

Bodleian Social Science Library: Committee on Library Provision and Strategy 2.00pm, Friday 24 May 2024

SSL Large Discussion Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Introductions and apologies

Academic members: Ariell Ahearn (SoGE, Chair), James Forder (Dept. of Economics), Leila Ullrich (Centre for Criminology), Nick Owen (DPIR), Usha Kanagaratnam (ODID).

Student members: Charlotte Wargniez (SoGE SEE), Lea Anderson (SoGE DPhil), Taylor Hendrickson (International Relations DPhil).

Library members: Aimee Burlakova (St. Antony's College Library), Andrew Kernot (Social Science Library), Louise Clarke (Head of Social Science Libraries), Sarah Rhodes (Social Science Library).

Apologies: Alina Runk (Economics for Development MSc), Angela Zha (Economics MPhil), Clara Schurmann (SoGE undergraduate), Elizaveta Strelnikova (Criminology MSc/MPhil), Haohao Lei (Sociology MSc/MPhil), Iulia-Claudia Bragin (Economics MPhil), Jo Gardner (Social Science Library), Joseph McAuley (Socio-Legal Studies Academic), Larissa Greul (International Relations MPhil), Selcuk Beduk (DSPI Academic), Shivangi Kaushik (International Development DPhil), Yujia Huang (Economics MPhil).

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2.1 It was agreed that Jo Gardner had answered this in the meeting, as indicated in the minutes.

2.2 Andrew Kernot had emailed the student rep and it appears that this may relate to the lack of availability of some of the readings in ebook format rather than the items not being available at all.

2.3 Andrew Kernot has contacted the SEE course administrator to request that the theses are hosted on the SOGE intranet. A literature searching workshop has now taken place for the SEE students.

2.4 Agreed to carry this forward for Jo Gardner to confirm if the update had been sent to the DPIR students.

3. Social Science Library Report

3.1 Proposal to remove the current journals display

It was agreed that we put up a sign to indicate that some academic journals would be removed from the display but that magazine type publications such as The Economist would continue to be displayed there.

Louise Clarke suggested that the space could in the future be used to display recent research from the Social Sciences Division. There was some discussion that this could link in with researchers providing a talk about their research in one of the enclosed areas of the library such as the large study rooms. The student reps agreed that this was a good idea and Charlotte Wargniez also suggested that current journals display area might also be used for display of seminal research in specific subject areas.

3.2 Manor Road Building Reconfiguration Project Update

Ariell Ahearn had attended a consultation meeting, which covered the work proceeding, consultation periods and a Q&A. Further consultations with the different options available will be covered in future meetings.

Louise Clarke confirmed that Associated Architects have been appointed to the project.

There was discussion that the timing of the consultation over the summer isn't ideal with staff likely to be away but it is hoped that an option is agreed in time for the Committee to endorse at the Michaelmas Term meeting.

3.3 Subject support for Politics and International Relations, International Development and Public Policy

The Committee received the subject support reports. Sarah Rhodes noted that she had received a lot of requests for 1-to-1 consultations, and noticeably more new book requests than usual. Ariell noted the excellent outcome of Professor Shue's donated books helping to build up the Refugee-led Research Hub library in Nairobi. Andy Kernot also commented that he has received more requests for 1-to-1 research help from Public Policy students and researchers this year, and he will offer group information skills sessions for the Public Policy Research (PPR) students and DPhils next year.

4. Bodleian Libraries reports

4.1 Impact of Bodleian Libraries Unified Lending Policy 2023/4

Louise Clarke presented details of the new unified lending policy for Bodleian Libraries. Loan limits are now shared across libraries and 99% of users haven't reached their limits.

Renewals are now automatic. There are no overdue fines but there are blocks on borrowing until a book requested by another reader is returned. Most are returned within two weeks.

James Forder stated the effects of “nudge”; if a reader has the only copy of a requested book this might be included in the requesting email to encourage them to return it.

Charlotte Wargniez also asked whether it might be sensible to encourage readers to return books they no longer need at the end of the term before the vacations start. Louise Clarke will pass this feedback on to the lending review team.

Ariell Ahearn asked about interest in Leganto for an MSc course in SoGE that stopped using ORLO following a course redesign. Louise Clarke confirmed that a training event would be held for SoGE nearer to Michaelmas Term.

5. Comments from student representatives

Charlotte Wargniez asked whether the SSL might be able to host a poster conference in the future to allow researchers to talk about their research.

Louise Clarke agreed that this might be an option if appropriate space can be found. She also highlighted that posters can be in the Oxford Research Archive (ORA) with a DOI and that ORA could be better promoted, possibly with something in the SSD newsletter.

Taylor Hendrikson stated that in the DPIP GJCC someone had raised that items had been requested for purchase by the Bodleian Libraries but had been told that there were insufficient funds to cover them.

Louise Clarke agreed that Bodleian Libraries colleagues need to be clear as to why requests are being rejected and ensure that requestors are aware of the inter-library request service.

6. Comments from staff representatives

Usha Kanagaratnam asked about any delays in the implementation of Leganto and if there was a risk of the unavailability of reading lists. Louise Clarke confirmed that there has been a delay but it would be resolved in the following week and that this won't affect reading list availability.

Leila Ullrich asked when it will be possible to edit lists on Leganto and if there will be training videos available. Louise Clarke confirmed that a message will be sent to reading lists editors when a date for editing is known, and that there will be training videos.

7. Items for the Divisional CLiPS

None noted.

8. Any other business and date of next meeting

None noted, Friday 15 November, 2-3pm.