‘Library2’ – Feasibility Study into a new build on-campus collections facility
Information Paper

Brief description of the paper
Estates Committee have supported a feasibility study into the most beneficial long-term solution for the Library Annexe services (currently provided from rented accommodation off campus). Page/Park Architects have been appointed to conduct the study, and will be working with Estates and Library staff, to establish the needs for such a facility into the next twenty years.

Action requested
Support from Library Committee.

Resource implications
Does the paper have resource implications? No

Risk Assessment
Does the paper include a risk analysis? N/A

Equality and Diversity
Has due consideration been given to the equality impact of this paper? Yes, we will discuss our requirements (regarding accessibility and other equality and diversity issues) with the project team and expect the study to include an Equality Impact Assessment.

Freedom of information
Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

Originator of the paper
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Background
The ongoing requirement for the facilities and services provided by the Library Annexe (www.ed.ac.uk/is/library-annexe) is supported across the University. However, there is a need to address the long-term feasibility of maintaining such services in the current rented facility, in relation to continuing pressures on collections, staff and study space, and the quality of accommodation and functionality the current facility provides.

Estates Committee funding
In December 2012 Estates Committee issued funding to undertake a feasibility study into the most beneficial long-term solution for the Library Annexe services, following the completion of the Main Library Redevelopment Project and the integration of these services into the core functions of the Library, and University Collections.

At that meeting, two feasible options were presented:

Option 1 – Continue services in rented accommodation
Option 2 – Continue services in new, purpose-built accommodation

Appointment of architects and engineer for study
Library and University Collections and Estates Development produced a briefing paper in mid-2013 for the tender process to appoint an architect to undertake this study.

The briefing paper set down the three main areas to be covered by the study:

1. Cost Benefit analysis (rental versus purpose-built)
2. Site and Location (with a preference for on-campus)
3. Building Considerations (functions and features – c.50 linear km, environmental control, protection and design)

The paper highlighted the Library’s capacity concerns relating to current and future strategic growth in student numbers (with the corresponding growth in demand for study space), continued growth in collections (particularly the acquisition of special collections and collections ingested as a result of institutional mergers and campus capital projects), and the need to preserve, conserve and maintain access to collections. It also indicated the potential for streamlining services within the Library, should a new facility present the opportunity to move more support staff away from the Main Library (e.g. greater opportunities around digitisation on demand, acquisition workflows, improved storage facilities for easier retrieval).
Page/Park Architects (www.pagepark.co.uk), with Harley Haddow Engineers (www.harleyhaddow.com), were the successful bidders to that tender process.

Page/Park have had considerable success in projects in libraries, archives and museums, including the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, McManus Galleries Dundee, and their current work with the Kelvin Hall project (collaboration between Glasgow Life, the Hunterian Museum, and Scottish Screen Archive for the National Library of Scotland). They are also working with Library and University Collections on the redevelopment project for St Cecilia’s Hall (www.stcecilias.ed.ac.uk).

**Process for study**
An internal team was established to support Page/Park and Harley Haddow in their work to complete the study. The team consists of the Director of Library and University Collections, the Estate Development Manager, the Head of Special Collections and the Head of Collections Development and Access.

This team have been working with curators and services managers in the Library and University Collections and User Services Divisions over the study period of fifteen weeks to identify the needs for this collections and staff facility for the next thirty years, in order to make an appropriate recommendation in the final Feasibility Report (due at end of May).

To read about a workshop hosted by Page/Park with Library staff, please see this blog post: http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/annexe/2014/04/08/library2-feasibility-study-progress/.

**Process for business case**
The report is expected to be brought to Estates Committee in September 2014, presenting the requirements for one of two options:

1. Ongoing funding for the maintenance of rental costs for the current facility;
2. Or funding for a new build collections and staff facility.

Should the project be recommended, it will require multiple investment strands, including capital investment from the University, alongside investment from foundations, trusts and benefactors. With the development of such a facility, there may also be an opportunity for income generation for a period of 5-10 years from rental of services and space to other libraries and archives.

If the study indicates it to be more beneficial to develop a new facility rather than continue to rent a facility, the start of construction could be anticipated as early as 2016. The Library Committee will be updated, as appropriate, throughout the process.

*Laura Macpherson, Head of Collections Development & Access, May 2014*