

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at Burlington House on Thursday 24 June 2010 at 2.00pm

Present: Richard Hughes (Chair), Samme Brough, Richard Corfield, Andrew Dobrzanski, Andy Fleet, David Quinn, Dorothy Payne and David Vaughan

Apologies: Suzie Austen, Richard Herrington, Tom Sharpe and Will Watts

In attendance: Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary), 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 were received from Suzie Austen, Richard Herrington, Tom Sharpe and Will Watts.	
2. INTRODUCTIONS	
Members of the Committee introduced themselves and welcomed new members, Samme Brough and Andrew Dobrzanski. Suzie Austen, also a new member was unable to attend this meeting and her apologies were conveyed to the Committee.	
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MINUTES	
The Committee approved the minutes of the last meeting with the minor changes detailed below.	
3.i MAP GIS: 'Patrick Bell's recommendations' to 'earlier recommendations'	KR
4. MATTERS ARISING	
The following actions from the last meeting are open:	
4.i Progress with map scanning, it was suggested that low resolution map images could be taken and put in the newsletter to identify popular maps.	SM
4.ii The Committee agreed that it will be beneficial if someone from the NHM's library joined the LAC, as this will provide a platform for collaboration between the libraries.	TS/RH
Other matters arising:	
4.iii Nic Bilham will suggest to Council that the Chairs of other Committees also request linking Committee members to provide updates from their other Committee meetings.	NB
5. UPDATE ON OTHER COMMITTEES (IMC/09/10)	
It was agreed that the other Committee updates are to be kept concise and relevant.	All
5.i David Vaughan provided an update from the Publications Management	

Committee. The Publishing House, editors and various Chairmen presented their reports at the main annual meeting held on 3 March.

The Publishing House finished strong in 2009. Both the bookshop and Lyell collection sales are ahead of budget.

'The Journal of the Geological Society' now has an impressive impact factor of just under 3.3 (ahead of the GSA bulletin), 'Petroleum Geology' has an impact factor of 0.8 and GEEA has an impact factor of 0.3 - there are plans to commission more review papers to improve this. Further work is underway to understand what is causing JGS' impact factor to increase, in order that this can then also be applied for the other journals.

Two new journals have recently been added to the Lyell collection, 'Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society' and 'Scottish Journal of Geology'. Both have been well received. 'The Journal of Micro-Palaeontology' is also being prepared for launch and there are plans to include the Edinburgh and Glasgow publications in the future.

There was concern about the future of the special publications series as there had been a decline in the number of attractive titles. Four key factors were identified as requiring attention e.g. lack of historical inclusion in the ISI citation database, speed of publication, charges for colour and related policies, and commissioning procedures. It was noted that a lot of positive action has already been taken to remedy these factors.

The Chair raised the question as to whether the Society has considered publishing its journals via the open access route. The Executive Secretary commented that this had been discussed and there are transitional complexities that prevent adoption of this model over the current one. Other solutions go half-way, e.g. the GSA has a policy for making papers freely available at a cost to the author. The issue will be kept under review.

- 5.ii Richard Herrington provided a written update on the issues concerning the Science Committee. The Executive Secretary summarised the report.

Working with others - rather than sitting and waiting to receive proposals, the Science Committee has resolved to take a different approach, to stimulate and encourage, and is particularly keen to encourage multi-disciplinary meetings involving both specialist groups within the Society elsewhere.

Frontiers - the Science Committee has an ambition to introduce a new series of meetings under the working title of 'Frontiers'. They are thinking about having two of these events a year, possibly a full day event and to facilitate and provide the younger scientific community with less established reputations, the opportunity to form the programme and discuss areas that are not traditionally associated with science.

Environment Network - Nic Bilham drew the attention of the Committee to this new type of group which is quite different to the traditional specialist or regional group. A very good model for this is the Young Geoscientists Group. It is likely that there will be an increase in this type of group over the next few years as this is a better vehicle for carrying forward the Society's strategic plans.

Post event activities - Nic Bilham also reported that there is a lot of work going on to get the most from the Society's public facing events. The Society is making podcasts based on the Shell lectures, there is an effort going on to enable online Q&A sessions with the speakers after an event etc.

	Earth Science Informatics meeting – The Chair will speak to Phillip Allen, Chair of the Science Committee about this meeting.	RH
5.iii	Nic Bilham provided an update on the issues concerning the External Relations Committee.	
	Post event activities – see above.	
	Engaging with Government – The Society has made very good impact in areas such as radioactive waste management, and increasingly in carbon capture and storage. Other public policy matters where Earth science has a role to play have been identified e.g. water resources, mineral resources, coastal zone management and infrastructure replacement etc. These will be raised with Council. The ERC also discussed the best ways of engaging with Government and policy makers.	
	The ERC is also reviewing how its activities are prioritised and in particular, the Society’s involvement in European and global bodies.	
6.	REPORT OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMC/10/10)	
	The Chief Librarian provided an update on the meeting of the LAC.	
6.i	Update on Archivist	
	Suitable cataloguing software will need to be acquired, and the preferred option is to buy CALM or Adlib software. The Archivist will investigate costs and the possibility of obtaining a grant to help purchase the software.	
	Offsite storage and collaborative storage ventures were discussed. Deep store solutions in Cheshire are an option – it is cheap to store but expensive to retrieve. It is therefore essential to understand how often retrievals will be made. It was noted that storage of material is closely coupled with what we scan and make available digitally, and therefore what we store is essentially for back up purposes.	
	Indicative budget bids will need to be provided in the next few days for both of these ventures.	SM
	The Committee welcomed the progress that has been made by the Archivist during the early stages of her role at the Society. It was agreed that the Chief Librarian will convey the gratitude of the Committee to the Archivist.	SM
6.ii	Map Scanning	
	The income from map scanning is approximately £400 this year. It has slowed up for the moment – we need to put up new maps.	
6.iii	Map GIS	
	The short term plan is to scan and upload the index sheets, of which there are about 500, on the website in pdf format. This will provide the Map Librarian with a workable solution in terms of understanding the map coverage that we have and will also allow us to make it available to those enquiring about our holdings.	
	The longer term issue is to identify what features of the map catalogue/GIS display can be developed and whether there are barriers to this.	

The Committee agreed that efficiency was important, and any work is done so that it positions us well for future development. Indeed the work done to scan the index sheets does not need to be in isolation of the GIS - it is possible that this will add value to the GIS.

It was reported that all development on the website had been halted due to several months of website stability problems. The stability problems have now been resolved. There is a backlog of development work including GIS that will now need to be prioritised.

The Chair offered one additional day of support with Patrick Bell at an appropriate time in the future.

It was agreed that a GIS project plan will be required to map out the sequence of tasks, responsibilities and schedule.

KR

#### 6.iv Other matters

Minute 5.2 - It was noted that library access arrangements between GSL, NHM and BGS needed to be formalised and that this was best done at 'chief executive' level. The Committee agreed that a meeting to discuss the matter will be arranged in approximately six months time.

Minute 5.3 - At an earlier IMC meeting concern was raised that the NHM may be stopping its subscriptions to Geoscience journals. It was agreed that Andy Fleet will follow this up.

AF

#### 7. LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS REVIEW (IMC/11/10)

From the early work of the group, it became rapidly apparent that there are no easy wins to be had from making cuts. The work also highlighted interconnected issues, for example how the acquisitions budget will relate to future needs of the Fellowship, the Society's role as custodian of a nationally important collection, and also highlighted that a review of our business model was required. The group concluded that it will be artificial to form an acquisitions/retention policy without considering the other interconnected factors.

Council has agreed to extend the life of the group to build on its initial work to carry out a full Library Review. The last time a full Library Review was conducted in 1985/86. The terms of reference for the group have been updated accordingly. The group will report to Council in November 2010. Some points of clarification may be required beyond this in preparation for a substantive discussion at the Council residential in February 2011.

Neal Marriott, Director of Publishing has joined the group as it is important to consider the provision of information services and publishing as a whole.

The Chair raised the question as to whether library staff are well informed and aware of why the terms of reference for the group have changed. It was noted that library staff have seen the papers and minutes of the group's meetings and are aware that a full review is in progress.

The town hall meeting which will engage the Fellowship will be held in early October.

#### 8. UPDATE ON MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP (IMC/12/10)

The Geological Society set up a profile on Twitter in early March. It was agreed at the time that a Facebook profile was not appropriate for the Society rather we agreed that it should be a bottom-up process which was more suited for our regional and specialist groups. Indeed the Young Geoscientists Group originated as a Facebook group and that has worked very well. Our groups are now increasingly using Facebook.

Facebook has recently introduced new features which automatically create pages based on users' interests. As such a couple of unofficial Geological Society pages have already been created on Facebook and these pages already have several 'fans'. Following staff discussion, it was felt that an official Facebook page should be put in place at least as a marker and that this will allow unofficial pages to be ignored. The news has been announced on the homepage, and will be in the newsletter and the Geoscientist.

The guidelines issued by the Society for use of Society logos etc. on social networking fora is intended to assist and encourage. Samme Brough will review the guidelines to see if they are fit for purpose or whether they are too inhibiting.

SB

It was agreed that the Secretary will review the Society's Facebook page to check that an appropriate disclaimer statement is in use to assert that the Society is in no way responsible for externally posted material on the page.

KR

The Committee noted the priorities for development mentioned in the papers. Google Analytics will be installed so we can retrieve better web usage statistics. It will be customised to help us learn more about a users' journey through our website and this will inform later work.

Samme Brough will communicate ideas for content for the YGG pages to the Secretary in preparation for the development of a new template. A further suggestion was that this can be used to kick start a process of engaging the younger geosciences community.

SB

Andrew Dobrzanski felt that the website was rather 'labyrinthine', and debates were not always easy to follow. It was also noted that there were some blank pages. Andrew suggested that the Lyell Collection search could benefit from spell check (or suggestions).

The Committee agreed that although it does not oversee the management of the website, it is useful to pass on any suggestions for improvement of the website to the Secretary.

All

It was agreed that it will be useful for the staff of the Society to update this Committee on relevant website developments at an appropriate frequency e.g. every six months - this can be looked at in the context of the Committee's work plan to be discussed at the next meeting.

## 9. HORIZON SCANNING (IMC/13/10)

### One Geology

The European element of One Geology will wind up in September/October 2010. The proposal is that this element will become incorporated, and it is likely that it will be incorporated in the UK.

### iphone Apps

It was noted that Android apps are now becoming increasingly popular.

BGS is in the process of developing an iPhone app which will serve BGS' web map data. The app will be free and will launch in September to coincide with BGS' 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. BRGM, the French geological survey has released an iPhone app called i-infoterre.

#### UK Location Programme and Ordnance Survey

The Location Council met recently. The Government will pay the Ordnance Survey to deliver the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) that will be used by the UK to meet its INSPIRE obligations which consist of publishing environmental data sets/meta data, and creating view services.

The Location Council has recently set up a user group, and its objective is to ensure that there is a bottom-up steer. A Fellow of the Society from the Engineering group has been invited to join the user group.

#### Linked Data on Website

It was noted that although we now have a new coalition Government, this is still very much in its agenda. This is a British initiative and it is one of the ways by which the UK is competing with the US in the web arena.

From the Society's point of view it is worth keeping an eye on but it is something for the future.

#### Gigapan and Virtual Field Trips

Currently megabyte resolution images are in use in digital cameras. New developments have meant that images can be taken at gigabyte resolution. It is possible to take a panoramic shot of an image and zoom into the detail from several kilometres away. Google can now geo-register these images within a 2.5D Google Earth environment.

At Durham University they are doing some work on virtual field trips using LIDAR. Dave Quinn asked whether this will be made publicly available - this is under consideration. If this cannot be made publicly available it will be useful for the Society to have a conversation about whether this can be made accessible via some other model.

*DQ*

Virtual field trips were also demonstrated at the Petroleum Geology Conference in 2009 (PGC7). It was the intention to include these in the DVD which will accompany the proceedings later this year. The Executive Secretary will check whether this will be included.

*EN*

In the context of the Library Review Nic Bilham and Sheila Meredith met Michael Jubb from Research Information Network. He raised the issue that libraries are increasingly regarding themselves not just as custodians of books and journals but also as custodians of datasets. The Library Review group will be looking at this but it was agreed that if members of the Committee were aware of what other libraries are doing it will be useful to update the Committee at its next meeting under this agenda item.

*All*

#### 10. STANDARD FILE TYPES (IMC/14/10)

The Secretary will follow up and find out further information about how many times we are offered movie files that we are not accepting, as well as

*KR*

looking at what others are doing and identifying standards/best practice.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23 September 2010 at 2:00pm