

DARWIN COLLEGE



Library Committee

A meeting of the committee was held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 28 October 2009.

There were present Margaret Cone (Chairman), Espen Koht (Computer Officer), Alice Hall (Student Librarian), Michael Scott, Hilary Powell, David Adams, Emma Goodby and Elisabeth Leedham-Green (acting secretary).

1. **Apologies** were received from Christopher Cullen.
 - 1a. There were no declarations of interest.
2. The **minutes** of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were approved. MC told of a fresh approach from William Pryor concerning elector.co.uk. The committee agreed that Amazon remained the preferred site, giving adequate returns to buy books and DVDs.
3. It was reported with pleasure that Alice Hall had been re-appointed as Student Librarian from October until, we hope, Lindsey Friedman returns from Japan in the Spring and takes over.
4. EL-G reported that the college had entered into a contract with SafeBox for the out-storage of non-current files, initially student files and, probably, bursarial files. This would have little impact on the archives held in the Study Centre, where the chief problem was the continuing lack of work-space, making it almost impossible to sort and to weed files.
5. The student librarian reported on
 - purchases, requests and donations — The Amazon gift-certificate scheme was working very well;
 - the DVD library — DVDs held by the Darwin Film Club had been added to the collection in the Study Centre;
 - the return of the Vesalius and the Spigelius from the University Library where they had been consulted by Professor David Williams;
 - the use of the Study Centre;
 - the termly 'spring clean'
 - the information given to new students
 - the summer stock check, with a list of numbers of missing books over the last 5 years

There was discussion about how to reduce the number of books not returned. Suggestions included a well-publicised amnesty; sending more reminders; fining those who kept books more than a year; and investigating a more rigorous

security system. There was a further proposal, for a monthly contribution of news from the Library on Whatsup, which could include encouragement to members to return books. MS reported that he had found cases in the Finley collection not securely fastened. The cases should be checked.

6. MC reported that the College had made a donation of £250 to ebooks@cambridge. The existence of and details about this scheme should also be advertised on Whatsup.

7. MC introduced a discussion on a review of the Library's stock, and whether there should be an agreed purchase policy, and if so, how that should be arrived at. There were several differing opinions, but it was agreed that MC should produce a list of questions to consider, to which members of the committee could respond. These questions would concern fairly immediate matters, eg whether to weed out some books, checking the quality and relevance of our holdings in particular fields, and making best use of our account with CUP, and long-term proposals on recataloguing and security. It would be desirable to seek responses also from the Fellowship and the Graduate members.

8. There was no other business.
The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 January 2010