Consultative Committee for the School of Technology

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2011, Department of Engineering.

Present: Professor Dame Ann Dowling (chair), Lesley Gray (Journals Coordinator), Sue Lambert (Moore Library), Yvonne Nobis (CSL/Moore), Hilary McOwat (Engineering), Andy Priestner (Judge Business School), Jim Thompson (Chemical Engineering).

Apologies: Nicholas Cutler (Computer Lab), Lyn Bailey (A&H), Clair Castle (BS), Jonathan Goodman (PS), Linda Washington (HSS)

1. Declaration of interests

There were no new interests to declare.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th October were accepted.

3. Matters arising

Lesley Gray reported that the issue of loan of periodicals by the University Library had not yet been taken to the Library Syndicate and was still with the SMT. It was noted that Engineering permits departmental loans of current periodicals and periodical issues. The Moore also loans periodicals.

4. Report from the JCS Steering Committee

Lesley Gray reported that the Steering Committee had requested in the Planning Round that the RMC re-consider the flat budget for 2011/12 which would have required a 10% cut in JCS expenditure. Following the Planning Round, the Steering Committee will require a 3% cut from all Schools for 2011/12. All duplicate subscriptions must be considered for cancellation. There may be additional scope for cuts where there is no link between the print and electronic subscriptions to a title; some deals (e.g. Springer) may allow savings, although VAT on electronic may reduce these. Some packages (e.g. Nature Platinum) have expanded their coverage and increased costs, though some reduction in the increase has been achieved by the JCS team.

Lesley reported that the Springer site licence had been renewed and that the Steering Committee had agreed that all subscriptions would be online only from 2012. This will result in a 10% saving in baseline expenditure. VAT would increase on the total costs. Print would be available at deep discounted prices (but would have to paid for from departmental funds if required).

5. RLUK and ASPI initiative

Lesley Gray reported on the background and progress to date of an attempt by the Russell Group libraries to influence publishers’ pricing policies. Two large deals (Elsevier and Wiley-Blackwell) are due for re-negotiation in the near future. The Russell Group Vice-Chancellors support the action. Some publicity has already been given to the action. ASPI will produce intend to employ professional expertise to deal with communications. It is possible that if the action to negotiate reduced costs with publishers fail, the deals will not be renewed; access would be lost from 1 Jan 2012.
The possibility of loss of access is to be kept confidential for now so as not to alarm users unnecessarily and not to weaken the ASPI initiative. The meeting felt this was acceptable as long as Cambridge researchers could be warned in June 2011 to allow 6 months lead-in to the new situation.

6. Recommendations and cancellations

Cancellations: The JCS team have put lists of subscriptions which are available on the JCS website. All departments are asked to check all relevant libraries and the central libraries to identify possible cancellations. Lists of titles by subject have also been made available. The cancellation target is 3%. Cancellation candidates are:
1. All duplicate print titles (even where packages reduce chance to cancel)
2. Where changing from print to online only would create a saving
3. Possible to get a cost-saving deal with publishers to change to online only (eg. Springer).
4. Low use, no longer required.

The JCS team lists do not include legal deposit titles which may also have a paid subscription in Cambridge for electronic access. However, cancellations of print subscriptions could be considered where a legal deposit copy is available if electronic is not required.

Lesley asked that titles to consider for cancellation are sent to her by the end of the first week in May if at all possible or by 20 May at the latest.

Recommendations: The Committee had felt this was difficult to do at the same time as asking for cancellations, but Lesley reported that the Steering Committee felt it important to have an up-to-date list of new needs in case any funds did become available and asked the Consultative Committees to continue the recommendations exercise. New titles should be added with priority ranking and those already on the wish-list could be re-prioritised if necessary.

Final prioritised lists to be submitted to the JCS Team by 20 May at the latest.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on Friday 3 June 2011 at 10am.

8. Any other business

Andy Priestner informed the Committee that the Informs journal collection which had been acquired had a greater level of duplication of coverage than expected; the subscription had been cancelled immediately. However, the ABI/Inform Complete acquisition was being well used and was rated highly among JBS users.

There was no other business.