



## **S.L.U.G. (Student Library User Group)**

**11<sup>th</sup> of February 2019, 5pm**

### **Students' Association Small Rehearsal Room**

#### **Agenda**

1. Welcome & Introductions
  - a. Schools represented: History, English, Comp Sci, Geography, Maths & Stats, Geology & Earth Science, Chemistry, Film Studies, Economics & Finance, Classics, Divinity, Art History, Grad School, Modern Languages, Psychology & Neuroscience.
  - b. Library representation: Graeme Hawes, Vicki Cormie, Hilda McNae
2. Apologies: Alice Foulis (Director of Education/Chair),
  - a. Absent: International Relations, Social Anthropology, Physics, Management, Philosophy, Music, Biology, Medicine,
3. Minutes of previous meeting 29/11/18
  - a. VC reported that there had been no uptake of the Library drop-in sessions held in the Level 2 pods. The team are considering other venues for drop-ins sessions including the schools.
  - b. Question was raised about access to the Thomson Reading Room for integrated masters' students. GH confirmed all students on these courses should have access and any problems should be reported to library@AB asked if Modern Languages students could get access to Martyrs Kirk in their 5<sup>th</sup> year (following on from their year abroad). GH explained this was not possible as unlike the integrated masters students they were not completing level 5 modules
  - c. Opening hours for the May exam diet: these have yet to be confirmed but are likely to be the same as the previous diet with extended opening (including weekends) at St Mary's and the JF Allen Library.
4. Matters Arising:
  - a. St Mary's College Library opening hours

- i. A trial of extended weekday opening until 1945 was held in semester 1. The Library was well-used.
    - ii. Unfortunately due to a staffing shortage the Library was unable to continue with the trial in the first half of semester two. However it is anticipated that the trial will resume after the spring vacation.
  - b. Library advisory groups
    - i. HM/VC reported that the Library was reviewing its various advisory groups (student, staff, strategic). One option is to have a single large group. GH commented that the types of issues raised by academic staff and students would likely differ and noted that there was a need for operational input from student users. Student reps were encouraged to give the matter some thought. HM asked if every school would need to be represented – this could be difficult. One suggestion was representatives from Arts, Science etc. instead of individual schools. Library reps/class reps would report issues to them beforehand. It was important to ensure any such group had both undergraduate and postgraduate representation.
  - c. Collaboration space feedback
    - i. GH advised that the new collaboration space on Level 1 of the Main Library had opened in January and has been well-used. RH commented that the space had been too quiet for collaboration. The additional toilet provision on Level 1 was welcomed.
    - ii. Associated with this work was the removal of casual seating on Level 4 with more traditional study tables installed at the start of Semester 2. The low round tables on Level 2 have been raised and this was well received.
    - iii. VC noted that in due course further Library-run study space may become available in Butts Wynd. The timescale for this is yet to be confirmed.
  - d. New LMS
    - i. The new Library management system went live in January. It searches archives, photos, museums, staff publications, e-journals etc. in one go. Searches should be refined using the toolbar on the left of the webpage.
    - ii. Comment: one student found it difficult to use and noted it took a while to get used to. Another was pleased that the classic catalogue view was still available.
    - iii. HM asked for feedback from schools/disciplines – this would be particularly useful for informing the teaching and support of new students in the coming academic year.
  - e. Journals versus desks survey feedback

- i. VC reported that students had been in favour of more desks while academic staff (narrowly) wanted to retain journals. As a result more print journals will be moved to store and the Academic Liaison team are working on lists of eligible material.
  - ii. A question was asked about statistics for use – this could be tricky if material was consulted but not taken out. In general once journals are moved to store they are then seldom requested.
- f. Shelfhelp update
  - i. GH reported that this collaboration between the Library and Student Services is working well with an increase in borrowing of books in a wide range of wellbeing and related subjects. Further promotion had been undertaken via the Wardennial teams and there are plans to promote within the halls of residence.
- g. E-books versus print books
  - i. VC spoke about the new Library strategy document which highlighted a 'digital first' approach. More e than print is at its core. Comment: depends on e-book provider - some are easy to use and some are a pain. Comment: don't like short loan period and then have to be downloaded again. A question was asked about cost, are they cheaper? VC said no - they can up to £1000 (for medical texts). VC explained that holds also generate ebooks purchases – work on this is done daily. Comment: Library Reps should look at comments on MEQ's (Module Evaluation Questionnaires) to identify books which are difficult to get hold of.? VC: short loan not necessary the answer - encourage feedback on loans eg move to 3 days. Comp Sci: students will pirate it because not easy to use. Discussion around publisher ethics. Student: Loeb library subscription is difficult to use as pages are too short which makes translation difficult. Again ask for feedback.

## 5. AOCB

- a. GH advised that the annual Library survey would be launched on February 18<sup>th</sup> and asked reps to encourage students to complete it.

## 6. Next Meeting: 1st April 2019 at 5pm in Students' Association Small Rehearsal Room.