Library Committee

20\textsuperscript{th} October 2010

Agendum 9

Library Materials Budget Update

\textbf{Brief description of the paper}
This paper provides an update on the library materials budget issues for the current year. The paper also commences discussion on the issues for next year, and suggests the development of an academic strategy for library materials.

\textbf{Action requested}
Most of the paper is for information. Library Committee is asked to advice on the development of an academic strategy for library materials.

\textbf{Resource implications}
The library materials budget at over £4m is a significant part of the budget of Information Services. The paper describes ways of seeking best value in expenditure.

\textbf{Risk Assessment}
Risk is not addressed in this paper, but there are risks in how the library materials budget is managed.

\textbf{Equality and Diversity}
Does the paper have equality and diversity implications? No

\textbf{Freedom of Information}
Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

\textbf{Originator of the paper}
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Director of Library Services
October 2010
Allocation
As agreed at the last Library Committee, the Library Materials allocations from IS funds for 2010-11 are as follows:

CHSS £1,475,569
CMVM £ 875,267
CS&E £1,206,161
Interdisciplinary Fund £ 454,178

In addition, we are receiving funds from CHSS (£220,000), CS&E (£137,000).

The uncertainties surrounding expenditure in 2010-2011 which were mentioned at the last Library Committee remain, and are covered below. The situation is much more uncertain in the longer term.

Publisher inflation for 2011
While many of the smaller publishers have come in with zero or low percentage increases for 2011, larger publishers have proved more resistant. The negotiations are carried out for all UK institutions by JISC Collections. Negotiations with Thomson, the publisher of Web of Science, while costing a relatively small sum of money, have proven very difficult this year, and JISC Collections has finally settled at an above inflation level. Many of the larger publishers are in the midst of multi-year deals with inflation already set at 5%-6%. It is not yet clear what the impact on book purchasing may be for the coming year.

VAT
For this year we are trying to receive and pass dated invoices as early as possible in order to pay VAT at 17.5%. This includes passing foreign invoices early in order to ensure that the “reverse charge” VAT is paid before the end of the year.

Currency fluctuation
As in previous years, we are in close negotiation with the Finance Office about when to pass invoices in foreign currency for payment.

Cancellations
Because the College of Science & Engineering decided not to allocate the full sum requested by IS to maintain purchasing power, a major review of journal subscriptions was undertaken, coordinated by the College over the Summer, and this resulted in cancellations being made to the value of £153k. This process was complex, and required significant input from School and library staff. In total, 200 journals and 3 databases were identified for cancellation. More modest cancellations were made in the other Colleges (£35k in the case of MVM).

Longer term issues
The financial environment in future years will be challenging, and Information Services will be working with the Colleges in order to establish the available funding for all services, including the library materials budget.

In parallel, library staff are working to ensure value for money in the way in which the library materials budget is spent. There are two tracks to this. Firstly, we will continue to monitor value
for money and the impact of expenditure and bring reports on this theme to Library Committee, comparable to the paper brought to the last Library Committee (http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/about/libcom/PapersJune10/PaperC020610.pdf)

Secondly, we are working actively to achieve value for money in what we pay, particularly in the journals areas. The two largest publishers—both in volume of journals supplied and in cost—are Elsevier and Wiley. In both cases, renegotiations are due for supply of journals to commence in 2012; and much activity is already under way by JISC Collections to prepare for these major renegotiations.

In common with other Russell Group universities, we are taking a very tough line in our communications from Edinburgh to JISC Collections about what we are prepared to pay next year, particularly on price and flexibility of arrangement through the multi-year deal. A particular issue which contributes to price increases is that some publishers add new interfaces, or additional content without customer input. With issues such as these, and with excessive price increases, we may need to be prepared to walk away from deals.

**Academic strategy for library materials**

It is clear that we need to have a strategy for dealing with the next few years; and that this should be based on the academic need for library materials, which are used throughout the academic processes of learning and research. In research there is a cycle of use ranging from discovery for use during research through to publication of research outputs followed by citation of these research outputs.

Library Committee is asked to consider the issues which an academic strategy for the library materials might address.

Sheila Cannell
October 2010