

DARWIN COLLEGE

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Library Committee was held in 1 Newnham Terrace at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 20th June 2012

There were present Margaret Cone (Fellow Librarian), Espen Koht (Computer Officer), Elisabeth Leedham-Green (College Archivist), Christopher Cullen, Daniel Jew, Akin Ali (DCSA representative)

1. Apologies had been received from Martina Kulvalja (Student Librarian) and Mark Curran (Munby Fellow).

2. There were no declarations of interest.

3. The Minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were approved.

Matters arising:

after consultation with the DCSA, Akin Ali volunteered to represent them on the committee; he was warmly welcomed at this, his first meeting;

MC reported that good-looking shelving had been installed below the David Blackburn painting, for which we are very grateful to the Clerk of Works and his team;

that the Finley Room is now kept locked, and a key has to be signed for in the Porter's Lodge;

that a print-out of the Astronomy and Zoology sections had been given to the appropriate Fellows, so far with no response;

4. The Archivist reported:

that two 'print-storage' racks have arrived in College, but are not yet in the Archive rooms;

on the accessions of photographs: — from the Alumni Office: May Ball portraits, 2000, which had not been collected; and from the DCSA office: May Ball survivors 1988 – 2008, and May Ball Committee 2004 and 2008;

on the continuing processing of files, mostly recently those on The Hermitage and Newnham Grange;

on two visits paid to John Partridge (the surviving partner of the firm HKPA who designed the Hall and the Rayne Building), who presented a copy of the book on the firm and also lent his Darwin files, enabling the Archivist to photograph items either missing from the Darwin files or reduced to illegibility;

on the possibility of obtaining extra (free) shelving from Homerton;

DJ thanked the Archivist for a splendid display of items relating to Moses Finley at the Finley conference in May;

5. The Chairman presented the report from the Student Librarian:

Purchases and Requests

22 books recommended by Library Committee members and graduate members had been purchased from CUP; the current balance is £2001;

As usual, books and DVDs have been purchased through Amazon. The latest 3 gift certificates were for £65.64, £64.64 and £1.09;

All appropriate requests have been ordered and catalogued, and members thanked;

DVD Library

There are now 111 members of the DVD Library;

the on-line DVD system is working well;

Vesalius

Average temperature 22°C and humidity 45%

The pages were turned regularly;

Use of the Study Centre

use of the Study Centre has declined recently (as MPhil students leave Cambridge) occasionally still non-members had been using the Study Centre. Anyone unfamiliar is challenged, and asked to show the Study Centre card they used to enter;

the new Finley Room system has been working very well;

Re-classification and re-cataloguing of books

the Student Librarian has continued reclassifying using the Dewey Decimal System; so far, the Philosophy, Religion, and Social and Natural Sciences sections have been reclassified;

Other

the following collections had been placed on the new shelves: Members' Collection, Cambridge History Collection, Children's Collection and New Books section; the bar-code reader had been replaced by EK, and was working normally; check-out forms had been printed in case the check-out computer was not working at any time; the Student Librarian will be away from Cambridge for 5 weeks (required annual holiday) in August, returning on 5th September; she is looking to find a Deputy Librarian, to supervise the Study Centre during that time;

6. CUP Purchases

Only two members of the committee had suggested books from CUP, which had been purchased. MC urged everyone to have a look at the catalogue, and make suggestions;

7. Library Assistant

MC, EL-G and MK had interviewed Rachel Walker, a trainee librarian currently working in St John's College library. She has now been offered temporary work reclassifying our collection for about 2 months in the summer. Final arrangements have yet to be made.

8. Library on web-pages

MC reported she had asked the web-master to increase the visibility of the Library on the front page, and of the Amazon link on the Library page. She had provided pdf files of the committee Minutes for the last few years. The members of the Committee were asked again to look at the College web-pages, and to give their opinion on the Library pages and how they could be improved.

9. Any Other Business

the usual interest in gaining use of the old Archives Room was expressed;
The Committee expressed their thanks to Mark Curran (unfortunately in his absence) for his interest and attendance during his year as Munby Fellow, and wished him well in his new post (and his new role as father);
as always, the Committee was aware of the hard work done by the Student Librarian and the Computer Officer;

The next meeting would be 24th October 2012.