The Library as Place

1. Create collaborative and social spaces to accommodate new and traditional patterns of student learning

The design of the new Science Library incorporates environments that are designed to support collaborative learning. Since the review a café has been incorporated into the ground floor of the new building, providing a new dimension to the development of a sense of an intellectual science community. The upper levels of the building will provide quiet ‘traditional’ individual silent study areas.

Refurbishments to the Music Library over the summer of 2007/2008 will provide a group study area and a more comfortable and relaxed environment.

The move of the Map Collection and the Geology collection from the ground floor of the Reid Library building into the new Science Library in 2009 will provide the opportunity to develop that space into a collaborative learning space, possibly incorporating some integrated student information, IT and learning support. A proposal for this will be forthcoming later in 2008.

In the longer term the building of adequate remote storage facilities, which is currently under consideration, would provide the opportunity to remove lesser used material thus freeing space in the Reid Library building to be re-purposed as contemporary learning spaces.

The Library conducted in June 2007 a survey of all libraries to determine the type of clients that use each library and the most critical issues including collaborative and social spaces associated with the services and facilities offered by each library. The survey will be run on a regular basis to identify changing needs of the Library’s users.

2. Work with the Director of Facilities Management to investigate storage options including the feasibility of a State joint storage facility

These storage options were explored; the conclusion was that there was no overall benefit to be gained by a joint approach. The Facilities Development Committee, however, approved a study on the feasibility of a joint archives and records/library store at Shenton Park. This promises to provide a cost-effective solution. Should this project be approved it would relieve pressure on library space, provide an appropriate environment for the retention of the University’s printed books and journals, and provide opportunities for the creative use of the libraries as learning spaces.

3. Improve the environment of the Scholars’ Centre to meet the needs of users for flexible access to all systems and services

A paper has been written outlining the requirements for the refurbishment and development of the Scholars’ Centre. Some elements of this will be undertaken in 2008. The programme will be completed once resources are available and the ground floor of the Reid Library has been remodelled.

4. Consider the Scholars’ Centre as a model for the provision of intensive library support in other subject libraries

Following careful consideration it was decided that the model of the Scholars’ Centre was not the best way of meeting the needs of postgraduate researchers in disciplines other than the humanities and social sciences. Nonetheless particular attention is being given to how meet
these needs. The top floor of the new Science Library will have a space which can be dedicated for use by postgraduates, visiting researchers and staff.

5. Where possible, integrate subject Libraries with the main library maintaining a high level of support for users through strategies such as locating staff and consultancy services with users and improved delivery options

The Mathematics and Physical Science Library, the Undergraduate Physical Sciences Library, the Biological Sciences Library and the map, psychology and geology collections will all be amalgamated in the new Science Library building. This will greatly enhance the range, availability and quality of the information services which will be provided to the UWA science community.

In 2007 discussions took place with the School of Music on the possibility of moving the Wigmore Library into the ground floor of the Reid Library building in 2009. Following consideration of the proposal the School took the view that the convenience of the close location of the Library outweighed the advantages of moving.

6. Pursue the possibility for greater integration in the provision of related student support services within the Library such as IT, learning, language and research skills and information services

The last year has seen growing collaboration between the Library and Student Services. The Language and Learning Resources Skills Unit has held an increasing number of sessions in the libraries. The next opportunity for making significant advances in the integration of student information support services (other than the Student Services ‘One-Stop Shop’ will be the new Science Library and the freeing-up of the space in the ground floor of the Reid Library building. It is anticipated that later in 2008 a joint proposal between Student Services, ITS and the Library will be presented.

| The Library as Virtual Space |

7. Strengthen connections between the Library and Teaching and Learning communities at the School and Faculty level to further the Library’s involvement in teaching and learning initiatives

Since the review Deans have been approached with a view to ensuring that members of the Library staff are closely involved in faculty teaching and learning activities. This approach has been welcomed, and as a result all faculties, with the exception of Education, now have library staff on their Teaching and Learning committees.

8. Work with ITS, Research Services, Graduate Research School, Teaching & Learning and other stakeholders to develop a university-wide strategy for the management of digital assets

The management of digital assets has arisen in the context of several projects in which the Library has been an active partner: the TRIM roll-out pilot project (for archives and records), the Postgraduate Online Scholarly Literacy Project (for learning objects), the RQF research repository (for research outputs), and the Information Management Review. The Library’s strategic plan for 2008-2010 has as one of its objectives to ‘engage in discussions of research data management policy and to make the Library’s skills in information management available in support of the University’s e-Research activity’.

9. Investigate early implementation of a Library Portal as a pilot for the proposed University-wide portal
This pilot was investigated, agreed, funded, and will be implemented in April 2008.

10. Create spaces in the virtual environment that reflect changing patterns of social interaction amongst different user groups to advance research and learning (e.g. mobile devices, blogs, shared user spaces, instant messenger, RSS feeds)

An internal team investigated this area closely and its report made a number of detailed proposals. A number of these will be taken up as part of the Library’s 2008 operational plan. Fourteen librarians attended a course on e-learning run by the Graduate School of Education in the use of web 2.0 to enhance learning, with the aim of increasing staff familiarity with these tools, and with ensuring that their use is pedagogically appropriate.

11. Build on IRIS by developing a similar program of similar skills development for postgraduate (coursework and research) students

TLPF funding was allocated to the Postgraduate Online Scholarly Literacy Project (POSL). This project is being undertaken jointly with the Graduate Research School, and is scheduled for completion in May 2008.

12. Explore the possibility of greater virtual integration in the provision of student support services including IT, learning language and research skills and information services

The portal project is seen as the vehicle which will enable the greater integration of these support services.

People and Relationships

13. There is a pressing need for a mechanism to coordinate the development and implementation of information management policy and practice across the University as a whole

During 2007 the Information Management Board was established, with its two sub-committees, the Information Services Programme Committee and the Technical Coordination Group. The role of this Board is to coordinate information management policy across the University.

14. Review the Library’s policies and practices in the light of revised Indigenous Protocols

This was completed and a report produced. The Library's policies and practices are in line with the protocols.

Processes

15. The Library should be granted an increased share of the University’s budget

This was achieved in the 2007 budget, though not in the 2008 budget.

16. Take steps to ensure sufficient flexibility in resource allocation to enable the exploration and development of initiatives outside approved operational priorities
The Library’s operational priorities were severely constrained in 2007 by the need to divert major IT resources to the portal project and by IT staff losses. As a result there was no scope to undertake initiatives outside the approved priorities. Once these constraints are eased it is hoped to be possible to introduce some degree of flexibility.

17. The Library should take steps to ensure the balance and comprehensiveness of the University’s collections

Library staff members are reviewing the collections with a view to identifying gaps and areas of relative weakness. It is intended to set aside information resources funds in 2008 in order to address any gaps which are identified.

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