



Library Committee

1 November 2022, 14.30pm

Web conferencing meeting via MS Teams

Minutes

Present Members:

Professor Vivek Mudera (Chair); Mr Hamza Ahmed; Dr Paul Ayriss; Professor Simon Banks; Professor Duncan Brumby; Professor Ben Cox; Dr Richard Freeman; Dr Liza Griffin; Dr Charles Inskip; Professor Diane Koenker; Mr Ben Meunier; Mr Martin Moyle; Dr Rachel Rees; Dr Harriet Shannon; Mr Andy Smith; Mr Thomas Turner; Professor Gareth Williams.

Apologies:

Professor Tom Carlson; Ms Sarah Lawson (deputising for Mr Andy Smith); Professor John Sabapathy; Professor Gareth Williams

In Attendance

For Item 7: Ms Dhara Snowden, Textbook Manager UCL Press

For Item 8: Ms Catherine Sharp, Open Access Funding Manager, Library Services

Officer:

Mr Douglas Bertram (Secretary)

Part I: Preliminary Business

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (1-01)

- 1.1. Library Committee (LC) approved the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2022.

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1. Arising from Minute 30.2d, the Director of Operations (UCL Library, Culture, Collections & Open Science (LCCOS)) informed the Committee that all actions would be carried forward to the next meeting regarding an event to be attended by Vice-Deans for Education and Research from across faculties to discuss the new Library Strategy.
- 2.2. Arising from Minute 33.2c, the Director of Services (LLCOS) informed the Committee that this action, regarding the inclusion of a table of contents as standard practice as part of the Scan and Send Service, would be carried forward to the next meeting.

2.3. A member requested a copy of the current Library Strategy document.

(Action: Secretary)

3. Terms of Reference (Paper 1-02)

3.1. LC noted at this first meeting of the session its terms of reference, constitution and membership for 2022-23.

3.2. The Chair welcomed new members of the LC: Mr Hamza Ahmed, Professor Duncan Brumby, and Professor Rob Cox.

3.3. The Chair informed the LC that its membership had been noted to have presented a poor gender balance and invited members of the Committee to suggest methods by which this might be improved. After discussion, it was agreed that this matter would be reviewed when Committee vacancies had occurred.

Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion

4. Report of the Pro-Vice-Provost (UCL Library, Culture, Collections & Open Science) (1-03)

4.1. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) introduced the paper, which focussed on the Key Performance Areas of the Library Strategy and measured performance against those themes since the last meeting of LC. The following key points were highlighted:

- a. It was noted that the Library had performed exceptionally well in the 2022 NSS survey with Learning Resources having scored the highest mark of all the main categories measured by the NSS and the top two scores in UCL's top-scoring questions – i.e. Library Resources have supported learning well (86.6%); and access to course-specific resources (e.g. equipment, facilities, software, collections) (87.2%). These results were noted to have returned the Library to its pre-pandemic levels of success.
- b. It was noted that the Library's finance strategy had indicated that unless efficiencies had been achieved over the following four years the Library's budget would be overspent. It was noted that financial predictions had indicated that this figure would be would amount to £328m of debt for the whole of UCL. The Committee was informed that targets had been set, centrally, at 8% of the budget, i.e. £2.6m. Discussions related to the targets were noted to be ongoing.
- c. Mr Thomas Turner, Finance Director, Central and Professional Services, observed that increased inflation rates would present heightened future utilities costs but noted that many of these fees had been fixed. Whilst it was also noted that the UMC had requested efficiencies across UCL to bridge budgetary gaps over the next four years, the Chair observed that the Library's budget would be a fraction of UCL's overall income and that

a small increase in funding would be considered helpful. The forum for further discussion of this matter would be the Academic Committee.

- 4.2. The following points were raised in discussion:
- a. The Chair congratulated LCCOS colleagues on the successful results of the 2022 NSS and asked if they could be advertised and celebrated across all UCL libraries. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) responded by noting that this would be managed by Mr Ben Meunier, Director of Operations (Library, Culture, Collections & Open Science). A member suggested that the results might also be highlighted on the Library's website landing page.
 - b. A member asked if the Library was in receipt of any endowments. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) responded by observing that endowment funds had amounted to circa £10k per annum and that these could be incorporated into the Library's financial strategy. It was also noted that events and other such projects could be entertained in order to increase revenue and further discussion of this would be held outside the meeting.
 - c. A member suggested that an increase in free online resources could be made, in addition to the identification of key strategic projects/items that could be offered for philanthropic support; both of these suggestions were noted to have previously been supported by Professor Geraint Rees, Vice Provost of Research, Innovation and Global Engagement.
 - d. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) informed the Committee that UCL had begun a programme to commission its own textbooks and that these could ultimately replace cost on textbook provision.
- 4.3. The Library Committee noted the contents of the Report.

5. Commercial Licensing Activity Undertaken by UCL LCCOS (Paper 1-04)

- 5.1. Mr Martin Moyle, Director of Services, UCL LCCOS, presented a paper that had built on an oral briefing provided at the previous meeting of Library Committee, in June 2022, on LCCOS's digital commercial licensing partnerships. The following key points were highlighted:
- a. The paper was noted to have provided further detail about LCCOS's licensing programme, including typical contractual terms, current projects and forecasted income.
 - b. It was noted that the licensing programme had achieved curatorial benefits and that UCL Library's profile has been improved by association with commercial licensing in the GLAM (Gallery-Library-Archive-Museum) sector.
- 5.2. The Library Committee noted the contents of the paper.

6. Update on Learning Spaces and AHRC Funding for Cultural Heritage Materials/Spaces (Paper 1-05)

6.1. Mr Ben Meunier, Director of Operations at UCL Library Services, presented a paper that provided a digest of estates developments in Library Services, focused on a lack of learning spaces. It also provided a brief update on Special Collections storage and new funding for infrastructure investment obtained from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) via the UCL Research Institute for Collections (RIC). The following key points were highlighted:

- a. A high level of library usage had been identified across UCL but it was also noted that this had been uneven across Bloomsbury sites. Increased provision of Library space would be required for March 2023 and May 2023 examination periods and a request for this would be made to UCL Estates.
- b. A feasibility study of the DMS Watson building Science Library had been approved by the Central Estates Strategy Board (CESB) in late 2019, but had then been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it was suggested that it would still be relevant in order to have consolidated the offerings of libraries to ensure the greatest use of campus space. It was noted that a paper on the matter had been re-submitted to the CESB.
- c. UCL Procurement had extended a deal with The National Archives (TNA) for storage of Special Collections at the end of September 2022 for a further 18 months. LCCOS was also noted to have worked with Procurement to negotiate a further, longer-term, extension with TNA (c. 10 years) and would be prepared to work on contingency plans should the negotiation have proven unsuccessful.
- d. UCL had been awarded circa £1m from AHRC Capability for Collections Fund (CapCo) via bids across nine infrastructure projects, all Special Collections or museums related. It was also noted that the RIC had led a cross-Faculty bid for circa £2m to have invested in conservation, curation, exhibition and facilities at UCL East under the AHRC Creative Research Capability (CresCa) bidding call. Whilst updates on both these strands of AHRC infrastructure funding would be provided to the Committee in summer 2023, it was anticipated that they would both lead to further funding opportunities.

6.2. The following points were raised in discussion:

- a. A member asked if consideration of the provision of 'warm spaces' had been made. Mr Ben Meunier, Director of Operations at UCL Library Services, responded by noting that anecdotal evidence had suggested that this had been requested.
- b. A member asked if difficulties had been experienced in the provision of Library pop-up space. Mr Ben Meunier, Director of Operations at UCL Library Services, observed that it had but that Term 3 spaces were currently being secured and that they would require co-ordination. It was

asked if 'insider' departmental knowledge might be provided to resolve any difficulties encountered. Mr Ben Meunier, Director of Operations at UCL Library Services, welcomed any suggestions that could be made by LC members.

- 6.3. The Library Committee:
 - a. Endorsed the request for extra learning space in 2022-23 and long-term increases to provision.
 - b. Noted the contents of the paper.

7. **Progress Report on OA Textbook Programme from UCL Press (Paper 1-05)**
 - 7.1. Ms Dhara Snowden, Textbook Manager UCL Press, presented a paper that provided the Library Committee with an update on the Textbook Programme at UCL Press. The following key points were highlighted:
 - a. That since May 2021 work had been undertaken to have developed and delivered the Textbook Programme with colleagues across UCL. The Textbook Board had been established in January 2022, whose purposes was to have monitored and guided activity on the Programme. The Board had agreed three major strands of activity.
 - b. The first strand was the publication of new textbooks that would have built on the existing strengths of the monographs programme and have extended to the production of a list of new textbooks that would serve the needs of UCL teaching, provide cost-saving to library services and offer a high-quality open access resource for a global audience. It was noted that publication of textbooks beyond those related to the Arts and Humanities would require encouragement.
 - c. The second strand of activity was noted to be the advocacy of existing open access alternatives to commercial provision and to encourage their uptake from various quarters.
 - d. The Textbook Board's third strand of activity was an investigation of OpenEd@UCL with the establishment of a working group to have produced a plan to fully develop a local Open Education Repository (OER). The working group had already conducted an initial meeting and it was anticipated that it would continue to meet during the academic year 2022/23.

 - 7.2. The following points were raised in discussion:
 - a. Dr Paul Ayriss, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS), observed that the promotion of the Textbook Programme needed to be scaled up to Faculty level and noted that UCL had been the first Russell Group university to take such self-publication seriously and that this undertaking would avoid increasing commercial publication costs.
 - b. The Chair suggested the involvement of teaching fellows to author faculty specific UCL textbooks as part of a potential recruitment process to

substantive posts. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chair and Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) would approach relevant committees to have furthered discussion of the matter.

(Action: Chair and Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS))

7.3. The Library Committee noted the contents of the Report.

8. Update on Springer Nature negotiations and UKRI open access monograph requirement (Paper 1-06)

- 8.1. Ms Catherine Sharp, Open Access Funding Manager, Library Services presented a paper that provided an update on two current open access issues: the UK negotiations with Springer Nature and the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) open access monograph requirements. The following key points were highlighted:
- a. The current Springer Nature agreement would end on 31 December and robust negotiations with Springer Nature had been ongoing for a year. It was noted that Jisc had sought reductions in spend, uncapped open access publishing, a choice of funder-compliant Gold and Green publishing options, and greater support for open research.
 - b. Jisc, and other institutions, were noted to have modelled temporary sector-wide cancellation scenarios that would reduce subscriptions to selected journals only, and have delivered unsubscribed content through open access copies and rapid inter-library loans.
 - c. Jisc-hosted workshops had been held at UCL to address Article Processing Charges (APC) costs and the potential for and consequences of cancellation. Temporary cancellation was supported as part of a sector wide approach as Springer Nature's APCs (€9300 per paper) were not considered acceptable and no explanation for the increased cost had been provided.
 - d. It was noted that UKRI Open Access Policy included open access requirements for long-form outputs published on/after 1 January 2024. These would include monographs, etc., that acknowledged funding from the UK Research Councils/Innovate UK and would be made open access for 12 months after publication under a Creative Commons licence.
 - e. UKRI was noted to have supported the Open Access Policy with a £3.5m long-form outputs fund, held centrally. Whilst it was observed that eligibility criteria for the funding scheme had not been announced, further information was anticipated to be released in November 2022.
 - f. It was suggested that the size of fund indicated that a Green output route was vital in order to have met requirements with publishers, with agreement to a 12-month embargo period and a creative commons licence.
- 8.2. The following points were raised in discussion:

- a. The Chair asked if Springer Nature could be approached with a proposal to resolve the matter. Ms Catherine Sharp, Open Access Funding Manager, Library Services responded by noting that funding bodies have been well represented on Jisc groups/committees and have been involved in various discussions on the matter. Such bodies have been resistant to the payment of APCs and the matter would be subject to further and ongoing discussion.
- b. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS), advised the Committee that Springer Nature would be likely, sector-wide, to bypass libraries and approach academics directly, in the absence of any agreement. The Committee was requested to report any such contact to the Library whereupon a response would be made, with which the Chair agreed and suggested that the Committee would advise Vice Deans for Research on the situation.

(Action: Chair and Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS))

8.3. The Library Committee noted the contents of the update.

9. Open Science and Scholarship Report (Paper 1-07)

- 9.1. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) presented a paper that detailed current developments in Open Science and Scholarship in UCL since the last meeting of Library Committee. The following key points were highlighted:
 - a. The Committee was informed that Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) had attended a round table closed panel with Sir Duncan Wingham of the UKRI and David Sweeny formerly of Research England (RE) and had raised concerns related to the UKRI mandate for open access monographs, with particular regard to the practicalities of implementation. It was noted that a paper on this matter was due to be submitted to Sir Duncan Wingham in December 2022.
 - b. The Committee was informed of additional concerns related to the UKRI £3.5m long-form outputs fund: that the fund would unlikely be sufficient to enable the publications required, nationally, and therefore institutions would have to cover costs at a time of financial difficulty; that Higher Education Quality-related Research (QR) funding may have to be approached to meet these requirements; and that the scheme could have potential to have influenced the next Research Excellence framework (REF) round with respect to publications practice.
 - c. The Committee's attention was drawn to UCL's new Open Science training video, which had been produced by UCL with funding from Research England. It was intended as a brief training video for those unfamiliar with Open Science (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/open-science-research-support/open-science/training-and-support>).
 - d. The Committee's attention was drawn to a new Guide for Early Career Researchers, which had been produced with input and a preface from the UCL Doctoral School. It had been modelled on a French original, drawn

from the University of Strasbourg, and adapted with permission to suit the UK Higher Education sector
(https://rdr.ucl.ac.uk/articles/media/Open_Science_a_practical_guide_for_PhD_students/20585898).

- 9.2. The following points were raised in discussion:
- a. The Chair queried the UKRI £3.5m long-form outputs fund and what would happen were it to have been spent out. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) observed that this information had not been disclosed.
 - b. The Chair asked if UCL's Open Science video could be included as part of doctoral training. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) indicated that it could and that contact would be made with Professor David Bogle to have explored the matter further.
 - c. The Chair asked if the Guide for Early Career Researchers could be made part of mandatory training for all new lecturers. Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS) indicated that he would pursue the matter, at lecturer level.

(Action: Pro-Vice-Provost (LCCOS))

- 9.3. The Library Committee noted the contents of the Report.

Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information

10. Project bidding in UCL Library Services (1-08)

- 10.1. LC received the termly summary report on the Library's progress on project bidding applications.

11. Minutes of Library Working Groups (1-09)

- 11.1. Since the last meeting, LC had received the following minutes of Working Groups that report to LC:
- a. Open Science and Scholarship Committee – 27 April 2022
 - b. Press and Publications Board – 5 May 2022
 - c. Press and Publications Board – 13 July 2022
 - d. Open Science and Scholarship Committee – 11 October 2022 (unconfirmed)
 - e. Press and Publications Board – 12 October 2022 (unconfirmed)

12. Minutes of Faculty Library Committees (1-10)

- 12.1. Since the last meeting, LC had received the following minutes of Faculty-level or Faculty Library Committees (FLCs) that report to LC:
- a. Arts & Humanities and Social & Historical Sciences Joint FLC – 23 February 2022

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- b. Arts & Humanities and Social & Historical Sciences Joint FLC – 8 June 2022 (unconfirmed)
- c. Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment FLC – 12 May 2022
- d. Faculty of Laws FLC – 18 March 2022
- e. School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) Library Committee – 4 May 2022

13. Date of the next meeting

13.1. The next meeting would take place in Term 2 on 7 February 2022 at 14.00pm.

Mr Douglas Bertram, Library Committee Secretary
November 2022