

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at Burlington House on 25 March 2009 at 2.00pm

Present: George Tuckwell (Chair), Andy Fleet, Richard Hughes, Nick Rogers, Alan Roberts

With: Nic Bilham (Data Manager), Sheila Meredith (Librarian), Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary), Kholilur Rahman (Web Producer)

		<i>Actions</i>
1.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from Alex Carbray, Will Watts, Peter Wigley and Tom Sharpe. Dorothy Payne (corresponding member) was also unable to attend.</p>	
2.	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>It was noted that the reorganisation of the Library and Information Services section of the Society's website is in progress. This will be completed before the next meeting. The reorganisation will improve navigation of that section of the website as well as provide a suitable home for third party data resources that have recently been identified for inclusion in the Lyell Centre.</p> <p>It was reported that the organisers of the Virtual Seismic Atlas have approached the SEPM for their seismic data. The SEPM sought references from the Society, and after assurances were provided, have agreed that the seismic data from their publications may be included. The Society's seismic data is already included and there is scope for inclusion of other seismic data in the future.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting reported that the Society already has access to all GeoScienceWorld content. It was agreed that this should be corrected to state that the Society has access to all of its own content available on GSW (this is via Ingenta, as the Society does not subscribe to GSW). It was noted that GSW take up has increased significantly, and that the Society's publications on GSW have been very successful in the last year.</p>	<p><i>NB/SM</i></p> <p><i>NB</i></p>
3.	<p>REPORT OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMC/01/09)</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the minutes of the 4 December Library Advisory Committee meeting.</p> <p>Particular attention was drawn to the update on remote electronic access. Over 400 Fellows have now registered for the scheme. The Librarian expects over 500 Fellows to have registered by the end of the year. It was reported that there was some confusion about subscriptions to external content and Lyell Collection content. The Library has produced some leaflets and additional marketing is planned to increase registrations and provide clarification. The Committee agreed that more promotion is required.</p> <p>The Librarian also drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the Society was beyond the three months trial period for Springer Journals and is now a</p>	<p><i>SM</i></p>

	<p>paid subscriber. Online access from within the Society to both GeoRef and Petroleum Abstracts is now available from within the Society.</p>	
4.	<p>ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SERVICES AND LYELL CENTRE DEVELOPMENT (IMC/02/09)</p> <p>It was reported that although there has been no progress made on the development plan for the Lyell Centre over the last few meetings, progress has nonetheless been made towards delivery of electronic library services (for example, remote access to journals). Staff are looking at ways of presenting Geoscientist online in a more effective way. Some progress has also been made with talking to third party data providers. Discussions with BGS about scope for cooperation regarding data services are underway.</p> <p>The Executive Secretary suggested that the Committee think about its vision for the Lyell Centre beyond the recession, rather than be limited by what is affordable now. The Librarian reported that there is demand for scanned maps, and it was noted that maps that are now out of copyright could be scanned. The benefits of scanning our rarer maps for archiving and security purposes was also discussed as a priority. Scanned maps could potentially provide an additional revenue stream. It was agreed that options for scanning maps should be explored, identifying costs, workflows and data management issues, initially in relation to securing irreplaceable and rare material, and progressive on-demand capture.</p> <p>It was reported that staff are examining ways in which the current GIS interface can be improved to make the data more useable. The Map Librarian has also explored the possibility of adding our GIS data to Google Earth. His opinion is that although this would be desirable, it would be counterproductive to do so before existing problems with the data are resolved – this is something to explore in the future.</p> <p>The Committee resolved to agree a statement describing its vision for the Lyell Centre. It was also agreed that a status report be produced setting out what has been achieved, and what is being worked on. This will include a plan for identifying what our users and non-users would like to see included, which, alongside the vision statement, should drive any more fully worked out development plan. The vision and status report will suffice for now to sign off the action on the Committee to review Lyell Centre development, as set out in the business plan. Drafts will be brought to the next meeting.</p>	<p><i>NB/RH</i></p> <p><i>SM</i></p> <p><i>NB/SM</i></p>
5.	<p>VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SERVICES (IMC/03/09)</p> <p>The Data Manager introduced the proposed solution to allow remote online participation in Society events. The Committee noted the low cost of this service. Testing in conjunction with our AV equipment is underway, and has been successful so far. The intention to charge a fee for remote participation in chargeable conferences was noted – this should generate additional income, increase overall participation (particularly overseas), and protect against erosion of attendance in person.</p> <p>The Data Manager confirmed that the recorded content will be owned by the Society to use subsequently, although it is expected that the current model of post event webcasting of higher audio-visual quality will continue. The footage from the live webcasts might be suitable for use on YouTube.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that, as for the Lyell Collection, access should be free for those in developing countries.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that the facility to conduct smaller discussion meetings remotely will need to be used with caution. After internal trials this could potentially be made available externally as a chargeable service along with meeting rooms.</p> <p>The Committee strongly recommended that MFC approve this proposal.</p>	
6.	<p>MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP (IMC/04/09)</p> <p>It was reported to the Committee that this has progressed more slowly than planned. There has been some difficulty in getting people to take part. A few people within the target age range have now come forward. One of the group members has been contacted to see if she would be interested in chairing the Group.</p> <p>The Data Manager reported slight changes to the terms of reference of the Group. The report back date is now 1 May.</p>	
7.	<p>INFORMATION STRATEGY (IMC/05/09)</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the strategy and agreed that some minor amendments should be made. The Committee discussed the need to be 'reactive' as well as 'proactive', the need to 'protect as well as provide' and the need to provide services for 'public benefit'. It was also agreed that a clearer vision statement could be incorporated within the strategy.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the Strategy will be reviewed on a six monthly or annual basis to assess achievements.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that it needs to be more proactive about engaging with other committees, and particularly with the External Relations and Science Committees. The Committee will invite Chairs of the Science and External Relations Committees to future Committee meetings where agenda items are relevant. It was noted that there will be a new Science Secretary from June.</p>	EN/NB
8.	<p>HORIZON SCANNING: PROJECTS PLANNED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS (IMC/06/09)</p> <p>The Committee noted that although there was much activity with the Encyclopaedia of Life project, there was nothing of a geological nature at this stage.</p> <p>The Committee noted that One Geology is progressing well with many new countries coming on board. It was also noted that the Society has agreed to include a prominent link to the One Geology website from the Lyell Centre.</p> <p>It was noted that the NERC Environmental Data Portal will also be included in the list of Lyell Centre resources.</p> <p>It was reported to the Committee that the Rory Mortimore project has now passed to BGS.</p> <p>A new item was added to the horizon scanning list. iTunesU is used by universities to upload high quality content on iTunes. It was reported to the Committee that this has been very popular and provides a good medium for promoting our content to younger audiences. This will be added to the terms of reference for the Media and Technology Working Group.</p>	NB

9.	<p>MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE (IMC/07/09)</p> <p>It was noted that Peter Wigley has resigned from the Committee. The chairman expressed the Committee's thanks for Peter's contribution. Alex Carbray will be retiring from Council and may or may not continue as member of this Committee, Dorothy Payne is a corresponding member and it is difficult for her to be actively involved, and Alan Roberts has expressed his willingness to go or to continue for now, whichever option best suits the needs of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that it needs to be more representative and that there is a need for younger participation in the Committee. The possibility of changing the name of the Committee was considered, as a way of appealing to a younger group. After further discussion it was agreed that this could cause confusion about the function of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee noted that it may be possible to identify some potential new Committee members from the Media and Technology Working Group.</p> <p>Alan Roberts undertook to introduce one of a couple of people at his company to the Committee at the next meeting if they are interested in becoming Committee members. Other Committee members will think of people that might be interested in joining the Committee. Alan will also contact Richard Corfield (BP) to find out if he would be interested.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that it would be good to have at least one other Council member on board. It noted that Richard Hughes is a candidate in the Council Election. It was also agreed that it would be advantageous to have someone with an academic background on board.</p> <p>Nick Rogers said that he will step down when his term as Publications Secretary comes to an end, and that he will be replaced by his successor, Jonathan Turner. Nick will also contact Clarrie Hunt, Science Librarian at the Open University to find out if she would be interested in becoming a Committee member.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that membership should again be on the agenda at the next meeting.</p>	<p><i>NB</i></p> <p><i>AR</i></p> <p><i>NR</i></p> <p><i>NB</i></p>
10.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
11.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19 May at 2.00pm.</p>	