The University of Edinburgh

Library Committee

8th December 2010

Agendum 7c.

King’s Building Library Update

Brief description of the paper
The paper is an update on the King’s Buildings Library. Construction will start towards the end of January 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.

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 will be a risk assessment 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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Edinburgh University Library Committee

The New King’s Buildings Library

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 towards the end of January 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 in a corridor across to the JCM Building. This will also improve routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

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.

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.

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

A presentation from the Project Architects, Austin-Smith: Lord will be made available in due course on the University’s web site.

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.

**Timetable**

- January 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 1999) and the entire journal collection, currently housed in 3 libraries and several stores, will be moved to the compact shelving and single book and journal sequences will be created. The 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 (essentially books acquired since 1999 and older books borrowed since this date) from the Darwin, JCM and Robertson libraries will transfer across into a single sequence. 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-configuration” of the Darwin Library upper floor once the new library opens

**Communication to users**

Throughout the project users will be kept updated on progress using a variety of means, including web pages, e-mail, leaflets, posters etc. The College Consultancy Team in the User Services Division will play a key role.

Richard Battersby, Information Services
November 2010

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