1. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2017 were accepted.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Matters of interest from the UL

New University Librarian. Dr Jessica Gardner had taken up her post as University Librarian as of 18th April 2017.

Alma. The implementation of Alma had been postponed until early 2018.

5. Financial matters

Paper 17-3 ‘JCS financial position at 31st March 2017’ had been circulated prior to the meeting.

With regards the current financial year 2016/17, Joanne Farrant reported that there were two packages still to be paid – Institute of Physics (approximately £70,000) and Royal Society of Chemistry (approximately £30,000).

David Wills confirmed that the University Librarian had taken the decision to sign up to Option 3 offered by the Royal Society of Chemistry (access to all content; 15% discount on OA article processing charges), rather than Option 4 (read and publish). The latter had originally been recommended by the Steering Committee, subject to the RSC agreeing to certain conditions, but this had not come to fruition.
Concerning the next financial year 2017/18, Joanne reiterated that certain assumptions had been made and that the projected deficit at the end of the year represented the worst case scenario. David informed the Committee that he had received an email from the University’s Planning and Resource Allocation Office regarding the outcome of the Planning Round 2016. The Resource Management Committee (RMC) had recommended a total allocation from the chest to the JCS for 2017/18 of £5.8 million, meaning a significant increase in the contribution from the RMC. This was yet to be approved by the Planning and Resources Committee. Furthermore, the RMC had agreed that £50,000 should be made available for new needs (across the whole scheme), on condition that the JCS committees continue to seek efficiencies.

It was suggested that it would be prudent, and would also demonstrate due diligence, to consider a cancellation exercise. However, it was noted that this was made difficult because of so many titles being in packages. Nicholas Cutler and Stephen Dale undertook to investigate whether it would be possible to combine package title lists and lists of subscriptions to make this easier.

6. Journals working group

David reported that the initial membership of this group had been established, but that the School of Biological Sciences was still to nominate a representative. At the inaugural meeting held on 18th April 2017 Patricia Killiard had given a presentation on Jisc and there had been discussions regarding both a national and a local ‘Plan B’. It was intended to hold an open meeting in late May 2017.

David informed the Committee that a list of members, terms of reference and minutes were available on the JCS pages on the Cambridge Libraries Intranet (http://www.intranet.lib.cam.ac.uk/committees/jcs-committee/jcs-working-group) and confirmed that, technical issues aside, these were accessible to everyone with a Raven password.

The question of how to contact the working group was raised and it was thought that a generic email account had been set up, but David had not had confirmation of this.

7. Open Access

David drew the Committee’s attention to the minutes JCS Steering Committee meeting held in March 2017 (http://www.intranet.lib.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.intranet.lib.cam.ac.uk/files/jcscminutesmar2017.pdf), at which Dr Arthur Smith of the Office of Scholarly Communication gave an update on open access matters, and highlighted the following points:

- it was anticipated that the RCUK block grant would run out at the end of April/beginning of May 2017 and the COAF grant at the beginning of June
- the expectation was that the first tranche of the 2017/18 RCUK funding would be received in June 2017
- the timeline for the University-wide rollout of depositing manuscripts via Symplectic Elements was late May 2017. The current Open Access website would be retired at that point
- the Office of Scholarly Communication intended to send out a University-wide email regarding the REF 2021 in the near future.

8. Membership of the JCS Consultative Committee for Technology

A list of current members (Paper 17-4) had been circulated prior to the meeting.
The lack of academic representation was noted, but was not felt to be of major concern as Dr Markus Kuhn of the Computer Laboratory, who sits on the Steering Committee, also receives the agendas/papers/minutes of the Consultative Committee for Technology. The Department of Engineering has already been invited to nominate an academic to represent them on this committee, but opted instead to nominate the Research Support Librarian as their second representative. Helen Stevens-Smith volunteered to approach academics in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology to see whether there was any interest in sitting on the committee.

The following matters were also raised:

- terms of reference and whether these should perhaps be reviewed
- whether it was appropriate for the Chairs of the Consultative Committees to be from the UL as opposed to from the School
- whether there should be a limit to the number of years someone can hold the position of Chair.

9. Prioritisation of recommendations

A list of recommendations had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Niamh reminded the Committee that available funds amounted to £649 and also that any unspent funds at the end the financial year would be split between the central pot (75%) and the Consultative Committee for Technology (25% (to be carried forward to 2017/18)).

After some discussion, it was agreed to put the £649 towards either Nature biomedical engineering or Journal of 3D printing in medicine, depending on the outcome of the Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences meetings. Consultation to be done via email.

10. Dates of meetings 2017-18

To be confirmed. It was agreed to alternate meetings between the UL and the West Cambridge site.

11. Any other business

None.