Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2010 at 10:00 in the Board Room, Engineering Department

Present: Professor Dame Ann Dowling (in the chair), Nicholas Cutler, Lesley Gray, Sue Lambert, Hilary McOwat, Yvonne Nobis, Andy Priestner, Jim Thompson.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2009 were accepted after item at 3 was clarified following a question from Andy Priestner regarding the proposed Sage deal. Lesley reported that the Steering Committee would not consider signing up to the Sage deal at this time as the deal did not allow any cancellations.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. JCS Steering Committee report

The minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held 23 November received. The following were noted:

Item 3: The bid for additional money to assist with currency fluctuations from the RMC in 2008/9 had excluded SoT prior to joining the JCS; SoT had made its own successful bid for currency fluctuation adjustment.

Item 4: It was noted that a note will be added to the minutes to clarify the permanence of the acquisition of IEL to help fund which Engineering had cancelled the last paper copies of IEEE transactions.

Item 5: LG reported on progress with the Cambridge Colleges Libraries Forum which was encouraging. The CCLF have formed a working group. The JCS hoped to take OUP/Sage/Taylor and Francis packages but conditions applied by the publishers make this difficult. Some 60% of journals titles are now tied into package deals; these deals are due for review and renegotiation. The JCSC do not wish to enter any more 0% cut deals, especially where many subscriptions are held by College libraries and the penalties would fall on the JCS. The policy will be to identify individual titles to acquire rather than enter all title deals.

4. 2010 expenditure and subscriptions

Lesley Gray reported that the projected income for the JCS was £3.8 million, with expenditure just over 3.8, based on the publishers projected 8% increase. Some publisher increases are coming in slightly lower than 8%, with Swets recording 4.84/4.91% increases. However, the exchange rates are still a concern ($ better but Euro not than last year). Some publishers are ignoring the difficulties libraries are experiencing. In the biological subject area, where subscriptions are mainly invoiced in Euros, there is a 7.4% increase. Most invoices were paid before VAT went back up in January 2010, which represented a saving as VAT was increased on 1st January.
Lesley said that generally things were on track but there may be adjustments when the reconciliation invoices are received for those titles prepaid in September (to obtain savings and fixed exchange rate). The SoT invoices are mostly paid already.

Lesley reported that log-ins and passwords were available to the department librarians for read-only access to the JCS finance ledger; journals are subject coded so it is possible to see what has been bought by subject area rather than by department/School. The procedures for invoices may alter once the finance system moves to EDI (electronic data interchange).

In generally SoT librarians reported no difficulties with processing JCS journal invoices; some payment delays are caused by the financial system. Publishers’ chaser invoices should be sent to Lesley or Stephen Dale.

5. Cancellation of low-use or duplicate titles

Lesley Gray reported. The work was still in progress. The JCSC felt print duplication was a luxury which could no longer be afforded; they also felt moving to online only should/would be considered, if this offered savings. It was noted that the SoT had cancelled their (few) identified duplications.

Hilary McOwat reported that Alan Stevens at Materials Science had felt there may be some duplication between Physical Sciences and Technology; if found this should be reported to Lesley Gray.

It was emphasised that there must be a move forward on digital archives. Most publishers now allow continued access to online content paid for beyond the end of a current subscription. Portico is a dark store facility where access is triggered by a catastrophic event, and is by subscription should be considered if the JCS is considering moving to online only.

6. Recommendations of new subscriptions: report and current recommendations

Recommendations had been sent to the JCSC, their decisions were reported.

Lesley reported that the 2010 consultation exercise for new recommendations was shortly to begin. The deadline for adding new titles was 12 March; comments to the list could be added up to 15 April (not 9 April as stated on the paper to allow more time for libraries to submit recommendations); local consultation would follow with 24 May as the deadline for final submission of prioritised lists to the JCS Office.

Suggestions for low-use titles to consider for cancellation were sought, deadline 24 May 2010.

Cancellations by the African Studies Centre and the South Asian Studies Library were noted.

7. Timetable for JCS January to June 2010.

This was noted, with 15 April replacing 9 April deadline for comments.


Lesley Gray reported that some funding from the University Library’s CIF bid is available for purchase of Wiley-Blackwell backfiles. However, the complete backfile is too expensive and backfiles for specific titles will need to be selected. Figures on the attempted access to backfile content have been circulated, to give an indication of the titles required by members to the
University. Requests for individual title backfiles to be bought should be made to Lesley by 12 March 2010, though there is no guarantee this will be possible financially.

9. Date of the next meeting

Monday 7 June at 2pm.

10. Any other business

There was no other business. The meeting closed at 11.05am