

Minutes of the JIBS User Group Committee meeting held at Aston University on 26 January 2005

Present: Sue Cumberpatch, Malcolm Taggart, Adrian Smith, Joan Bird, Ruth Stubbings, Liz Stevenson, Jill Lambert, Maureen Richardson, Graham Stone, Kathy Abbott (part of the time).

In the absence of the Chair and Secretary, Sue Cumberpatch agreed to chair the meeting and Ian Mayfield to take the minutes. Two new members, Maureen Richardson and Graham Stone, were welcomed to the Committee and to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Frances Boyle, Alun Edwards, Betsy Anagnostelis, Gary Horrocks, Linda Humphreys.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters ongoing and continuing.

- JIBS representation on SCONUL HE Group. It was agreed that Liz Stevenson would approach the group about JIBS representation

Action: LS

- attendance of JISC/CHEST representatives: these organisations had been contacted and representatives would address the committee after this meeting
- NHS representative. It was noted that no word had been heard from Bertha Low. It was agreed that Chair should contact her to find out whether she wished to remain as the NHS representative at this Committee

Action: FB

- UK mirror service: it was reported that the first meeting of the Steering Group was to be held on 16 February and Malcolm Taggart planned to attend

Action: MT

4. Matters arising

Item 6.1, JISC Working Groups

SC reported that the Learning Materials Working Group would not permit their minutes to be published on the JIBS website but would shortly be made available on their own site. This had not yet happened and it was agreed that SC should remind them of their undertaking

Action: SC

Serials Working Group – Marion Tattersall had agreed to feed back to JIBS from this Group. Joan Bird had not yet approached Sarah Stevens, but indicated that she would do so

Action: JB

Item 6.5, Ovid/Silver Platter Liaison.

It was still not known whether Ovid would permit minutes to be released to JIBS representatives. Adrian Smith to follow up.

Action: AS

Item 7, JISC/EDUSERV collections

JL reported that she had collected comments on the deal and sent these on to Frances, who was going to send a letter on behalf of JIBS presenting the views expressed. It was not known whether Frances had yet done this; Jill agreed to check.

Action: JL

Item 9, Website

SC had spoken to Alun about the possibility of helping with the website. This needed further discussion, though it was reported that AE was currently away on paternity leave. SC would take up with him again in his return

Action: SC

Item 10.2, SCOPUS

LS reported that Edinburgh were shortly to take a trial of the service. It was thought by members to be expensive. Ls will feed back on her experiences. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting

Action: LS, IM

5. Chair's report

The main items for discussion under this heading were to have been the name of the group and the constitution. It was agreed that we should begin discussion on these despite the Chair's absence.

Following a wide ranging discussion, it was agreed that rather than send an open invitation to representatives to suggest names it would be preferable to produce a shortlist of three which should then be put to the reps for vote. Adrian and sue agreed to produce the list

Action: AS/SC

The draft constitution is now on the JIBS website. It had not been put to the AGM for their approval since it had not been possible to circulate it to members in advance. Joan reminded members that the impetus to revise the constitution arose from a need to consider what should happen if the group were ever to fold. Graham Stone offered to look at the constitution of UKSG, of which is a committee member, to see what theirs said about such an eventuality. It was agreed that GS and SC would work with Frances to produce a final version for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: SC/GS/FB

It was further agreed that it would be useful for GS to report back from UKSG at future JIBS committee meetings: this should be standing item on the agenda for as long as GS served on the Committee

Action: IM/LH

6. Treasurer's report

JL reported that renewal invoices had been sent out and a number had already been returned. Members had been asked to update their institutions' details regarding representatives and members, and this information once received would give us the means to update our mailing lists and email discussion lists. As agreed, JL had enlisted some clerical help in undertaking this task; this would probably cost £500 plus expenses. JL asked whether the group should pay the person concerned - Denise Watson, a former law librarian - a monthly retainer to do similar support work in future. It was considered that there might be contractual implications arising from employment law if this were to be done. It was agreed that it would be better to ask for further work on the basis of a fee per job basis, at least to start with; we might then investigate the implications of moving to a different arrangement. It was agreed that we should have a clearer idea of cost and JL agreed to ask Denise what her hourly rate would be for working on specific tasks as required.

Action: JL

Necessary changes to signatories for the bank account had still not been effected. Following discussion it was agreed that if possible only one signature should be required, with two or three people able to sign. JL agreed to pursue this. IM and JL had made start in looking at alternative banking arrangements which would bring in interest. Nationwide was suggested as a possible option and MT pointed out that some trades unions use a specialist bank called Unity Trust Bank. IM and JL agreed to investigate these and other options and present some proposals to the next meeting.

Action: JL/IM

7. Reports from meetings

7.1 JISC working groups

SC tabled a report produced by Marion Tattersall for JIBS on the Journals Working Group. The notes indicated that Malcolm T had been interviewed as part of their business models study. LS reported that she also had, and agreed to pass this information on to Marion.

Action: LS

During discussion reference was made to the possibility of NESLI type deals being extended to e-books. It was decided that more information should be sought about this, with the May workshop in mind. Gs agreed to take this up with Marion.

Action: GS

7.2 JISC Collections Strategy

LS reported that the final meeting of this group was to be held in March. JL raised the question of material in social sciences and humanities, which her colleagues in these areas felt were less well provided for within the JISC collections. In discussion a number of possible reasons for this were suggested including

- There is less electronic material in Soc/Hum anyway
- Publishers are less interested in deals since there is less money than in STM
- These disciplines are more fragmented than STM

It was agreed that these issues should be raised with the JISC representative due to attend the afternoon session

7.2 Research Councils

JB had attended a meeting on 29th November at which there were presentations from Ex Libris, on Metalib, and from Content Complete on their role as NESLI Negotiating Agent. The Councils had agreed to continue to negotiate as a group rather than individually. Research Councils UK were due to publish a report on open access during January, but this had not yet appeared. They were also thinking about a conference on this topic and it had been suggested that this might be the subject of a joint conference with JIBS. It was agreed to discuss this later under the 'workshops' agenda item.

7.3 NHS

No representative present

7.4 Ovid/Silver Platter

The next meeting had been set for June 7. Notes from the previous one were available via the JIBS mail archive.

GS reported that he had attended a Proquest user feedback event the previous day. A report was to be produced for those attending, including input from Serials Solutions in the US. GS will report back on this and suggested that he mention JIBS to Proquest as a useful vehicle for obtaining user feedback. It was agreed that Proquest should be invited to a future meeting.

Action: GS

8. JISC/CHEST collections

It was noted that representatives from JISC and Eduserve CHEST were due to address members after the Committee meeting.

9. Workshops

There was discussion about the possibility of open access as a workshop topic. This was thought to be too wide since there had been a number of events around this already. It was agreed that more specifically, institutional and subject repositories would be a useful topic. It was agreed that JB and RS would take this forward with a view to a workshop in September, preferably to be held at a research institution.

Action: JB, RS

E-books was also raised as a possible topic, with something on learning objects too to take up the ideas put forward by the E-books working Group. SC suggested she might ask someone from the group to speak. A provisional title 'what future for e-books and learning objects?' was agreed. It was agreed that IM, SC and JL would work on this with Aston as the venue.

Action: IM,SC,JL

Google Scholar was proposed as another suitable workshop topic. It was suggested that an additional workshop might be held in July, looking at the educational potential of Scholar and study skills implications. RS was keen to work on this, as was JL. JL said she would ask FB about the work with Google being done at Oxford. There was some concern that JL and RS were already involved in other workshops, but JL indicated that her role in the <ay workshop would be largely as host and not too onerous. It was agreed that provisionally JL, RS and GS would take this forward.

Action: JL, RS, GS

10. Any Other Business

It was reported that JB and KA were due to attend a Web of Knowledge training event the following day, on behalf of JIBS.

11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that this should be on the morning of the May workshop, at Aston. Exact date to be confirmed.