

Map Collection Users' Group

www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collection/maps/

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 5th April 2006

1. Attendance

Brian Finlayson (SAGES, chair), Patrick Blanchard (Info. Div. Client Relations), Belinda Nemec (Info. Div. Cultural Collections), Peta Humphreys (Info. Div.), David Jones (Map Collection), Bernie Joyce (Earth Sciences), Chandra Jayasuriya, (SAGES), Jane Elith (Botony), John Cain (Info. Div.) Amy Hahs (Botony), Tony Sagona (Classics and Archaeology), Michael Piggott (Info. Div. Special Collections), Andrew Saniga (Archi.) Sidh Sintusingha (Archi.), Katherine Phelan (Archi.) Joseph Leach (Geomatics), Mark Burgman (Botony).

2. Apologies

Richard Pennell, Louise Hitchcock.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted.

4. Business Arising from the minutes

- David reported that the Maps historical images online would be integrated in the University Info.Div. Digitool project. This interface is intended to be the future digital repository for Map Collection Images replacing the current outdated interface. At the current time this project is in the later stages of development with many Walker Collection Maps of Asia Minor now working on the system. At the conclusion of the meeting Terry Brennan will be demonstrating the new system.
- Patrick Blanchard was introduced as one of the five Client Relationship Managers for Information Services. The role of the Client Relationship Manager being to liaise with faculties and academic staff assessing wants and needs against current levels of service in the Information Division. Patrick explained in detail the role of these new positions in the University, and the way that the university had been divided between the five CRM individuals in regards to allocated areas of responsibility.
- Belinda Nemec was introduced as the Cultural Collections Officer of the thirty Cultural Collections of which the Map Collection historic section of 15,000 original maps is a part of. Belinda provides direction and assistance with the management of the University's many cultural collections including storage minimum standards, collection management, and promotion including publications and exhibitions.
The Significance Assessment of the Maps Collection Cultural Collection was completed in 2005 by Ned Brooks as apart of his vocational studies. It was requested by MCUG members that this report be made available and David Jones agreed do so online. The report is now available from the Historic Maps page from the Map Collection Web site.

5. Business Arising

- *Review of Staffing and Services provided by the Map Collection*

Current situation in Maps:

In 2006 the Map Collection staffing positions and services are currently under review as a part of Information Services's current realignment within the University. All staff positions, services and collections are a part of this review.

Since the beginning of 2004 David Jones has been the Acting Map Curator in the Map Collection while John Cain the continuing Map Curator was on secondment to elsewhere in

Information Services. While David Jones was Acting Curator during 2004/2005 Brendan Whyte was employed on a casual basis as Maps Assistant.

At the end of 2005 John Cain accepted an ongoing position in the Projects and Planning Services.

In November 2005 Brendan Whyte took up a position at the University of Jerusalem for 12 months. Since then there has been no fulltime assistant in the Map Collection including first semester 2006.

Roy Kennaugh a staff member at the Engineering Library continues to provide basic assistance to users and complete collection management work in the Map Collection one afternoon a week, as he has done since 2004.

March 2006, at the request of Sally-Anne Leigh, Director IES, Peta Humphreys (Team Leader Physical Science Libraries) and Michael Piggot, Manager Cultural Collections, met to discuss management options for the Maps Collection. David Jones and Belinda Nemec were also present at the meeting. Subsequently a report outlining 4 options was written and sent to Sally-Anne. This report is still under consideration.

Group discussion

- many subjects and classes are heavy users of the Map Collection requiring a wide variety of in-depth material,
- digital mapping is a necessary resource for many subjects for many Urban Design subjects, (90% of all digital data requests are from Archi, Build & Plan. Students)
- what would happen to the Map Collection for teaching and learning?,
- who would be the point of contact?,
- what level of assistance?,
- would not like to see the collection broken up as it would be difficult and time-consuming to bring resources together,
- what are the implications of change due to current review of Map Collection?,
- concerned about current long waits for material. (concern about email complaints received from students Semester 1, 2006)
- concerned about current backlog of collection management work,
- concerned about possible decline in staffing and advanced services provided to students and staff.

Concerns of MCUG

- staffing levels and level of future service,
- current vacancy of Maps Assistant position,
- previous lack of consultation with MCUG stockholders group of review,
- how should the group get involved with the current review?

Action

MCUG to write to Sally-Anne and CC letter to Patrick.

Letter includes:

- request for information regarding proposals the future of the Map Collection,
- the wish to be included in discussions,
- wish for previous staffing levels of two full-time staff members to be maintained,
- list of services most valuable to MCUG members and university teaching and research staff.

7. Map Collection Report [David Jones]

- 2006 Budget – The 2006 Maps budget has been 1/3 committed this year. Please send any teaching support requests for second semester or next year to David.
- Cultural Collections – The Map Collection has secured two grants for some limited conservation work to be done on rare items of significance. The Lloyd Collection of English county maps and an Arrowsmith map of the south eastern quarter of Australia.
- David has agreed to make the Significance Survey report of the Cultural Collection available online for viewing. This is now accessible via the Map Collection web site.
- David has begun inquiries with the Dept. Sustainability & Environment requesting that digital map data be loaded onto a University of Melbourne server for students to access. Discussions moving slowly at this early stage.

8. Departmental Map Needs (standing item).

Joseph Leach requested inquiries be made on the availability of the Hydrographical survey charts produced by the Hydrographic office of the Australian Navy. David agreed to do this.

9. Other Business

Next MCUG meeting is to be arranged by David Jones when more has been decided about the Map Collection review.

10. Close of Meeting.