

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at Burlington House on Thursday 14 December at 2.30pm

Present: Richard Hughes (Chair), Samme Brough, Richard Corfield, Andrew Dobrzanski, Andy Fleet, Dave Quinn, Dorothy Payne, Tom Sharpe

Apologies: Suzie Austen, Richard Herrington, David Vaughan, Will Watts and Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary)

In attendance: Kholilur Rahman (Web Producer, Secretary to IMC), Nic Bilham (Head of Strategy and External Relations) and Sheila Meredith (Chief Librarian)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies as noted above.

The Secretary informed the Committee that Suzie Austen had stepped down from the IMC due to health reasons. The Committee wished her a speedy recovery and looked forward to her rejoining at a future date.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

All actions from the last meeting are complete.

4. UPDATE ON OTHER COMMITTEES (IMC/21/10)

David Vaughan, Edmund Nickless and Nic Bilham provided written updates on the main issues concerning the Publications Management Committee, Professional Committee and External Relations Committee.

5. REPORT OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMC/22/10)

The Library Advisory Committee met on 25 November 2010. The Committee noted the draft minutes of that meeting.

LAC minute 1 - Ken Hollywood has resigned from the LAC. Anne Dixon from BGS has been invited to join the LAC, and she has accepted. This will ensure continuity of the important link between the two libraries.

6. LIBRARY REVIEW (IMC/23/10)

At its meeting on 24 November 2010, Council received the report of the Library Review Group.

Council accepted the recommendation of the Library Review Group that the IMC (with support from others) should be tasked with developing and taking forward a library review plan, and provided some feedback (see below) to allow this Committee to do some preparatory work ahead of Council's residential meeting in February.

*Actions*

It was noted that the targets for reducing the net cost of library expenditure, whether this is achieved by new income streams or by making cuts are quite challenging.

The Committee was impressed by the quality and detail of the report. It was also noted that although the report discusses the need for new income streams and possible cuts (or alternative provision for some titles) based on 'cost-per-view' data, and recognises that the library is not a profit centre, there is also a large recognition that the skills and service provided by library staff will need to be retained.

In its initial discussion, Council identified some priorities:

1. Working with others where appropriate, to make rapid progress to capture the map collection electronically, and to develop a new business line to supply map data to commercial users (where copyright restrictions permit).
2. Where the 'cost-per-view' for journal titles is high, to substitute subscriptions with inter-library loan or pay-per-view access.
3. Continuing the effective capture of usage data from all sources, in particular to keep up to date the 'cost-per-view' grid attached to the report.

The Committee agreed that it would be best to identify a Committee lead and a staff lead for each priority.

The Chair volunteered to take responsibility for priority 1, with the Executive Secretary as the staff lead. It was noted that there may be options for scanning maps that are still in copyright but this will need further exploration. The Committee discussed that although the objective was to ultimately scan the entire collection, prioritising the capture of high demand items may help pay for the later capture of items in less demand.

Tom Sharpe volunteered to take responsibility for priority 2, with the Librarian as the staff lead.

Samme Brough volunteered to take responsibility for priority 3, with the Librarian as the staff lead.

The Chair, Tom Sharpe and Samme Brough will prepare brief notes for Council on how their respective priorities can be taken forward.

*RAH, TS,  
SB*

The Committee discussed and attached suggested priorities to the items listed in the recommendations grid. It was observed that there is nesting between the items as well as dependencies. It will be useful to highlight this by pulling out the overarching items and listing the items under it, and dependencies can also be identified in the existing column.

It was agreed that it is probably best to tackle the recommendations via small working groups. The shading on the grid at Annex B shows how related categories of recommendations (which themselves are taken directly from the report) might be grouped together, for the purpose of forming a manageable number of coherent working groups. The working groups will be composed of IMC members, staff and others.

The Executive Secretary will establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the Society and the Natural History Museum. Such an MOU already exists between the Society and BGS, and is being reviewed.

*EN*

<p>The Secretary will update the Recommendations Grid/Library Plan with the priorities and dependencies identified during this meeting.</p>	<p>KR</p>
<p>If time permits, the Chair will circulate, ahead of the next IMC meeting in April, a crystallisation of the discussion and conclusions agreed in the Council meeting in February. The Secretary will remind the Chair about this action at the appropriate time.</p>	<p>RAH</p>
<p>7. BUSINESS PLAN AND IMC WORK PLAN (IMC/24/10)</p>	<p>KR</p>
<p>At present, the new format business plan, with a rolling three year period, which initially covers the period 2011-2013, includes only new projects, and this will be updated to include continuing items of business. Each line in the business plan represents a work plan item for at least one of the Committees (the entire list of a Committee's work plan may not feature in the business plan).</p>	
<p>The Secretary will produce a summary of each of the IMC's work plan items for the next meeting.</p>	<p>KR</p>
<p>The Committee agreed to allocate responsibility for each of the work plan items. The work plan item and agreed Committee leads so far are provided below:</p>	
<p>Library Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library plan – Richard Hughes, Chair</li> <li>• Scanning of content – Richard Hughes, Chair</li> <li>• GIS</li> <li>• Investigate display of library content for public information</li> <li>• Investigate display of library content for potential sponsorship</li> </ul>	
<p>Archives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archive cataloguing – Tom Sharpe</li> </ul>	
<p>Website Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Function and content of YGG pages – Samme Brough and Andrew Dobrzanski</li> </ul>	
<p>Horizon Scanning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real-time virtual conferences – Dave Quinn</li> </ul>	
<p>The Secretary will invite members of the Committee to express any preference for leading on the remaining work plan items.</p>	<p>KR</p>
<p>8. ELECTRONIC LIBRARY LOANS MANAGEMENT AND DATA GATHERING (IMC/25/10)</p>	
<p>The Committee noted that work is underway to implement electronic loans management on the library system. Once the work is complete it will be possible to gather useful data as highlighted in the relevant paper.</p>	
<p>9. HORIZON SCANNING (IMC/26/10)</p>	
<p>On the Cutting Edge  Dave Quinn provided a link to an educational resource on Geosciences and other earth sciences, 'On the Cutting Edge' which provides useful teaching</p>	

resources including excellent animations. This will be suitable for both A-Level and undergraduate level. The Secretary will send the link to the Committee, Education staff and the Higher Education Network.

KR

#### One Geology

The One Geology Europe project closed in late October. It has been a tremendous success. It highlighted all sorts of problems in semantic interoperability at national boundaries and achieved schematic interoperability in Geological maps between 21 European countries. The One Geology methodology is now being adopted worldwide including organisations such as USGS, and Energistics.

#### iphone and Android Apps

BGS' iphone application has been a huge success. There have been approximately 17,000 downloads. In its first few months it has outstripped BGS' annual map sales. It was the number one free educational app in the itunes store. The Android version will be launched after Christmas. A second app is in progress, a simplified version of UK Geology. BBC is very interested in this to support a new series it is producing called 'Naked Earth'.

#### Linked Data on Websites

There was no further update on this item. It was agreed that the item can be removed from the list.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7 April at 2:30pm