

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at Burlington House on Thursday 23 September 2010 at 2.00pm

- Present: Richard Hughes (Chair), Andy Fleet, Dorothy Payne, Richard Herrington
- Apologies: Suzie Austen, Samme Brough, Richard Corfield, Andrew Dobrzanski, Dave Quinn, David Vaughan 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)

- | | <i>Actions</i> |
|--|----------------|
| 1. APOLOGIES | |
| Apologies as noted above. Tom Sharpe and Will Watts were also unable to attend. | |
| 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MINUTES | |
| The Committee approved the minutes of the last meeting with the minor changes detailed below. | |
| 2.i Horizon Scanning: 'Petroleum Group Conference in 2008' to 'Petroleum Geology Conference in 2009 (PGC7)'. | KR |
| 3. MATTERS ARISING | |
| The following actions from the last meeting are open: | |
| 3.i From the update of the Science Committee provided at the previous meeting of the IMC, it was agreed that the Chair will speak to Phillip Allen (Chair of the Science Committee) about the Earth Science Informatics meeting. | RAH |
| 4. UPDATE ON OTHER COMMITTEES (IMC/15/10) | |
| David Vaughan provided a written update on the main issues concerning the Publications Management Committee. | |
| Richard Herrington provided a verbal update on the main issues concerning the Science Committee. Nic Bilham provided a verbal update on main issues concerning the External Relations Committee and the Professional Committee. | |
| 5. REPORT OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMC/16/10) | |
| The Library Advisory Committee's meeting on 9 September 2010 was cancelled. | |
| 6. LIBRARY REVIEW (IMC/17/10) | |
| Since the last meeting of the IMC, the Library Acquisitions Review Group, | |

now the Library Review Group, met with its broader terms of reference. The group reviewed the main areas of the extended brief and agreed some actions that could be completed within the available time including meetings with some key organisations to look at how they are dealing with the same sort of challenges.

Nic Bilham and Sheila Meredith had a very useful meeting with the NHM. A focus of the discussion was about working together and delivering outputs from the collections of both organisations in a joint venture, and particularly the map collection. The NHM have a very significant Geoscience map collection which is largely uncatalogued and although they are better equipped in terms of scanning facilities etc, they recognise that in some ways we are better placed to make best use of this resource. The NHM have expressed that they are open to different models of working together. A discussion about offsite storage also ensued. The NHM clearly want to continue to work with us, and the report of the Review Group will comment on the start of this dialogue.

The draft business plan for 2011-2013 proposes that Council should task IMC with developing and implementing a Library Plan based on the report of the Library Review Group. The report is to be delivered to Council in November and will be discussed in depth in February's residential meeting. The output of that report will be to look at how we address some of these recommendations – the work involved in the delivery of this will fall primarily to this Committee, working with the LAC. Staff and the IMC will need to ensure that the recommendations are implemented, and can facilitate this by the development of an implementation plan which will need to run over the course of the next business plan (and beyond).

It was noted that the Budget and Programme Committee have given a steer in terms of the scale for reducing the net library deficit (difference between expenditure and income), by 35k in 2012, by 70k in 2013, and by 105k in 2014 and subsequent years. This is consistent with the purpose of the review, not to curtail what the library does but to ensure it is sustainable for future generations.

The proposed town hall meeting on 8 October, has been advertised in Geoscientist and the email newsletter. It will also feature as a reminder in the next newsletter. Specific invitations will be sent to individuals who responded to the questionnaire. Library staff have been actively reminding people about the town hall meeting and have also flagged it in the Recent Additions mailings.

The task of this Committee to develop an implementation plan will require support from the staff and Committee members as well as the LAC, and others.

The Committee acknowledged the hard work that has been put in by library staff to produce the data for the cost per usage grid within a very short time.

The Review Group also met the Royal Society of Chemistry. Attempts to contact IOM³ have not been successful.

The Chief Librarian has also provided Edmund Nickless with data on staff time.

7. IMC WORK PLAN (IMC/18/10)

The Committee discussed the IMC's future work plan and a draft list was composed.

Draft list of issues for the IMC's work plan (in no particular order):

- Library Plan
- Website Development Plan
- Scanning of Content (maps in particular)
- GIS
- Working with others (e.g. NHM for content and BGS for delivery of Map GIS)
- Marketing of materials available for display (to the public and to potential sponsors)
- Lyell Centre Development
- Horizon Scanning (e.g. real-time virtual conferences is primarily a Science Committee issue but IMC should be kept informed)

The work plan will be discussed further at the next meeting. As there were quite a few apologies at the last meeting the Chair wanted to invite all members of the Committee to contribute in this very important discussion ahead of the next meeting.

KR

A short proposal/note about Map Scanning is to be prepared so it can feature in the business plan. The note should also be circulated to the IMC

RAH

Details of a forthcoming History of Geology Group meeting that might act as a vehicle for identifying sponsors of digitisation of map etc. is to be circulated to the Committee.

AF

8. STANDARD FILE TYPES (IMC/19/10)

The Secretary summarised the content of the paper.

It was noted that formats can vary between geographical location and in selecting a standard format, care must be taken to ensure that the choice ensures geographical independence.

The Chair also suggested that in consulting the major web standards organisations like the W3C and OGC, it will be useful to investigate if there are any standards or recommendations from Energistics, the standards organisation for the oil and gas industry.

Free software is now available to visualise 3D models. One of these is possibly provided by Adobe Distiller. Dorothy Payne will provide a link to the software.

DP

9. HORIZON SCANNING (IMC/20/10)

iphone and Android Apps

Tuesday 28 September is the public launch of BGS' iGeology app. A note about this is to be provided to Nic Bilham so that it can feature in the Society's website, newsletter and in Geoscientist. An Android version of the app is under development.

RAH

The Committee agreed that if the Geological Society did invest in an app, it should be related to the activities of the Society's and we will need to ensure that it is not 'gimmicky'.

Virtual Field Trips

In response to Dave Quinn's question about whether information about work done on virtual field trips using LIDAR at Durham University will be made publicly available, Johnny Imber responded that the information will be made available in the memoirs which will be published shortly.

There were no further updates on the other horizon scanning items.

It was agreed that the UK Location Programme and Ordnance Survey Consultation can be dropped from the horizon scanning list.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
There was no other business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14 December 2010 at 2:30pm