

Library Committee

Wednesday 2 June 2021, 10:00am
Web conferencing meeting via MS Teams

Minutes

Present Members:
Dr Paul Ayriss (Chair)

Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion

28. The role of the Library in Research, Innovation and Global Engagement
(verbal update)

28.1. The Pro-Vice-

- 28.2. The following points were raised in discussion:
- a. There was positive feedback regarding the proposed new structure and the way in which each committee had a clear purpose and all the committees connected into UMC, with no 'orphaned' committees.
 - b. It was noted that the Digital Strategy Committee

Library Committee Minutes – 2 June 2021

questions, the highest score was against the statement: “I have been able to access the learning resources I need for my course during the Covid-19 pandemic”, which had a score of 76.8%. This was seen as a pleasing commendation of work undertaken by Library colleagues in highly challenging circumstances; however, there was room for further improvement and the Pro-Vice-Provost (UCL Library Services) invited input from LC as to how this might be achieved, particularly in the short to medium term assuming some physical space for a library (e.g. in the old library building).

these virtual spaces with a view to establishing whether these should be kept as a complement to the Library's physical spaces on a more long-term basis.

- d. A question was raised as to how information about these new services was being disseminated to students, as there had been some reported confusion from students about changes to the Library's services during the pandemic. The Pro-Vice-Provost (UCL Library Services) explained that the fast-moving situation and changes in governmental regulations had forced the Library to make very quick decisions such as the closure of sites and this had presented challenges in terms of communicating changes. It was noted that an Operational Oversight Group (OOG) comprised of senior managers from Library Services and SMT had been meeting regularly over the period of the pandemic. The OOG had been meeting regularly over the period of the pandemic.

Library Committee Minutes – 2 June 2021

manage actual usage of space. The statistics showed a reduction in

within this group of comparators for the past 3 years; however it was encouraging that its 2019-20 performance was up to the median level. It was hard to draw firm conclusions from this data due to the amount of change that had taken place since 2019-20 and it was agreed it would be interesting to see data for the 2020-21 session once available.

- f. The cost of digital textbooks varied hugely and these could be very expensive. UCL had invested in approximately 750 digital textbooks since Summer 2021 with an average cost per title of £1,924. Overall usage of these textbooks was strong with a total of 282,238 chapter downloads. Data on the range of textbooks downloaded suggested that some had been underused, however downloads were still accumulating and overall, the purchase of digital textbooks in 2020-21 was deemed a success story. Library Services was now taking advantage of the additional data and lead time in order to build on this success further for next academic year.

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- 39.2. It was noted that a recent BBC documentary, “Subnormal: A British Scandal”, had featured shots of the UCL Library and that the closing credits included thanks to colleagues at the UCL Institute of Education including Nazlin