The University of Edinburgh

Library Committee

8th February 2011

Agendum 9b

King’s Buildings Library Project: update

Brief description of the paper
This paper gives an update on the KB Library project and on associated developments at King’s Buildings. It details the changes to take place this coming Summer and during Summer 2012.

Action requested
For information

Resource implications
This is a major capital project for the University. There will be a fundraising strategy.

Risk Assessment
Not included, but there is a Risk Register 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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CSE Consultancy
February 2011
Edinburgh University Library Committee

College of Science and Engineering
Library Committee

King’s Buildings Library Project: update

In November 2010, the University appointed the Main Contractor for the NEW King’s Buildings Library, a major and long-awaited development. Construction will start during February and is scheduled for completion in Spring 2012. This will be followed by a commissioning and fit out period. The new library will be open and ready for use at the start of the 2012/13 academic year.

The new building, on the site of the former Robertson Library adjacent to the KB Centre, will face south and is designed to be a striking presence on “Campus Green”. The mutual benefits of the Library opening onto this pleasant outdoor environment should help to make this area the “living heart” of KB. The project includes hard and soft landscaping south and west of the new building and extending across to the JCM Building. This will also improve routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

The structure is engineered to the best environmental standards, including the use of sustainable fabric, rain water harvesting and a green roof. Its “L-shaped” plan with double-height atrium produces a narrow floor plate, allowing natural ventilation and optimising natural light.

The new Library development is another step in the process of upgrading facilities at KB for students and staff, creating modern environments for study and social purposes. Its four floors will provide a gradation of high quality environments from informal on the ground floor (where catering will be available), through a range of collaborative and private study areas on the first and second floors, to quiet, individual study on the top floor. The design takes account of recent study space re-developments in the Central Area in the Main Library and Appleton Tower.

This will be the single fully-serviced library at KB, permitting improved service and long opening hours. There will be a staffed Helpdesk on the first floor, providing a first point-of-contact for enquiries relating to library, IT and e-learning services.

The three upper floors will accommodate most of the book collection, which is currently dispersed across three separate libraries. The lesser-used collections (all journals and older books) will be available to users on compact shelving on the lower floor of the present Darwin Library.

The KB Centre will be upgraded internally with a link to the new Library so that, until better arrangements can be made, it will continue to provide open access computer labs, study space and other services to complement the new facility.

For more information, please contact Rachel Love (Rachel.Love@ed.ac.uk)

Staff from Information Services, from the College of Science & Engineering and from Estates & Buildings are working closely together on this exciting project.

Further information and regular updates, covering progress of the construction and changes to library services, will be provided during the course of the project.
The above text along with a presentation from the Project Architects, Austin-Smith: Lord is now available: [http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/science-engineering/news-events/kb-library](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/science-engineering/news-events/kb-library)

**Timetable summary**
- February 2011: start of construction
- Summer 2011: installation of additional compact shelving, on open-access, on the Darwin Library lower floor. The older book collection (books acquired prior to, and not borrowed since, 1999) and the entire journal collection, currently housed in 3 libraries and several stores, will be moved to the compact shelving to form single book and journal collections. These collection moves should start in mid July. It is not yet known how long this will take, but we expect the moves will need to continue into Semester 1. The study places on the lower floor will be relocated to the upper floor once the books have been relocated
- Summer 2012: the new library will open. The newer book collection (books acquired since 1999 and older books borrowed since this date) from the Darwin, JCM and Robertson libraries will transfer across into a single collection. At this point, the JCM and Robertson libraries will both close and the Darwin Library will assume the role of an open-access store

**Other related developments**
IS, the College and Estates &Buildings are currently discussing the following:
- The re-development of the three floors of the KB Centre: Level 1 is currently a café, which will close when the catered study space opens in the new library and Levels 2 and 3 are currently IS open-access labs
- The re-development of the Darwin Library upper floor once the new library opens

**KB Library Strategic Project Board**
This is now chaired by Jeff Haywood, with Richard Battersby representing IS and Simon Bates representing the College. John Martin continues to attend.

**KB Library User Group**
The purpose is to ensure the effective and optimal implementation of the new KB Library project and associated changes elsewhere on the KB campus, paying attention to communication with all stakeholders and operational matters, as well as to the construction projects. Specifically:
- To continue as the user liaison group for the construction and fit-out of the new build and for ancillary re-development projects in the KB Centre and the Darwin Library
- To ensure that the organisational issues, relating to all the above developments, are addressed effectively at the appropriate time
- To ensure that effective consultation and communication takes place at the relevant time, with all appropriate University colleagues, and with all user communities

Members are:
- IS: Richard Battersby, Jim Sheach, Barry Croucher
- College: John Martin, Simon Bates, Patricia Erskine, College Library Committee member
- E&B: Steven Goodall
- D&A: Rachel Love
- EUSA: Saima Ahmed

Richard Battersby
January 2011
Effective communication with all the stakeholders will be essential during the lifetime of this project so that the ultimate goals are well understood, the various steps to be taken are announced in good time, and inevitable difficulties encountered along the way are minimised. The College Library Committee, given its membership from each School, will need to play a key role and it is important that all members have a detailed knowledge of the project and the implementation plans.

The Communications Group of the KB Library User Group (Richard Battersby, Steven Goodall, John Martin and Patricia Erskine) have already met and begun addressing a range of issues. It has been agreed that the primary communication routes will be web pages and e-mail.

Communication needs to cover issues to do with the new build and with the changes taking place in Summer 2011. At a later stage it will also need to cover the re-development of the KB Centre and the Darwin Library upper floor. The Schools and their different user communities will be affected in different ways and at different times by the changes over the next 18 months and the challenge will be to determine how communication should best be targeted, whilst endeavouring to avoid information overload and duplication.

For discussion
- How do members of the Committee feel that such communication should best be handled within their School, thinking of the different user communities?
- What role should members of the Committee play in the communication process?

Key elements of the changes in Summer 2011
- Physical changes:
  - Installing more compact shelving on the Darwin Library lower floor in June/July
  - Moving all the journals and the older books (acquired prior to, and not borrowed since, 1999) from the JCM and Robertson libraries and from 4 stores to the Darwin Library lower floor. This will start in mid July and will continue until it is completed. The end result will be one book collection and one journal collection, all on open access
  - Re-organising the study space on the Darwin upper floor to accommodate study space lost on the lower floor
- Services changes:
  - Making service changes in all 3 libraries as a result of the transfer of the print collections
  - Making every effort to ensure that users continue to have access to the print collection over the Summer whilst the moves are taking place
  - Addressing swipe card access arrangements to the Darwin Library so that staff and PGs from other Schools can access print collections when the Darwin Library is unstaffed
  - Some disposal of journals will take place in the coming months where we have online access and where there are duplicate print collections elsewhere in the Library system
Impact on the existing libraries during 2011/12 session

- JCM Library: this is already a swipe access only site and this will continue during the session. The newer book collection and study space will remain and the library will finally close in Summer 2012
- Robertson Library: the newer book collection and study space will remain until the library closes in Summer 2012
- Darwin Library: the newer book collection will remain on the upper floor and all study space will be on the upper floor. Users from all Schools will visit the library to consult/borrow the journals and older books on the lower floor. Final decisions have not yet been taken about the use of the upper floor after Summer 2012; this will be addressed by the KB Library User Group

Key elements of the changes in Summer 2012

- Newer book collection (books acquired or borrowed since 1999) will move from the 3 libraries into the KB Library
- Help Services staff will relocate to the KB Library
- Study space will be set up
- KB Library will open for the new session, including the catered area on the ground floor
- KB Centre Spot café will close
- KB Centre open access labs will be re-developed
- JCM Library and Robertson Library will both close
- Darwin Library lower floor will be renamed the “KB Library store”, with a very limited IS staff presence during the day and swipe card access arrangements in place for staff and PGs at other times

Key messages about the KB Library project

- The new build is designed to provide greatly improved space for study and social purposes in an attractive and modern environment
- It will provide high quality and varied study space, including informal catered study/social space, traditional quiet study space, and group study facilities
- It is centrally located overlooking the “green heart” of the campus (the project includes some landscaping) and will bring about a much needed focus for KB
- It is engineered to the best environmental standards, including the use of sustainable fabric, rain water harvesting and a green roof
- It is linked to the KB Centre, which will undergo significant re-development of its open access lab facilities in Summer 2012
- It will provide integrated help services, encompassing library, IT, elearning services
- It will have long opening hours, which will include both staffed serviced hours and unstaffed hours with only a security presence
- It will house the newer book collection (books acquired or borrowed books since 1999) only
- The older book collection and the print journal collection (the use of which has decreased significantly in recent years) will be retained at KB and will be on open access shelving in the KB Library store (the Darwin Library lower floor)

Richard Battersby
Information Services

18 January 2011
m/KBL/Feb 2011 CLC paper