University of Cambridge

JOURNALS CO-ORDINATION SCHEME

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th November 2018
in Comms Room 1 Aoi Pavilion, University Library

Present: Niamh Tumelty (Chair), Nicholas Cutler (Computer Laboratory), Sue Lambert (Moore Library), Yvonne Nobis (Moore Library), Charlotte Smith (Engineering), David Wills (JCS Team), Joanne Farrant (JCS Team)

Apologies: James Caudwell (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 May 2018 were approved.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Matters of interest from the UL

David Wills reported that Michael Williams, currently at Bodleian Libraries, had been appointed as the new Head of Collection Development and Management (formerly Collection Development and Description) and would take up his post on 4th February 2019. The JCS would fall within his remit.

David also reported that a Copyright Group had been set up within the University libraries and that he was the Chair. The newly appointed Legal Research Librarian based at the Squire Law Library, would act as Secretary to the group. The group was tasked with establishing policy, setting up a website and implementing a dedicated helpdesk.

As this would most likely be the last Technology Consultative Committee meeting that David would be attending, the Committee wished to record their thanks to David for all of his efforts regarding the JCS over the past six years.

5. Financial matters

David informed the Committee that the guidelines for Planning Round 2018 (FY 2019/20) had been tightened across the whole University. Increases on the budget for 2018/19 would be no more than 1%, and would most likely be 0% for most institutions.
For this financial year (2018/19) it was vital to remain prudent. There was no new needs money available and new titles would have to be funded by making cancellations.

However, it was felt important to still prioritize new needs. The plan was to take the most urgent of these to the Steering Committee at their meeting on 5th December 2018 to ask them to consider funding them from the current surplus.

6. Database funding proposal

Paper 18-6 prepared by James Caudwell, Electronic Resources Manager, UL, had been circulated prior to the meeting. During discussions the following questions were raised:

- Would there be a separate set of committees to consider databases?
- Or would there be the same committees as now? If so, would the governance be updated? Would there be increased academic representation?
- How would the School of Clinical Medicine be represented? (With regards the JCS, the Consultative Committee for the Biological Sciences covers both Biological Sciences and Clinical Medicine, but there are two representatives from each School on the Steering Committee.)
- How would interdisciplinary resources be handled?

It was acknowledged that precise details of how the Scheme would work still needed to be ironed out, but, generally-speaking, the Committee were in support of the proposal.

7. Journals Working Group

David informed the Committee that the Working Group was being wound up, with their final report expected to go to the JCS Steering Committee at their meeting on 5th December 2018, and thereafter to the consultative committees.

David noted that, although no definitive ‘Plan B’ had been established, there was now a much better understanding of what one might look like. There also appeared to be some evidence that Jisc were becoming firmer in their negotiations with publishers.

The matter of negotiations for the next, if any, ScienceDirect (Elsevier) agreement was raised; Jisc should be urged to start negotiations early.

8. Open Access

Paper 18-7 ‘Open Access Update’, produced by Dr Arthur Smith of the OSC, had been circulated prior to the meeting for information.

9. Prioritisation of recommendations

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

After some discussion, the Committee agreed to put forward the following as priority titles to the Steering Committee:

- Nature electronics (£2,710)
- Advanced electronic materials (£2,750)
- Ground engineering (£1,200. If supported by Department of Engineering Library Committee)

10. Dates of meetings 2018-19

Tuesday 26th February 2019, 12 midday, Blue Room, Moore Library
Tuesday 14th May 2019, 12 midday, Comms Room 1, Aoi Pavilion, UL

11. Any other business

JCS database. Joanne informed the Committee that the JCS web pages had been moved to the UL’s new Drupal site and had been re-designed/updated. The Committee wished to record their thanks to the JCS Team for all of their efforts in this regard. However, it had not proved possible to move the JCS recommendations database, and an alternative was being sought. A wiki, such as the one currently used by the Accessions Committee when considering new databases, was put forward as one idea and Joanne invited other suggestions.