University of Cambridge

JOURNALS CO-ORDINATION SCHEME

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 7th June 2013
in Professor Dowling’s Room, Department of Engineering

Present: Professor Dame Ann Dowling (Chair), Hilary McOwat (Engineering), Yvonne Nobis (Moore), Nicholas Cutler (Computer Lab.), Sue Lambert (Moore), David Wills (JCS Team), Joanne Farrant (JCS Team)

Apologies: Andy Priestner (Judge Business School), Jim Thompson (Chemical Engineering), Stephen Dale (CSL/JCS Team)

1. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2013 were accepted.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Prioritisation of recommendations

A consolidated list of recommendations (Paper 13-4) had been circulated prior to the meeting.

After some discussion, it was agreed to put forward the 3 titles shown, in order of priority, in the table below for consideration by the Steering Committee. The total amounts to £537 more than the funds available to the end of the financial year (£4,338), but David Wills was optimistic that this will not be a problem as there looks likely to be some unallocated funds across the Scheme as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISSN</th>
<th>Print/Electronic</th>
<th>Cost (incl. VAT where applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Briefings in bioinformatics</td>
<td>OUP</td>
<td>1477-4054</td>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>£448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution of Mechanical Engineers (full online)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£4,325.00</td>
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5. Open Access

Joanne Farrant gave a brief update on the OA experience since 1st April 2013. About 45 queries had been received so far, more than half of which were technically out of scope as the articles had been submitted for publication before 1st April and the new RCUK policy relates to articles submitted for publication after 1st April. In several instances, self-archiving was not an option as licence terms, embargo periods etc. did not comply with RCUK policy. There were 13 instances where authors were eligible for funds from the University’s RCUK block grant to pay article processing charges, the average cost of which worked out at just under £2,000. Costs of APCs vary from publisher to publisher and also from journal to journal, the cheapest thus far being £800 and the most expensive £2,960 ($4,500); the latter including some colour charges.

Professor Dowling raised serious concerns about the decision to pay for excess page/colour charges from the RCUK block grant, questioning whether this is an appropriate use of the funds. It essentially means that authors do not have to think about costs, whereas if they have to pay these charges themselves they do, as they had to when publishing in journals without Open Access. If they get to hear that they can claim such charges, the OA Project Team could be inundated with claims for funds. David commented that the OA Project Board would no doubt be reviewing the policy in the coming months.

Yvonne Nobis informed the Committee that mathematicians, many of whom are not in receipt of grants, would like titles not in deals to be cancelled and the monies used for APCs. Professor Dowling pointed out that the cancellation of titles could affect the other schools, so this should not be done without consultation.

6. Moving individual titles to e-only

At the March 2013 meeting of the Steering Committee it was reported that the Consultative Committee for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Consultative Committee for Technology had both raised the issue of moving individual titles to e-only. Some librarians were experiencing difficulties with receiving/claiming print copies when they have combined print and electronic subscriptions and wondered whether it would be worth considering moving these to e-only subscriptions. Others had noticed that, in many cases, print copies of titles are simply not being used. The Steering Committee requested that the Consultative Committees should discuss this matter and feedback given to the Steering Committee at their next meeting in June 2013.

David stressed that the intention is not to have a blanket e-only policy, but rather a flexible policy which would allow for decisions to be made on a title by title basis.

Professor Dowling invited members to give their feedback which will be incorporated into the paper going to the Steering Committee.

With regards Engineering, Hilary McOwat said that researchers definitely feel that, providing long-term access is assured, only electronic access is required. However, Engineering do not want to have to pay more for e-only. Where e-only is more expensive than print + e, they would like to be able to buy the print + e and dispose of the print as they wish.
Nicholas Cutler stated that he thought no-one in the Computer Laboratory would object to e-only as long as it is not more expensive. Where they have print + e subscriptions they do not throw away the print copies.

Sue Lambert asked whether the principle of retaining one printed copy somewhere within the University of Cambridge would still apply and David responded that this is something that needs to be discussed by the Steering Committee. Yvonne commented that, with the implementation of non-print legal deposit, we will probably see big publishers start to deposit titles electronically rather than in print in the not too distant future, which begs the question as to whether publishers will even continue to produce print copies in the future.

7. Dates of the next meetings
Joanne to circulate a list of possible dates after the next Steering Committee meeting.

7. Any other business
Joanne mentioned that IOS, who publish about 100 journals covering topics including computer science and engineering, have offered us a free online trial of all of their journals. Across the Scheme, we currently subscribe to 5 of their titles at a cost of EUR 5,000 and a further title costing EUR 900 is included in this round of recommendations. The deal being offered by IOS is a three-year one at a cost of EUR 6,500 per year. After some discussion, the Committee decided to support a free trial.