University of Cambridge

JOURNALS CO-ORDINATION SCHEME

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th October 2012
in Professor Dowling’s Room, Department of Engineering

Present: Professor Dame Ann Dowling (Chair), Hilary McOwat (Engineering), Yvonne Nobis (Moore), Nicholas Cutler (Computer Lab.), Andy Priestner (Judge Business School), David Wills (JCS Team), Joanne Farrant (JCS Team), Jim Thompson (Chemical Engineering)

Apologies: Sue Lambert (Moore), Stephen Dale (CSL/JCS Team)

1. Declaration of interests

Received from David Wills as editor of a CUP journal.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2012 were accepted.

3. Matters arising

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards online and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers/Wiley e-books. Yvonne Nobis reported that she had not yet had chance to investigate further the possibility of subscribing/upgrading existing subscriptions to these. Yvonne noted that the ASTM resource could also potentially be of interest to the Department of Materials Sciences and Metallurgy who are relocating to West Cambridge in Spring 2013, especially as the new Materials Sciences Library will be a much-pared down facility.

Yvonne also commented that Materials Sciences were considering subscribing to a Maney package which could impact on Engineering. Joanne Farrant reported that, at the meeting of the Consultative Committee for the Physical Sciences held on Monday 15th October 2012, Materials Sciences expressed concerns regarding Maney. Maney have significantly increased some of their prices for 2013 and they consistently increase the majority of their prices by between 5% and 6% year on year. They also promote their journal packages quite aggressively. Packages may represent good value in terms of the number of titles they offer, but they are not such good value if several of the titles are not used/wanted. Materials Sciences do not want to be forced to subscribe to a package, but would rather be given a better deal on the individual titles they currently subscribe to. Hilary McOwat commented that Engineering has some subscriptions with Maney and that she would keep a close eye on them.

4. JCS process review

Joanne reported that a final report will be submitted to the Steering Committee at their meeting on 2nd November 2012. Some suggestions have already been acted upon, such as putting up lists on the JCS web pages of new titles and details of titles included in deals.

5. Recommendations
i) Schedule

David Wills explained to the Committee that, as there had been no proper round of recommendations this time, he felt it important to ask whether there were any urgent requests, especially as it was the beginning of the new academic year. David also noted the intention to trial holding recommendations rounds three times per year i.e. one at each Consultative Committee meeting; this would hopefully enable the JCS to be more responsive to urgent requests, etc.

ii) Urgent requests/cancellations

Members of the Committee were asked to pass details of any such requests to Joanne.

David Wills informed the Committee that he was optimistic that a similar amount of funding to last year would be available, but that urgent requests had to be taken account of first.

Andy Priestner commented that it will be interesting to see what happens in the near future with regards journal prices and funding, what with the advent of Open Access (see under any other business) and the threat of disaggregation i.e. publishers being responsible for their own sales and not going through aggregators. Andy also reported that the Financial Times have recently pulled out of Factiva (a business information database, the subscription to which is paid jointly by the Judge Business School and the main UL), and now have their own portal. Access to the Financial Times is vital to the Judge Business School, and so they have had to subscribe to this separately at further expense.

Hilary raised the question of the robustness of e-journals and of historic access. Yvonne commented that historic access depends on the package and that there is permanent access to some.

6. Renewal process

David reiterated that the email sent out by the JCS Team on 10th September 2012 regarding price increases was intended just to raise awareness that some prices have increased significantly. Harrassowitz was used as the example simply because their price quotations for 2013 were the first to be received by the University Library. Reasons given by Harrassowitz for such high increases were:

- one publisher in particular had changed their pricing policy and now charged customers in the UK a goods and services tax
- added content
- increased overheads.

Hilary mentioned the fact that she had experienced problems in the past regarding the JCS processing invoices to a company in Japan, the Japanese Geotechnical Society, and that the subscription to *Soils and Foundations*, an important title, had lapsed because of this. Joanne asked Hilary to send her the details and she would then investigate.

7. Date of next meeting

Dates for subsequent meetings were noted as:

8th March 2013 at 10.00
7th June 2013 at 10:00

8. Any other business
Open Access. Yvonne Nobis raised the matter of Open Access (OA), which is something that Cambridge mathematicians seem particularly keen to pursue. Nicholas Cutler commented that the same is probably true of computer scientists. In OA publishing, authors publish in an OA journal (which may be either a freely-accessible journal exclusively dedicated to OA papers, or a "hybrid" journal which charges a conventional subscription but also contains individual papers that are designated as OA and thus freely available). In return, authors or their institutions pay an Article Processing Charge (APC) to the publisher. Research grants could be used to cover APCs; however, there are some areas where authors do not receive research grants, such as the arts and humanities, so another source of funding needs to be found. All maths journals are subscribed to through the JCS and one possibility that is being investigated by the mathematicians is cancelling these journals and using the money to pay for APCs. David Wills commented that, depending on whether/how fast OA takes off, the University could, at least in a transitional period, find itself having to operate two systems – APCs and the traditional journal subscriptions. Professor Dowling informed the Committee that she is on the University’s Open Access Working Group, as is Peter Morgan, and she reiterated that two significant risks of OA to the JCS are departments wanting to cancel titles to release funds and publishers trying to cash in on any period of transition.