Present: Niamh Tumelty (Chair, Engineering), Nicholas Cutler (Computer Laboratory), Kirsten Lamb (Engineering), Stephen Dale (JCS Team), David Wills (JCS Team)

Apologies: Joanne Farrant (JCS Team), Sue Lambert (Moore Library), Yvonne Nobis (Moore Library), Helen Stevens-Smith (Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology)

1. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2017 were approved.

3. Matters arising

No progress had been made on combining lists of package titles with lists of subscriptions (item 5). It was agreed that this would still be a useful exercise which would be resumed after the implementation of Alma.

4. Matters of interest from the UL

Alma. David reported that UL staff were heavily involved in training in preparation for the implementation of Alma (the new library management system) in January 2018. The majority of changes would be to behind the scenes activities. There had also been a separate project to test user reactions to iDiscover. Some changes had already been made as a result.

It was confirmed that there should be no gap in access to ejournals during the transition from Voyager to Alma.

5. Financial matters

The JCS application to the 2016 Planning Round had been relatively successful, leading to an allocation of £5.8M for 2017-18 and £50,000 for new needs across the scheme.

The Librarian was currently involved in drafting a document to go forward to the 2017 Planning Round on behalf of libraries generally and the JCS in particular. Last year’s JCS application had
been based on planning for a worst case scenario in respect of exchange rates, but the actual expenditure during 2016-17 had not been as high as feared. In these circumstances it was likely that the new application would be based on maintaining a steady state rather than seeking a substantial increase, so the JCS should continue to look for cancellations as well as possible new subscriptions.

6. JCS Working Group

David reported that the Working Group looking at the way in which the University responds to ‘big deals’ had met three times. Minutes and membership are available on the JCS web pages, which are now findable from the Collections tab on the UL home page.

Two big JISC deals were currently up for renegotiation. The Taylor and Francis offer had been rejected outright and the Wiley deal had been renewed for one year on existing terms in the expectation of an improved offer next year. The possibility of rejecting publisher deals raised the issue of developing a Plan B to deal with the loss of access. As part of a RLUK initiative preliminary modelling had been done suggesting that the financial impact of extra inter-library loan cost might be manageable. This provided useful negotiating pressure but the number of assumptions involved meant that it was not necessarily the basis for an actual decision without further analysis. The involvement of other RLUK libraries in the project would also provide useful information on possible sources of inter-library loan.

The proposed survey of academic staff had been postponed to consider the development of more meaningful questions. The next meeting of the Working Group would discuss terms of reference for a project to provide better data about journal subscriptions which could accompany the survey.

7. Open Access

David reported that there had been a review of the Office for Scholarly Communication, as a result of which Danny Kingsley had been added to the University Library leadership team. Open access and research data issues were therefore now being fed into decision making at the top end of the UL.

8. Prioritisation of recommendations

It was agreed to defer consideration of *International journal of engineering education* to the next meeting.

*Reference services review* was rejected.

The committee agreed to recommend a subscription to *Nature biomedical engineering* provided that the Biological Sciences Committee was willing to contribute 50%.

Cancellations of *Communications of the ACM, Fortran forum and Issues in science & technology* were agreed.
9. Dates of meetings 2017-18

   Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} February 2018, 12.00 noon, Room SW00, Computer Laboratory
   Tuesday 8\textsuperscript{th} May 2018, 12.00 noon, venue tbc

10. Any other business

   None