

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at Burlington House on 21 September 2009 at 2.00pm

Present: Richard Hughes (Chair), Tom Sharpe (Deputy Chair), Andy Fleet (Treasurer), David Vaughan, Richard Corfield,

With: Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary), Sheila Meredith (Librarian), Kholilur Rahman (Web Producer, Secretary to IMC)

		<i>Actions</i>
1.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from David Quinn. Will Watts and Dorothy Payne (corresponding member) were also unable to attend.</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (IMC/13/09)</p> <p>The Committee approved the minutes of the last meeting including the minor changes suggested by the Librarian.</p>	
3.	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Actions from the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Information about BGS's scanning facility has been provided to the library - see below (see 4.i.). ii. Nick Rogers' has contacted the Society and advised that Clari Hunt will be unable to join the IMC. iii. Virtual Conference test problems will be followed up. iv. The Society's Strategy and business plan along with a copy of different committee responsibilities have been circulated to Committee members. v. The Media and Technology Working group has been set up and now consists of 21 members. The group will provide a report of its work for the next IMC meeting. vi. Scanning of library content - see below vii. A meeting with GSL staff and a BGS specialist to assess Map GIS has been arranged. viii. Lyell Centre vision statement and status report has been provided to Council - Lyell Centre Review is now complete. ix. A letter of thanks has been sent to George Tuckwell. x. Membership - see below xi. Bernard E. Leake's letter regarding archiving The case for a part-time Archivist has been made. It will go into the draft budget for 2010. The idea of attracting sponsorship to fund this role was discussed but it was agreed that sponsors are unlikely to support a staff role. It was noted that recruiting an Archivist had been attempted but was not successful. xii. Bernard E. Leake's second point about obituaries and the depositing of information about an individual's activities has been brought to the attention of the External Relations Committee. xiii. Scarborough Museum Education Project concept note to be circulated to other Committees of the Society - this is awaiting action by Will Watts to provide the concept note. It was agreed that the Executive Secretary will write to Will Watts to remind him of this. 	

	<p>Other matters arising:</p> <p>Bernard E. Leake's letter regarding archiving. This issue was discussed above (see 3.xi.). It was agreed that the Executive Secretary will respond to Bernard leake's letter.</p> <p>The Media and Technology Working Group's preliminary report containing member background information was discussed. It was agreed that the group could benefit from the addition of someone in research. Details of potential candidates will be passed on to the group's chair. The group will produce a report for IMC, to be discussed at the IMC's next meeting in December.</p>	<p>EN</p> <p>DV</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>REPORT OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMC/15/09)</p> <p>i. Scanning of Library Content The Librarian expressed the view that books were largely searched for via online search engines. The focus of scanning priorities should then be on our unique holdings. The Librarian reported that the Map Librarian had selected 20 out-of-copyright maps and was currently trialling the scanning service offered by the Royal Geographical Society.</p> <p>ii. Library Acquisitions The library acquisitions budget has increased year on year. The Librarian reported that not much has been spent on books in 2009. The increase in expenditure is largely due to higher journal costs, and further exacerbated by having to offset the overspend of periodicals caused by the poor exchange rate. The library has looked at negotiating with publishers as a consortium with other Societies, but because the subject matter between the Societies is different this was not possible. The Society has just entered into a three year agreement with Elsevier, and we are still waiting to be invoiced by Springer.</p> <p>Under a difficult economic climate, Council has had to look prudently at where cuts and savings for the proposed 2010 budget can be made. Council considered whether it should reduce the library acquisitions budget (proposed 13% increase from 2009) or to cap it at the 2009 level. Council decided to leave the 2010 library acquisitions budget unchanged recognising that it would not be a good idea to simply cap/reduce the budget without a review which informs a longer term policy, and considers the needs of the Fellowship as well as taking into account that the Society has a very important collection of national value.</p> <p>The Librarian reported that the library had in the past approached the Fellowship via the Specialist/Regional Groups for suggestions about library acquisitions. This was met with limited success.</p> <p>It was agreed that a working group will need to be formed to conduct the review. Amongst other considerations the group will look at the composition of the Fellowship and its bearing on the acquisitions policy. The point was also made that the library is facing storage problems, and (as well as discussing other possible storage solutions) it was noted that the group could also look at a retentions policy.</p> <p>iii. Author Book Donation It is very often misunderstood by Fellows who have written a book, that the copy of their book that they send for review is passed on to</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>NB</p>

	<p>the library. The Librarian will speak to the Editor of the Geoscientist and request that an article be written to request Fellows donate a copy of their book to the library.</p> <p>iv. Library Storage The Librarian reported that the library is running out of space for books. To make space some of the Russian collection which was not catalogued could be transferred. It was noted that NHM already have the Russian collection and as such the Society may wish to consider whether this is retained at all. It was felt that the library acquisitions working group could also look at a retention policy. A suggestion for exploring collaborative storage ventures was raised and the drawbacks of this idea were discussed, and it was felt that this would be difficult to achieve.</p> <p>v. LAC/IMC Communication The suggestion was made that to improve communication between IMC and LAC, IMC (Secretary) could provide brief written responses as required to particular points raised by the LAC.</p> <p>vi. LAC/IMC Meetings It was noted that due to changes in IMC meeting times the IMC and LAC meetings were now out of sync. It was agreed that the Librarian and Secretary to the IMC will look at how the two meetings can be brought back in sync.</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>KR/SM</p>
5.	<p>HORIZON SCANNING: PROJECTS PLANNED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS</p> <p>i. Encyclopaedia of Life There was nothing new to report at this time.</p> <p>ii. One Geology There was nothing new to report at this time.</p> <p>iii. iTunesU There was nothing new to report at this time.</p> <p>iv. UK Location Programme The Chair reported on The UK Location Programme. The programme is led by DEFRA, and has been established to implement both the UK Government's Location Strategy, and the EU INSPIRE Directive. The objective is to make public data 'public' and to deliver geographic or spatial data as a joined up service for government, businesses and citizens within UK and across the EU. This will be a free service.</p>	
6.	<p>MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>i. Academic Representation It was suggested that a younger librarian from the NHM could be invited to join the IMC.</p> <p>ii. Younger/Female Representation It was also suggested that the Executive Secretary could look into whether a Corporate Affiliate from a Geotechnical and/or Environment background could be invited to join the IMC.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>EN</p>

	The chair of the Media and Technology Working Group can be consulted at the next IMC meeting for anyone she can recommend from the MTWG that can be invited to join the IMC.	<i>KR</i>
7.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>i. Exploiting Geoscience Collections The Chair reported that early last year the organisers of 'Exploiting Geoscience Collections' spoke to the Publications Committee to present the conference papers as special publications. This was rejected at the time.</p> <p>This issue has been brought to the Chair's attention by John Faithful. It was agreed that the Chair will contact the Chair of the Publications Committee as well as speak to Jonathan Turner, Publications Committee Secretary.</p>	<i>RH</i>
8.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 11 December 2009 at 11:00am.</p>	