The University of Edinburgh

Library Committee

13th April 2011

Agendum 7

Edinburgh College of Art merger: library implementation plan

Brief description of the paper
The paper describes the library implementation plan being undertaken by the library staff of ECA and UoE prior to the merger.

Action requested
For information

Resource implications
There is significant activity which is required to take place; and it is expected that this will be covered by ECA transition funds. Library materials, whether taken by UoE only, ECA only or by both organisations need to be assessed for their costs in the merged organisation.

Risk Assessment
There is a risk assessment included in the Library implementation plan.

Equality and Diversity
Does the paper have equality and diversity implications?
Equality and diversity issues are addressed in the implementation plan

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

Originator of the paper
Sheila Cannell
Director of Library Services
April 2011
Edinburgh University Library Committee

Edinburgh College of Art merger: Library implementation plan

An implementation plan for library issues for the merger of Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) with the University of Edinburgh (UoE) has been in preparation, and now that the merger has been approved, the Library Implementation Group, with members from ECA and UoE working together, are working through the issues which have been identified. This paper gives a brief account of the activities to be undertaken.

The ECA Library will remain on site, becoming one of the site libraries of the University of Edinburgh. The new ECA Library will adopt the policies, such as loan policies, and operating procedures of the UoE Library system. We expect to be able to extend the opening hours of the new ECA Library, although this is dependent on resolving staffing issues.

The ECA Catalogue will be merged into the UoE Catalogue with effect from the summer; and we plan to recatalogue and reclassify ECA stock to the same standard as that of the UoE Library over the next couple of years using ECA transition funding.

The merger will mean that there is access to more library materials for all. There will be access to library materials taken by UoE to ECA staff, and to materials held in ECA not already subscribed to by UoE. For both of these categories of materials, and for materials taken in common by both UoE and ECA, there requires to be negotiations with the publishers to ensure the wider access is permitted, and this is currently being undertaken on our behalf by JISC Collections. In some cases we will expect to have to pay an enhanced fee.

Rare books will be transferred to the better storage facilities in the Centre for Research Collections. A review will be carried out, subject to the availability of transition funding, on ECA archives and art and museum collections. Books in the ECA store will be transferred to the Library Annexe.

Liaison librarian support will be merged with existing subject librarians support for ACE.

Some activities currently undertaken at the ECA Library will be transferred to the Main Library (e.g. the purchase and cataloguing of books), but some will remain on site (e.g. the receipt of journals).

It should be noted that these changes will not immediately affect the Art and Architecture Library, but that it is likely to become necessary to review the various libraries serving the new ECA over the next year.

For the various changes in service, we are working very closely with colleagues in ECA, and we will ensure that there is good communication with the staff and students of ECA, ACE and the UoE.

Sheila Cannell
Director of Library Services, April 2011