

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at Burlington House on 22 October 2008 at 10.30am

Present: George Tuckwell (Chair), Alex Carbray, Andy Fleet, Richard Hughes, Mick Lee, Alan Roberts, Helen Scholes, Will Watts, Peter Wigley

With: Nic Bilham (Data Manager), Wendy Cawthorne (Assistant Librarian), Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary)

		<i>Actions</i>
1.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from Nick Rogers and Sheila Meredith. Dorothy Payne (corresponding member) was also unable to attend.</p>	
2.	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>It was noted that the Virtual Seismic Atlas and other items approved for addition to the external resources section of the Lyell Centre have not yet been added because of potential confusion with links already listed by library staff in the Library and Information Services section of the website. Thought will be given to these presentational issues, recognising the wish to identify particular key external resources within the Lyell Centre, and to provide a more extensive list of links for library users.</p> <p>It was reported that the recently approved full time fixed term Archivist post had been put on hold because of the need to make significant savings in the 2009 budget, in light of the worsening financial climate. As with other items of expenditure which have been postponed, the intention is to keep affordability of this post under review. The Committee noted that while this post remains unfilled, management of papers, correspondence, etc, in the general office and within departments continues as normal, but that these documents are not being indexed and passed into the archive where appropriate.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (correctly) reported comments about UKOOA. It was noted that UKOOA is now Oil and Gas UK.</p>	NB/SM
3.	<p>REPORT OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMC/12/08)</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the unconfirmed minutes of the 26 June Library Advisory Committee meeting. As requested by LAC, the Committee's attention was drawn to the arrangement with IGI for their members to have limited access to the library, and to the library's policy regarding non-Fellow visitors who have not made an appointment - the Committee had no particular comment.</p> <p>The Assistant Librarian clarified the meaning of a note sent by Eileen Jamieson to those who have signed up for offsite electronic access to library journals. This suggested that the Geological Society could not subscribe to GeoScienceWorld. It should have said that GSW will not allow remote access - although in fact the Society does not subscribe to GSW, as we have access to all of its own content within GSW anyway. It was also noted that Petroleum Geoscience is in any case available online (including offsite) to</p>	

	those Fellows who subscribe, via Ingenta, where it will remain until it is added to the Lyell Collection.	
4.	<p>BUSINESS PLAN 2008-2010 (IMC/13/08)</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Business Plan reviews relevant to the IMC (Virtual Conferences and Lyell Centre Development) were not completed prior to the September Council meeting as scheduled. However, this will not disrupt any planned work, as implementing any plans in these areas will depend on attracting sponsorship, and is therefore independent of the annual budgeting cycle. The Data Manager will do more work on these items before the next meeting.</p> <p>The Data Manager reported that the online Rock Cycle module has been very well received, and that it is being widely used both by the initial target audience (Key Stage 3 students and their teachers) and more widely. At the request of a group of those involved in the Rock Cycle project, he will be writing a proposal for further online modules focusing on Key Stage 4 Earth science topics, which will go initially to the Development and Fundraising Committee.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Society might try to link with the BGS School Seismology Project. It was agreed that where possible we should work with others in developing educational content, as several organisations are (or intend to be) active in this area, including BGS, NERC and the museums community. The Committee noted that the Society worked closely with ESTA in developing the Rock Cycle module, and that this collaboration is expected to continue.</p> <p>Regarding Virtual Conferences, the Committee noted that already an increasing number of meetings and presentations are made available online (though not in real time or interactively), including all the Shell London Lectures. Several Committee members commented on the high quality of this service.</p>	NB
5.	<p>TECHNOLOGY FUTURES GROUP (IMC/14/08)</p> <p>Council had asked the Information Management Committee to consider use of new technologies and communication fora, including professional and social networking sites and alternative outlets for audio-visual content such as YouTube. It was agreed that a short term working group of young geologists and students should be established, at arm's length from the Committee and the staff, to consider these issues, and to report back to IMC with recommendations. There will be no commitment that these recommendations will necessarily be implemented - the purpose of the group will be to generate ideas. The Committee recognised that this matter is linked to the next agenda item (use of the Society's name on networking sites) - while we cannot (and should not try to) restrict how our members and others use networking sites etc, we can attempt to police how our corporate identity is used. Richard Hughes reported on BGS's use of YouTube and other sites. It was agreed to ask Joanne Venus to chair this group. She has been instrumental in starting the Young Geoscientists Group, which has a Facebook presence. She should be asked to invite people to join the group, along with some who might be identified by the Society, ensuring that there is a representative balance. The Data Manager will provide them with a briefing note, suggesting some areas which they might consider, but without being prescriptive either about scope or method of working. This should also identify what the Society is already doing online.</p>	NB

6.	<p>USE OF THE SOCIETY'S NAME ON NETWORKING SITES (IMC/15/08)</p> <p>The Executive Secretary clarified that the Young Geoscientists Group has been established with the support of the Society. (The papers were prepared without knowledge of this.) There should therefore be no difficulty in allowing them to use the Society's name and logo. More generally, we should develop a policy on use of the Society's name and logo on networking sites and other online fora, both by groups of members and others, which in turn is likely to reflect the broader relationship between such groups and the Society. The working group should be asked to consider these relationships, and the policy will be written in light of their report to IMC.</p>	NB
7.	<p>HORIZON SCANNING: PROJECTS PLANNED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS (IMC/16/08)</p> <p>Encyclopedia of Life: There was nothing new to report. Although the emphasis is entirely biological, it will be retained on the horizon scanning list, and if there is a move towards Earth sciences we may wish to get involved.</p> <p>One Geology: Richard Hughes provided a brief description of the project, and updated the Committee on recent developments. One Geology Europe involves 29 countries, and has been successful in attracting EU funding, particularly as it goes a long way towards delivering the objectives of the INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) directive. One Geology Global includes these European nations plus over 60 others. BGS provides the secretariat, with support from BRGM. The portal has been live for some time, and content continues to be added. Media coverage of the project has been very successful. Data are available free (though they cannot be downloaded at present). There are no plans to harmonise the data from different sources.</p> <p>Richard also mentioned NERC's Environmental Data Portal (www.edp.nerc.ac.uk), through which BGS data can be viewed using a number of tools including Google Earth. The Data Manager reiterated the Society's wish to work with BGS and other partners in developing further the mapping and other facilities in the Lyell Centre, recognising in particular BGS's expertise in mapping technologies, and to explore the scope for delivering data through each other's systems.</p> <p>Peter Wigley highlighted the importance of engaging with Google Earth, and said that it would be straightforward to deliver the map catalogue and index data currently available in our own GIS through Google Earth. It was agreed that the staff would look at this. Some members of the Committee asked Peter to email links to several online facilities he mentioned.</p> <p>Rory Mortimore project: Rory is now in discussion with BGS about their making available his data. Helen Scholes described his work on the chalk.</p> <p>Data Metallogenica: The Data Manager updated the Committee following a visit from Alan Goode. While the service looks very good, there is insufficient material available free of charge to justify including among the external resources listed in the Lyell Centre.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that in rationalising Lyell Centre links and other links in the Library and Information Services section of the website, users should be made aware of paid services and resources we have identified, as well as the free ones included in the Lyell Centre.</p>	EN/NB

8.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>It was agreed that membership of the Committee should be reviewed, and that the Chairman would work on this with the Executive Secretary and Data Manager. Mick Lee and Helen Scholes indicated their wish to step down from the Committee, having served for several years on the Committee and its predecessor bodies. The Chairman thanked them for their contribution.</p>	GT/EN/NB
9.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The Data Manager reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 16 February at 2.00pm.</p>	