

Asia and the Pacific Library Advisory Committee (APLAC)

Minutes of the APLAC meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2010 at 10.00am in the
Menzies Meetings Room, RG Menzies Building

Present: Professor R Cribb (Chair), Mr M Churchman, Ms K Collier , Professor J Corbett, Mr V Elliott, Dr P Jackson, Mr. N Farrelly, Mr. M Huppert (A/Secretary), Mr E Maidment, Ms Amelia McKenzie, Dr B Nelson, Dr L Tana, Ms R Wong.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

- Apologies were received from: Professor K Anderson, Dr C Ballard, Dr R Barz, Dr R Maliangkay, Professor J Minford, Professor T Hull, Ms S Kosse, Ms R Osborne
- Resigned: Professor A MacIntyre, Dr N Tapp
- The Chair welcomed Mr. Mark Huppert as Acting Precinct Manager of Menzies Library, Dr. Barbara Nelson as the new representative of the School of Culture, History and Language, and Mr. Nicholas Farrelly from the School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 2.1. Mr. Maidment enquired how membership of the Committee was determined. Mr. Huppert responded that the current membership was compiled according to the 2009 list. Professor Cribb reported that he had not received a nomination from IPSS and would follow up.
- 2.2. The minutes of the meeting of 2 November 2009 were accepted.

3. Business arising from the Minutes

- 3.1. Collection development planning.
 - Professor Cribb highlighted the advantage of monograph collection development being initiated by academic staff but also noted that gaps developed in between staff appointments.
 - Mr. Elliott noted that the Library did not employ subject specialists. Sue Kosse was compiling a new Collection Development Policy to provide broad guidelines on collection development. Feedback from Colleges is important when there are changes of emphasis in research and teaching.
 - Dr. B Nelson suggested that the policy should be made available online.
 - Mr. Elliott noted that new research areas were funded by the Access and Collection budget. General reference works were supported by the GNS fund.
 - Professor Cribb suggested a circular should be sent to academic staff to explain collection development procedures. Professor Corbett emphasized the importance of regular communication between members of the Committee and staff in their schools to ensure that recommendations came forward from academics. She asked whether library staff could attend College meetings to talk about the importance of citations, impact factors, etc. Mr. Elliott agreed that it would be good for Library Precinct Managers to attend meetings in Colleges. Some of the specialist training might be provided in association with the Research Office.

3.2. Access to Harvard-Yenching digitised rare materials. Mr. Huppert noted that there were small projects going on in Harvard according to their website. He would solicit more information from Harvard staff. Professor Cribb enquired whether some of these sites might be included in the library catalogue. Ms. Collier responded that some have been included.

4. Director, Scholarly Information Services and University Librarian

4.1. Cost Benefit Study.

- Mr. Elliott outlined the methodology of the Outsell Cost Benefit Study and its findings.
- The study found that investing centrally in Library collections was more effective in improving the volume and quality of research than leaving researchers to find the resources they needed on their own. The outcomes of the study were remarkably consistent across the three universities surveyed (the University of Queensland, the University of Adelaide, and ANU).
- Mr. Elliott had given a presentation on the study at an international conference in Hong Kong. He was heartened by the willingness of academics to support the study by completing the online questionnaire. The study also provided useful data on the use of information resources by researchers.

4.2. Access and Collection proposal for increased funding

- A\$8.23M would be available for the Access and Collection budget in 2010. The amount was the same as last year but without the A\$300K one-off contingency funding provided in 2009.
- A total of US\$2.75M had been purchased at favourable exchange rates.
- Mr. Elliott stated that there was no intention to cancel any current subscriptions but emphasised the need to exercise care in purchasing monographs.
- Mr. Elliott had written a paper requesting an increase in Access and Collection funding for 2011.

4.3. Scholarly Services Planning Advisory Committee

- Mr Elliott reported that the Committee was developing a list of proposals in six areas: e-publishing, learning needs, research needs, e-research, archives, and libraries and collections.
- Professor Cribb commented that channels for Colleges to communicate and provide feedback remained problematic. Professor Corbett suggested making available an organization chart for the Division.
- Dr. Jackson enquired whether there was support for digitising information produced by researchers. Mr. Elliott responded that the Division of Information did provide repository services but that this was not funded from the Access and Collection budget.
- Mr. Farrelly asked whether the National Library's Pandora provided digitisation and archive services. Ms. McKenzie replied that Pandora worked to a specific set of collection criteria. The National Library did

archive the entire Australian web domain on a regular basis.. This archive was not available for public access.

4.4. Hancock West Redevelopment

- The redevelopment would start during the summer break and finish by mid-2011. Level 2 would provide teaching space for the Colleges of Science. Level 3 would be shared by the Library and the Colleges of Science with access via the Library only.

5. Access and Collection

5.1. Financial result for 2009.

- Mr. Huppert tabled the financial statement for period 13 2009. He noted that deficits were not carried forward to the new year. More work would be done to resolve the discrepancies between reports produced from the library system and the central financial system. There was no change in budget distribution between areas.
- Dr. Jackson asked which budget would be charged for online resources. Mr. Elliott responded that charging to codes is determined by the subject of the item, not by the affiliation of the requester.
- Professor Corbett noted that a review of budget allocations might be timely next year following the release of the College of Asia and the Pacific strategic plans.
- It was not known whether the new Australian Centre on China in the World would contribute funding to the Access and Collection budget.

5.2. Access and Collection Budget.

The budget for 2010 was tabled. Mr. Huppert noted that the total was less than last year because of the discontinuance of the one-off contingency allocation of \$300K.

5.3. Significant new acquisitions

- Mr. Huppert spoke to the list of significant new acquisitions for 2009.

5.4. Proposals for significant acquisitions

- Mr. Huppert tabled a list of proposed significant acquisitions for 2010. He remarked that more proposals would be added to the list when additional information became available. The list of purchases would be funded from subject allocations
- Members of the Committee accepted and approved the purchase of items on the list to a total value of about A\$16K.
- Professor Corbett and Professor Cribb suggested that future lists should include English translations of titles and full descriptions of the works in English.

6. Report from the National Library.

- Ms McKenzie reported on major recent acquisitions by the National Library.

- If members of the Committee were interested in recommending information resources for National Library collections, they could submit their recommendations online or to Ms McKenzie by email.

7. Any other business

Mr. Maidment commented that the existing microform readers in the Library were inadequate. Mr. Elliott noted that it was intended to investigate the possibility of obtaining funding for high quality scanning equipment for use in various research projects. The replacement of existing microform readers would also be considered.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.30pm.