBRARY
DIVISION OF INFORMATION

Asia-Pacific Library Advisory Committee (APLAC)

Minutes of the meeting of the Asia Pacific Library Advisory Committee held on 23 August 2004 at 9:15am in the Library Meetings Room, R G Menzies Building.

Present: Ms. Kathy Collier, Mr. Vic Elliott (Chair), Dr. Greg Fealy (for Dr. Robert Cribb), Dr. Robin Hide (for Dr. Chris Ballard), Professor Terry Hull, Dr. Narangoa Li (for Professor Corbett), Professor Kam Louie, Mr. Ewan Maidment, Ms. Amelia McKenzie, Ms. Renata Osborne (Minutes Secretary), Dr. Kirill Nhourzhanov, Dr. Nicholas Tapp, Professor Ken Wells.

1. Apologies

Professor Geremie Barme, Dr. Richard Barz, Professor Jenny Corbett, Dr Robert Cribb, Professor James Fox, Dr. Colin Jeffcott, Dr. Peter Jackson.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Matters Arising

Mr. Elliott reported on his draft paper "Use of Access and Collection Budget". This paper was prepared in response to a suggestion made in 2002 by the Access and Collection Advisory Group that the kind of materials purchased and made available through the Access and Collection Budget should be defined and noted. Mr. Elliott alluded to the dual principles specified in his draft report that all materials made available through the Access and Collection Budget should be (a) of enduring value and (b) accessible to the entire university community. The content and format of these materials will remain the prerogative of the academics. Professor Hull enquired as to whether Mr. Elliott's report will be made available to the wider academic community. Mr. Elliott replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Elliott reported on changes to the budget reporting structure which will result in greater transparency and accountability and provide increased stability. There is now a single Access & Collection Reserve Fund of over \$409,000 that can be used to cover any downward currency fluctuation or for once-off purchases. The Division of Information is also continuing to purchase US currency (against known subscriptions) to take advantage of favourable exchange rates, and has recently purchased US\$1.6million. In addition, the Librarian has a contingency fund of \$300,000 for special purchases.

Dr. Tapp enquired if the model employed for the allocation of A&C funds to the different academic areas can be made public. Mr. Elliott agreed that the percentages used for funds allocation could be provided.

Ms. Osborne reported that Professors Wells and Louie, Dr. Tapp and Mr. Maidment, have been invited to join APLAC.

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Mr. Elliott noted APLAC discussions in June 2003 on unique Pacific resources held by the University and by individual scholars. Ms. Osborne reported that Mr. Elliott and Ms. Osborne have had a preliminary meeting with Professors Fox and Tryon and Dr. Fry and discussed these resources, in particular the material stored on campus. The Library has agreed to undertake an assessment of this material in relation to locating some of the material in the Library. Mr. Maidment named some of the many collections currently held on campus, and stated it was not the responsibility of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau to maintain records of these collections. Ms. McKenzie pointed out that the National Library has experience in the management of archival collections and expressed the National Library's willingness to collaborate on the Pacific collections.

Professor Hull enquired on the frequency of APLAC meetings. Mr. Elliott replied that there is to be another APLAC meeting this year following the Asia Pacific Focus Group meetings.

3. Report from Director, Scholarly Information Services/Librarian

Mr. Elliott reported on:

- the new structure of the Library implemented in March 2004 which saw the creation of the four Library Precincts and the two Library Programs plus the Information Literacy Program
- the Quality Review, including the favourable outcome of the Division of Information's self-assessment in terms of recommendations made in the 2001 McKinnon Review of the University administration. Mr. Elliott also reported on the visit to Menzies by Professor Wim Stokhof (Director, IIAS, Leiden) and Sir Colin Lucas (V-C, Oxford University) in relation to the Quality Audit, and the September release date for the Quality Audit Report
- the launch of ANU's E-Press in May 2004.

4. APLAC Membership

Ms. Osborne reported that Professor Marr expressed a wish to resign from APLAC and proposed that Dr. Tana Li take his place. APLAC members accepted the proposal. There was discussion on the size of APLAC and whether there was adequate representation of the different areas of interest. There was general agreement to maintain the number of members and for the existing members to represent the full range of interests.

5. 2004 Access and Collection Budget

Ms. Osborne noted the overall health of the 2004 Asia Pacific A&C budget. Ms. Osborne drew attention to individual budgets that were in deficit, and suggested that the cancellation of unfilled aged orders in these budgets may reduce this deficit. Mr. Elliott mentioned the possibility of clearing these deficits from the contingency funds.

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Dr. Nourzhanov requested that the single "Middle East" budget be divided into "western" and "vernacular" Middle East budgets. The Library agreed to liaise with the Middle East Focus Group on this matter.

Dr. Nourzhanov requested that the end-of-year A&C budget figures for preceding years be tabled at future APLAC meetings for comparison. The Library agreed to do this.

Professor Hull asked how area budgets contributed funds to the single electronic products budget line, and whether maintaining a separate electronic products budget line reflected a general move by the Library towards electronic resources. Mr. Elliott explained that the Library applied a formula based on subject coverage for payment of multi-disciplinary electronic products. Ms. Osborne added that in the case of Asia Pacific-specific electronic products the contributing area budget was usually clear.

Professor Wells mentioned that funds were available from the Centre for Korea Studies for the cataloguing of Korean language material, and that there was a quantity of Korean books in his possession for contribution to the Library.

Dr. Nourzhanov reiterated the offer from staff at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies to assist the Library in dealing with Arabic, Turkish and Farsi material. Mr. Elliott thanked him for the offer and added that out-sourcing the work to a cataloguing agency was an alternative option.

6. Expensive Items Proposals

The recommendations on purchase of expensive items were accepted.

The following was noted:

- that an order, against the western China/Korea budget, to the purchase the Maritime Customs Service Archives on microfiche has been cancelled because of delay in publishing, which will reimburse approximately \$9,000 to that budget
- that both the western and vernacular Japan budgets will be slightly overcommitted if all recommended items were purchased

7. New Serials Proposals

Dr. Nourzhanov informed the meeting that the journals *Arabica* and *Hawwa* were both available online in fulltext on Ingenta. The Library will review online access and will not subscribe to these journals if access is confirmed.

All other new serials proposals were accepted.

Professor Hull questioned the desirability of cancelling *Health and population, perspectives and issues* citing its relevance to a number of research interests on campus. He suggested the Library investigate possible cheaper supply alternatives. The Library agreed not to cancel this title.

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In relation to the proposed cancellation of *Journal of Indo-European studies*, Dr. Tapp asked whether the journal covered linguistics topics. The library will review the situation.

The remaining three titles were approved for cancellation.

8. Any Other Business

Ms. McKenzie reported on staffing matters at the National Library, in particular the retirement of Mrs. Fry, the Korean Collection librarian, and Mrs. McFadden, the Thai Collection librarian. Ms. McKenzie noted the difficulty in finding a suitably qualified librarian to replace Mrs. Fry, and therefore the position will remain vacant for the time being. Ms. Eve Thwaites has been appointed to replace Mrs. McFadden and will take up the position early next year.

Ms. McKenzie mentioned that the National Library has decided to allow ANU Library an extended loan, through ILL, on a specific Japanese language multi-volume set. However, it will not be the one-year loan as requested by ANU Library.

Dr. Fry asked if the Library noticed an increase in the number of library books and journals being defaced with highlighter markings and annotations. Mr. Elliott remarked that it was likely there was a small increase in the maltreatment of Library material but that this was very hard for the Library to control.

9. Next Meeting

Date to be determined.

Renata Osborne
27 August 2004