Library Building Developments

A programme of development and renovation is underway throughout many LLC sites. The overall aims are to increase access & security, enhance the number and quality of study facilities, ensure optimum space utilisation and library staffing efficiency. These changes include the relocation of the Law Library to the Main Library, the relocation of Ninewells Library within the new Medical School development, the renovation of the ground floor of the Main Library and potential changes to the Matthew DJCAD & Architecture Library.

The relocation of the Law Library to Main Library, and redevelopment of the top floor space, is largely complete. New collaborative and silent study places are in use, and the Law Librarian office and Law Library presentation room are now operational. Guidance is available for the use of the presentation room and the operation of the presentation facilities. Minor work continues in the Law Library area to complete power outlets, acoustic shielding and cosmetic work.

The Ninewells Library is undergoing a renovation and relocation as part of the Medical School development project. From February the Ninewells Library will be located on two floors, within the extended Medical School building. IT and Library resources will be in shared space, ensuring the development of an active learning environment, with Library staff and additional facilities available within the new space. Some storage facilities remain in their present location and can be accessed by contacting the Ninewells Library staff. Arrangements for staff and student access to the Library and IT space during unstaffed hours are presently being investigated.

The original ground floor of the Main Library is scheduled for a major refurbishment and redesign, with the bulk of the building work required to be completed during the summer period of 2013. Funding for this work is approved with the University capital plans, and it will bring additional space into student use by repurposing the conservation suite, the old entrance, existing staff rooms and book and special collection storage space. Consultation with students on the design and features of this new learning environment will continue, and any individuals or groups who wish to be involved are encouraged to contact Richard Parsons or Chris Backler. The central purpose of the Main Library...
building is to support an active student learning environment with comprehensive facilities for silent and collaborative study. The refurbishment will enable us to create up to 300 additional study places, taking the overall capacity of the building to 1700. It will be important to maintain the variety of study spaces and diverse facilities that students require, as well as ensuring flexibility for future expectations, wherever possible.

Opening hours have been further extended in the Main Library (now open to 2:30 am, 7 days a week during semesters), and the Main Library continues to see increases in occupancy. In recent years study places have increased from about 1000 to about 1300 at present. Students have expressed concerns on the number of study places available at busy exam and study periods in November/December and March/April in the current academic year. The University has responded to ensure that range of additional facilities are available to meet these peaks in demand and the details of this response are attached in an appendix to this document.

The Library in the Matthew Building, supporting DJCAD and Architecture, is being considered for renovation and change in the next few years. The management of DJCAD has a proposal to consider relocating the Matthew Library from Level 4 to Level 5, where the Library would be combined with learning spaces, IT facilities, tutorial rooms and possible catering provision. A substantial amount of the physical book and journal stock may be relocated to another location within DJCAD. These resources would likely be accessible to staff and students by an access control system, and the storeroom may be unstaffed. It is acknowledged that there is a need for discussion and consultation on the opportunities available.

Unconventional Student Enrolments

The LLC recognises the importance of agility within our academic programmes, but recently we have received requests for access to libraries or resources, or changes to services for which we have had little or no notice.

Unconventional Student Enrolments

We request advanced notification of new articulation agreements (local, national or international). Access to the University Libraries is normally restricted to current students, staff and subscribed individuals, and collaborative agreements with other Universities. Similarly we face restrictions on the licenses for eBooks, journals and online resources that require users to be matriculated students or staff. While we can explore extensions to these agreements, they generally require additional funds to be paid, and must be built into the business model for new courses with novel or flexible access arrangements.

Annual Planning Cycle

The LLC will welcome communication with Schools and Colleges on the development of existing and new services, to align with School development plans. The LLC will engage with the University planning process throughout November, December and January. This year the LLC will not produce an annual report due to the prioritisation of the building renovation work, and a range of additional projects. Our current priorities for new developmental work are 1. Video processing, management and storage, 2. Blackboard Mobile Central evaluation and potential deployment, 3. Evaluation, selection and deployment of reading list management software and 4. Participation in University-wide access control development to ensure secure automated entrance to the Main Library.
eLearning Opportunities and Developments

Blackboard Mobile Central

A range of senior University colleagues were invited to presentation on Blackboard Mobile Central provision. A significant number of UK Universities are investing in this technology to ensure that students and prospective students are receiving a high level of online and mobile support from the University. Dundee currently licenses and utilises Blackboard Mobile Learn to ensure that My Dundee can be accessed and used from android, Blackberry and iOS mobile devices. We no longer have current support for mobile applications such as campus maps, open days, mobile Library, news, sports, student services, timetabling and course information.

The demonstration from Blackboard was highly regarded by academic and service representatives, and there was a general recommendation for the LLC to proceed with preparing a proposal on the options available and the associated timescale and costs. Both the LLC and Student Services would recognise immediate benefits, and appropriate involvement from the Colleges and student representatives will ensure such a system will meet the requirements of the students. In these times, it may be important not to underestimate the influence of such a system on student recruitment.

Web Conferencing – Adobe Connect.

The LLC is aware of significant existing demand for the Adobe Connect system to continue to support web conferencing between staff and students on a number of courses. This system requires a software, and potential hardware, upgrade and the LLC and ICS are looking into the costs and timetable for this work. It is also recognised that it may be appropriate to move the system to a hosted environment, and to expand the license to 100 concurrent users. We are examining the costs and practicalities of making this change. In addition a new service is shortly to be available as Microsoft Lync, which offers instant messaging and web conferencing. This system will be available to students and staff using the Windows 7 University operating environment. It is appropriate to appraise this system as a potential alternative to Adobe Connect, and the LLC will report back to the eLearning Subcommittee as soon as this appraisal can be made.
Exam Online

The demand for online assessment continues to rise incrementally across the University and this semester has seen a noticeable increase in requests to run online tests/examinations. Scope now exists to develop online testing beyond multiple choice questions and to work with short answer and extended prose, essay-style questions. This approach has been piloted with a number of Schools, using Intelligent Assessment’s ExamOnline software, which has been favourably received by staff and students. Feedback from the pilots is being used to develop internal procedures and some feedback has been acted upon by the vendor to further enhance the technology. Use of the system is now being extended (on a managed basis) across the institution with a small number of programmes. A full report on the pilots, current activity, staff and student feedback and future plans for the tool will be prepared for the eLearning sub-committee at the end of this academic year.

Question Mark Perception (QMP)

A roadmap for the upgrade of QMP has been established with ICS for the coming year. LLC are currently in the technical testing phase which we aim to have completed by the end of January 2013. If this initial phase of testing proves successful, the next stage will be a roll-out with a specific group of academic users for further usability testing at the local level. Colleagues will have the opportunity to request involvement with this stage of usability testing through their representatives on the eLearning sub-committee. Following successful feedback on each phase of testing a full release on production of the upgraded system will be made available, potentially in May 2013. At this point a further installation qualification will be made to confirm full functionality. We continue to liaise with the eLearning sub-committee with regard to usability testing and the timing of release on full production with respect to peak exam periods.
Enhanced Study Facilities

Following a student consultation exercise on improving Library facilities, the Main Library will be extending opening hours on Friday and Saturday nights from Friday 16th November. The building will close at 2.30am (instead of 10pm). This represents a permanent change to semester opening hours and is a direct response to student comment and feedback.

There will also be additional study space made available within the LLC buildings as follows:-

**Main Library**
Fairlie Room (Zone 2A) will be made available for general study purposes throughout the exam periods in November/December and again in April/May. This room has seating for 25 people.

Watson-Watt Room (Zone 1A) will be made available for general study purposes throughout the exam periods in November/December and again in April/May. This room has 15 PCs available.

Both these rooms will be available throughout Main Library opening hours.

**DoJ Library, Matthew Building**
The DoJ Library in the Matthew Building has now extended its opening hours to 8.45am to 9pm, Monday-Thursday (previously closing at 7.30pm). Friday 8.45am–5pm and Saturday 12pm–5pm remain unchanged.

It should also be noted that the Matthew/Crawford Buildings are generally open 8am to 9pm Monday to Friday.

In addition, and to alleviate student concerns that there may be pressure on study space in the Main Library building during exam times until the refurbishment of the ground floor in Summer 2013, the University has agreed to the following:-

**Scrymgeour Building**
Level 3 mezzanine area and adjacent rooms (including a 14 PC IT Suite) will be opened on Monday 5th November for general study purposes. This arrangement will remain in place until summer 2013. The opening hours will be Monday-Friday, 8am–7pm. Access to the above space is from level 3 stairwell. There is also lift access to this space.

**Tower IT Suites**
A total of 241 PCs in the Tower Basement IT Suites will be open 9am to 9pm, 7 days a week during exam periods (but may be subject to bookings at certain times).

**Dalhousie Building**
The IT Suites in the Dalhousie Building will be open 8am to 9pm Monday to Friday during exam diets (but may be subject to bookings at certain times).

*PC availability for all these facilities can be checked on the plasma screens in the Main Library building.*

This extra provision will be in place until summer 2013.

Dr Richard Parsons
Director – Library and Learning Centre