

Library Committee

16. Matters Arising

16.1. Arising from minute 4.5, the Pro-Vice-Provost provided the following updates:

Support for increased digital resources

- a. Departmental statistics on ReadingLists@UCL coverage as at December 2019 were included in the Pro-Vice-

- c. The decision to create an institutional policy for UCL had first been made by the Bibliometrics Working Group in 2015 following UCL's signing, like many Russell Group institutions, of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). DORA discouraged certain approaches to research evaluation and accordingly the Bibliometrics Policy was intended to set a new baseline for a progressive change in the way in which the global research community assessed quality and content of research.
- 17.2. Mr Andrew Gray, Bibliometrics Support Officer, was invited to outline the process of consultation and drafting involved in producing the UCL Bibliometrics Policy. The following points were made:
- a. The process of drafting began in 2016 with versions then taken to consultation in 2018, firstly with the Provost and Provost's Senior Management Team (SMT) resulting in approval in broad principle. Throughout 2018, informal consultation with external and internal advisors took place to seek expert feedback on metrics and the principles of the policy. A Town Hall meeting took place at the end of 2018 at which the policy was introduced to the wider UCL academic community, feedback from which was used to revise the policy before further consultation took place engaging more than half of UCL's departments.
 - b. Following further revisions to the policy, a broader, cross-UCL consultation took place over the summer of 2019 reaching 100-150 academics, which had provided broad support for the policy and highlighted some areas of contention, among them:
 - i. The approach to journal-based metrics. This prompted a move in the policy from full discouragement of using journal-based metrics, which in practice was considered unworkable, to a more balanced approach where reasons for the use of journal-based metrics were acknowledged yet their use as a primary metric was discouraged.
 - ii. The recommendation to use, wherever possible, data from the institutional repository, Research Publications Service (RPS). This was felt to be unworkable due to a lack of confidence in the proportion of up-to-date records held in the system. It was noted that confidence in the integrity of RPS data was growing, however, as it was being used in the REF selection process.
 - c. The policy had been carefully framed to ensure its wider relevance, regardless of whether academics considered themselves to be actively engaged with Open Science or not, without imposing the use of metrics on anyone not currently choosing to use them.
 - d. The Pro-Vice-Provost added that the policy, if approved, was intended to support a gradual culture change and that there would be training provided for early career researchers. There was a possibility

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provided via ReadingLists@UCL. It was noted that the Library had recently appointed a library skills trainer to address the training and facilitator role of Library staff. The Director of Services (UCL Library Services) planned to bring a paper on Library Skills to the next meeting of LC.

19. Internal audit of Library Services by KPMG (2-04)

- 19.1. LC received the terms of reference for an internal audit by KPMG of UCL Library Services and the Library Services Strategy 2019-22. It was agreed to postpone discussion of this item until the outcome report could be brought to LC.

20. Confidential: Federal University of London working group on future federal strategy (2-05)

- 20.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
20.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

21. Analysis of the usage of Senate House Library (2-06)

- 21.1. The Director of Services (UCL Library Services) presented the report on UCL's usage of the Senate House Library (SHL) over the period 2012-13 to 2018-19. The report provided details of SHL's operating subscription model and cost increases, providing some context to UCL's usage, which was at an overall reduced level on previous years with the number of UCL visits having dropped by 14% since 2012/13. The report showed that UCL had paid around 26% of the overall SHL operating budget in 2019-20.
- 21.2. During discussion, there was a question as to whether the value of learning spaces and collections held at the SHL to UCL students was in line with current costs to UCL, which were met centrally. The working principle was that both continued to be of importance, particularly for students and researchers in the Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences. Value for money and service provision in the context of 21st century research libraries were however, suggested as factors that ought to be considered. LC was reminded that study space at SHL was not provided on the same basis as in the UCL Student

