

Minutes of meeting on 9th June 2006

1. Attendance

Richard Pennell (History, chair), Sally-Anne Leigh (Info. & Educ. Services, Info. Div.), Nikki MacLaurin Smith (Director, Info. Management), Peta Humphreys (Physical Sciences, Info. Div.), Chandra Jayasuriya, (SAGES), Brian Finlayson (SAGES) Bernie Joyce (Earth Sciences), David Jones (Map Collection), Belinda Nemec (Info. Div. Cultural Collections), Patrick Blanchard (Info. Services), John Cain (Info. Div.) Amy Hahs (Botony), Tony Sagona (Classics and Archaeology), Sidh Sintusingha (Archi.), Katherine Phelan (Archi.), Dorothy Precsott (first Map Collection Curator), Victor Prescott (Friends Baillieu Library, chair), Brendan Wintle (Env. Sci./Botony).

2. Apologies

Dr. Louise Hitchcock.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were accepted.

4. Business arising from the minutes

- Richard Pennell acknowledged Brian Finlayson's role in the last meeting and in arranging an extraordinary MCUG meeting with Information Services executive staff to discuss concerns for the future position of the Map Collection in the University.

5. Open discussion

- Dorothy Prescott opened discussion with a short description of Map Collection which was established in the library, 1964. Because it has always been a University wide collection servicing maps dept. and faculties it has become the best maintained, reputable, and used academic Map Collection in Australia.
- Testimonials – David Jones
 - World Vision Australia sent representative to Map Collection the week before the meeting to discuss map storage and use with Maps staff.
 - University of Auckland to fly over staff member to discuss with Map Collection staff issues of University support of spatial GIS data week following current meeting.
 - SBS Australia called Map Collection seeking expert advice and information.
- Testimonials – Richard Pennell.
Digitalisation of Walker Collection of Middle Asia and online collection of maps has gained the Map Collection major international recognition from other universities including Turkish and California.
- Sally-Anne Leigh – distributed excerpt from the Ken Fisher Report and the Information Divisions Learning Hubs developments. Ass. Prof. Peter Jamieson employed by Melbourne University to implement relevant portions of Ken Fisher plan.
- Nikki MacLaurin Smith – Libraries committee
 - Acknowledged better communication with student and staff bodies necessary.
 - Libraries committee forums/meetings in July will include chairs of all the Library User Committees.
- Sally-Anne Leigh -
 - Iterated current issue of a static or declining budget
 - University Admin (including Information Services) 10% of total budget, lowest of G08
 - 10% cut in operational budget for 2006
 - no decisions have been made regarding the Map Collection
 - expressed wish to discuss issues and concerns regarding the Map Collection.
- Richard/Brian – User requirements
 - Need for expert map curator/librarian increasing
 - Role of the Map Collection expanding
 - Many enthusiastic users of the Map Collection from many faculties with individual specialized needs.
- Sally-Anne Leigh -

- No indications to her that staffing levels are not adequate
- All position are currently reviewed when they become vacant
 - What do we need?
 - What sort of skills/experience?
 - Fit the needs of the users to position requirements
 - Role of the position
 - Sufficient funding allowing appropriate staffing?
 - Future directions and requirements
 - Digital impact of map use and supply
 - Expanding user group
- No question that the Map Collection will broken up. Not an option.

User requirements

- Amy Hahs (Botany) -
Map users have many diverse requirements requiring specialist resource experts.
 - Historical,
 - Geological,
 - Board of Works series,
 - Aerial photography,
 - Planning schemes,
 - Data sources and alternatives,
 - Integrity and clarification advice.
- Bernie Joyce (Earth Sciences) –
 - Earth Sciences uses the full range of resources including book, flat maps, and digital.
- Katherine Phelan (Architecture) -
 - A recent research grant of 5 million dollars includes the necessity to access resources and advice from the Map Collection.
- Staffing -
 - Librarian with a geography or history background
 - Technical skills. GIS data and map reading skills extremely important
 - Understanding of cartography

Conclusion

Sally-Anne Leigh :-

- Will gather required information
- Communicate back to MCUG group with proposal within 4 weeks
- Will need help in writing position description
- Maps Assistant position to be discussed further

6. Next Meeting

Friday 14th July 06

7. Close of Meeting.