

**Minutes of the Student Library Liaison Group Meeting
29 November 2006**

Present: Alison Allden (chair), Joy El Dieb, Peter King, Barbara Korell, Cathryn Gallacher, James McConachie, Jennifer Scherr

Apologies: Sundas Ali, David Hughes, Chris Prior, Ben Ullmann

1. Following introductions, the remit of the group was read and agreed.
2. Peter King (PK) reported on recent and ongoing Library developments against the 2005/6 Action Plan and LIRPS strategy, including:
 - wireless networking, which is now available in all but two branch libraries;
 - telephone renewals service, which was introduced earlier this month;
 - membership of UK Libraries Plus, a reciprocal access scheme which enables UoB students to use other university libraries for reference, and part-time and distance students for borrowing. (Jennifer Scherr handed out a print out of information from our website.)
 - the 'RFID' (Radio Frequency Identification) and self-issuing pilot in the Chemistry Library, and our intention to do this across all libraries in conjunction with the Nucleus Project;
 - The Nucleus Project Options Appraisal being conducted, evaluating three options: (1) do nothing; (2) do the whole Nucleus project all at once – ie, Students Union, Library and learning spaces – as originally envisioned. This option would require several years to raise sufficient funds. (3) Do the project in phases. The results of the appraisal are promised for the end of this academic year.
3. Cathryn Gallacher (CG) reported on the plagiarism web gateway and quiz being developed, and on the Information Literacy (IL) audit which is underway. Also discussed was the proposed IL impact evaluation involving interviews with students who had received training. Student members agreed to be interviewed for a pilot, and suggested also student Senate and Faculty representatives.

Action: CG will make the Information Literacy audit results available to Group members.

4. James McConachie edits the Postgraduate Newsletter, and suggested this as a means to communicate with students about the IL audit and other library issues. Group members and attendees agreed that they would like to be on a group email list, along with other members not present.

Action: Chris Prior (CP) will set up the email list.

5. Under AOB, PK asked the student members what they would change about the Library service if they could choose one (or two) thing(s). They agreed that opening hours was the most important issue, followed closely by the number of

copies available for taught courses. The students suggested a petition about opening hours. PK suggested that this would be more helpful if it contained an indication of the specific hours which were most in demand. CG offered to send the students a mini-survey about opening hours to append to, or submit with, the petition.

It was also noted that the temperature in the Arts and Social Sciences Library can be problematic, particularly following Christmas break, when it is too cold to use for study. PK explained the heating situation with regard to Estates plans.

Action: CG will ask CP to prepare a mini-survey of opening hours and send it to student members.

6. MetaLib was discussed. CG asked the students whether they used it. Barbara Korell said yes, found it useful; Joy El Dieb said she seldom needed to do a cross search, and found it easier to use the Catalogue and list of electronic journals. The students suggested a summer workshop for PhD students, outlining what is available, including MetaLib and services like UK Libraries Plus.

Action: CG will discuss the possibility of a summer workshop with Faculty Librarians.