The University of Edinburgh

Library Committee

8th February 2011

Agendum 9a

Building Projects: Main Library Redevelopment Update

Brief description of the paper
This is one of a regular series of updates on the Main Library redevelopment.

Action requested
For information

Resource implications
Does the paper have resource implications?
Yes, the Main Library redevelopment is a major University capital project.

Risk Assessment
Does the paper include a risk analysis? No, but a risk register is maintained for the project.

Equality and Diversity
Does the paper have equality and diversity implications? No

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

Originator of the paper
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Main Library Redevelopment Project
Update January 2011

Image shows the recently installed New Books, Current Journals and Newspapers display on Floor 1 – more information in this update paper.

Floor 3, preparing for opening – books, study and student services
The project team are now at the detailed preparation stage for the opening of Floor 3 in June. This floor will house the remainder of the Library of Congress classified Current Lending collection (categories P-Z; with A-N already on Floor 2), currently located on Floor 4. It will also accommodate the East Asian Collection, the Serjeant & Watt and Centre of African Studies Collections.

There will be nearly 90 PCs and over 200 study spaces.

The move schedule for these books is currently being decided, with close attention being paid to both general exams and medical exams in order to cause minimal disruption. However, there is likely to be a period when books will be located on the Floor before it is open for public use, and we will need to run a book request service similar to that used in the summer move of 2010. Details about the move schedule and request service arrangements will be publicised in due course.

Student Services – the Careers Service, Student Counselling and Disability Office - will be based on the East side of the Floor. The Information Services facilities team are working closely with Student Services and the Redevelopment Project, to try and ensure a smooth transition into their new home. It is hoped that the Services will re-open at the same time as the rest of the Floor in the summer.

Floor 4, design sign off
The design for Floor 4 is being finalised and should be signed off for construction planning within the coming weeks. This floor will allow the Library to accommodate an additional 600 study spaces, and nearly 8,000 linear metres of shelving. Construction work will begin in July of this year.

In order to begin the clearing of this floor for redevelopment, the Library intends to move out approximately 4800 linear metres of the Dewey book collection to the Library Annexe during the Easter vacation. 3200 linear metres will remain in the building and be located on the
Lower Ground Floor (they are currently located on Floor 4). In order to make space for this retention of Dewey stock, we plan to move out around 3200 linear metres of journals to the annexe, also at Easter. These are journals, currently on the Lower Ground Floor, in selected subjects, where the current subscription is electronic format. Colleges have been invited to suggest selections of Dewey material that should be retained in the Main Library, through the usual liaison channels. Some additional requests may be accepted, but significantly more requests would require further journal relegation to the Annexe. For more information see the news article on the MLRP webpage: http://tinyurl.com/5uh4jjz

These moves to the Annexe are required for the remainder of the redevelopment, as when the Lower Ground Floor works are being carried out, there will no longer be the flexible space in the building to house the full collection, by moving it within the building. There will be a period when some Library service staff will have to be based on Floor 4 in temporary office space (they are currently based in the Lower Ground Floor) This means the full provision for study spaces and books will not be available until the Lower Ground Floor works are complete.

A note about the Annexe: a new Supervisor and two Assistants have been appointed to staff the building full time during the working week. These staff members will provide a much improved request and delivery service for material in the building. This includes, scanning of journal articles and book chapters for electronic delivery to the users desktop, and a twice daily courier service delivering previously-Main Library materials back to the building for use.

When complete, Floor 4 will accommodate the Main Library retained Dewey books and journals.

Lower Ground Floor – Information Services staff, University Collections
With the revised layout for Floor 4, the Lower ground Floor has now been identified for the staff work space previously planned for Floor 4. The design is in the early stages, but will accommodate around 170 staff – much less than the previous figures identified for Floor 4 of around 300. The Strong Room will also be redeployed as a store for Special Collections and University museums objects.

New display area in the Library
In December, the long awaited New Books, Current Journals and Newspaper display launched on Floor 1, beside the quiet study area. It is proving very popular with users, and books are being borrowed very quickly – as was intended. There will be a few additions to the area in coming weeks, such as a catalogue terminal, improved lighting and additional signage.

Current issues with a few Main Library facilities
There are a few prominent ongoing issues with facilities in the Main Library at the moment: out of order accessible toilets, and faults with the front doors.

The toilets are out of order due to a fault with the installation of the pivette doors. The architects and University Estates & Buildings team are getting replacement fixings and a sample new door, to see if this resolves the issue.

The ongoing problems with the main entrance doors have been discussed by the architects, manufacturers and Estates. It has been agreed that new fittings will be put in, and the handles are being removed from the push-button doors to prevent them from being opened in the wrong direction, and jamming. This will resolve the chicane-like effect of the doors at the moment.
Further information
Throughout redevelopment work, there are weekly construction updates and regular news articles available on the MLRP website – www.ed.ac.uk/is/mlrp. You can subscribe to these through the RSS feed. We are also now using Twitter – follow us, EdinUniMainLib. Plasma screens in the Library are also updated weekly. If you have any queries, please contact mlrp@ed.ac.uk.

Main Library Redevelopment Coordinator
Laura Macpherson has been appointed as Collections Manager from 1 February. Lesley Bryson will take over in the role from 1 March.

Laura Macpherson, Main Library Redevelopment Coordinator
Sheila Cannell, Director of Library and Collections
31 January 2011