

MINUTES

MEETING Chemistry Library Advisory Committee (CHEMLAC)

PRESENT Professor Martin Banwell, Dr Russell Barrow, Mrs Lisa Bradley (Chair), Dr Michael Collins, Dr Christopher Delfs, Dr Mark Humphrey, Ms Samantha Jackson, Ms Sue Kosse, Professor Lew Mander, Professor Gottfried Otting, Mrs Joan Smith.

APOLOGIES Professor Anthony Hill.

Dr Nick Dixon has left the University. Mrs Bradley expressed thanks to Dr Dixon on behalf of the committee for his work on CHEMLAC. Mrs Bradley welcomed Professor Gottfried Otting to the committee.

DATE/TIME 2:15pm on Tuesday 4th July 2006

VENUE RSC Board Room

2. CHEMLAC - MINUTES OF MEETING 8 NOVEMBER 2005

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. SCILAC - MEETING OF 26 MAY 2006

Mrs Bradley spoke to the recent SCILAC meeting. Professor Banwell had also attended this meeting, as CHEMLAC's representative.

Division of Information

Dr. Molinari retired as Director of Scholarly Technology Services in 2005. The position was reviewed, and has been advertised. The position will now include responsibility for the ANU Supercomputer Facility.

Integrated Library Management System

The Interlibrary Loan Subsystem will go live in semester 2. Metafind, the cross database searching facility, will be available in 3 months. ERM, the Electronic Records Management subsystem, will be available in approximately 18 months.

CSIRO Libraries

Carol Murray (CSIRO Black Mountain Librarian) reported on the review of CSIRO libraries. There will be a change from divisional to an organization wide model. The Black Mountain Library will be a major centre. Forestry and Sustainable Ecosystems will be called service points, and some material will be moved from these service points to the Black Mountain Library. This is the biggest change to the CSIRO library service since its establishment.

Ms Kosse then spoke to the issue of Library Advisory Committees under the new College structure. It is the University Librarian's intention to continue with the existing Library Advisory Committees unless the Colleges instigated a change.

4. SCIENCE ACCESS AND COLLECTIONS BUDGET 2006

Mrs Bradley spoke to the previously distributed table. Professor Banwell noted that there was exposure to currency fluctuation. Ms Kosse explained the Division of Information's strategy for minimising exposure, including the purchase of US dollars, Euros and British Pounds at favourable rates against known commitments for large serial packages and databases. Ms Bradley noted that the University Librarian also has funds set aside as a hedge against any major currency movements.

The chemistry budget has significant funds for one-off purchases such as monographs. It was agreed to order outstanding monograph proposals. It was noted that the proposals pass a review process within RSC.

Dr Humphrey noted the projected deficit for psychology and asked if that would impact on other budgets. Mrs Bradley explained that BIOLAC had agreed to use monograph funds in a shared way across the three BIOLAC areas (medical sciences, biological sciences and psychology).

5. PURCHASES AND PROPOSALS

Ms Jackson spoke to the list of subscription proposals, which had previously been distributed to the Committee.

Synfacts

It was agreed to undertake a subscription for 12 months, and to review usage statistics after that time.

Elsevier Chemistry Book Series Package Online

It was agreed to take up a subscription to this package. Print standing orders for the eight included titles would be moved to the electronic version. The package includes six titles not previously held by the Library.

6. SCIFINDER SCHOLAR USAGE STATISTICS

Ms Jackson spoke to the previously distributed SciFinder Scholar detailed usage statistics. Usage patterns are very similar to previous years. The majority of usage is in business hours by users in the Research School of Chemistry and the Department of Chemistry.

Dr Barrow noted his surprise at the lack of usage by the School of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Ms Jackson and Ms Bradley responded that there had been little interest from the area in using SciFinder Scholar.

Professor Otting noted that the funds available for monograph purchases was quite large, and could be redirected to purchasing additional seats to SciFinder Scholar. Professor Banwell responded saying that the demand for monographs remained high, and that the past four years had seen the rebuilding of the quality of the monograph collection. As such, Professor Banwell was reluctant to redirect funds away from monograph purchases.

Ms Jackson agreed to provide charts to be distributed internally to users in the Research School of Chemistry and the Department of Chemistry showing the best times to attempt a connection to SciFinder Scholar.

7. SPACE

Mrs Bradley and Ms Kosse spoke about upcoming changes to Library locations and space on campus.

In 2006, the Library measured the collection to determine the occupancy rate of all Library locations. The average occupancy rate is 93%, and the occupancy rate for the Chemistry branch is 97%. The Library is in the process of securing an off-campus store located in Hume to reduce the occupancy rate to 75%. In moving material to an off-campus store, the Library will also be able to better meet Australian Standards regarding access provision to users with mobility issues. Freed space would also be repurposed to provide additional teaching and learning areas, including individual and collaborative workspaces for students.

The Library is currently exploring the options of leasing or purchasing the Hume store, which will be occupied by the National Library of Australia until the end of 2006. There will be consultation with user groups regarding the criteria for material to be relocated to the store. Print serial runs with complete online archives will be the most obvious candidates, but this may not reach the 19,000 metres of material we need to relocate.

Professor Banwell stated he had discussed this issue with a number of colleagues, who felt it would not be appropriate to move print backsets off-campus. Organic chemists track references through the print literature, and this would be stymied if the print copy was not easily accessible. Professor Banwell also noted that should online access fail due to problems with the network, all research would come to a stop. Professor Banwell noted that other areas of chemistry may not use the literature in the same way, and may not be impacted by the proposed change.

Ms Kosse stated that the Library is foreshadowing the space available. Chemistry will be 102% full by 2010. Ms Kosse also stated that the store in Hume will have a service area including scanner-copiers and staff on hand to assist users. Users will be able to browse serial runs at the store. The Library will be providing a document supply service from the store, with articles scanned and delivered to the requestor's desktop within 24 hours. It will be possible to request the physical item be delivered to campus from the store. Ms Kosse noted that while the access may not be the most convenient, it would continue.

Professor Mander asked how a progressive relocation would work - for example, how would the Library ensure all the Chemistry titles were located together in the store? Ms Kosse replied that individual titles would be kept together and browsable. Professor Mander then asked about the possibility of compactus to better use the existing space on campus. Ms Kosse responded that compactus has already been installed in all the main Library buildings, but that tests for floor loading had not been conducted for Chemistry.

Dr Humphrey noted that the issue of space may be impacted by the proposed new Chemistry building. Professor Banwell noted that the plans to refurbish the front of the Chemistry branch library may provide additional storage space, however plans for the new Chemistry building are in the preliminary stages.

Mrs Smith and Professor Banwell noted that a weeding exercise in the Chemistry monographs may help with more immediate space concerns. Ms Jackson agreed to prepare a preliminary list of monographs to be weeded for review by Chemistry academics.

Ms Kosse reiterated that the Library would be meeting with Library Advisory Committees later in the year to discuss the selection process for material to be relocated.

Professor Banwell noted that the physical environment of the Chemistry branch required attention, especially if more areas were to be used for collaborative learning and study space. In particular, the lighting and heating of the Chemistry branch need to be improved.

8. SCIENCE BRANCH LIBRARIES

Medical Sciences Library

Mrs Bradley reported that the Medical Sciences Library in the John Curtin School of Medical Research had closed in April this year. Material was relocated to Hancock where possible, but due to space concerns some material had been relocated to the Acton store. Dr Barrow asked if material in the Acton store was still searchable in the Library catalogue and able to be accessed. Mrs Bradley responded that this was the case, with material able to be requested from the Acton store.

Professor Otting then asked if this meant the entire biomedical budget was used to purchase online material. Mrs Bradley stated this wasn't the case, as current print material is still received at Hancock.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Loan Statistics

Ms Jackson distributed information about monograph loans from Hancock and Chemistry. The figures indicated healthy loan rates in chemistry subject areas.

Current Awareness Services

Ms Bradley stated that at LAWLAC earlier this year, academics had requested that the Library take a more proactive role in informing and training academics in the use of online current awareness services. Ms Bradley asked the committee if such assistance would be useful to chemistry academics and students. Professor Banwell suggested perhaps coupling the training with popular training sessions such as Endnote.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 3:45pm.