

Map Collection Users' Group Meeting

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

Minutes of meeting on 15th September 2006

1. Attendance

Richard Pennell (History, chair), Sally-Anne Leigh (Info. & Educ. Services, Info. Div.), Peta Humphreys (Physical Sciences, Info. Div.), Chandra Jayasuriya, (SAGES), David Jones (Map Collection), Patrick Blanchard (Info. Services), Amy Hahs (Botany), Katherine Phelan (Archi.), Dr. Louise Hitchcock (Classics and Archaeology).

2. Apologies

Brian Finlayson, Bernie Joyce, Belinda Nemeč, John Cain, Reg Wyatt, Joe Leach, Andrew Sagona, Nigel Flanigan.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

- Corrections: In reference to the statement that no decisions have been made regarding the Map Collection, it should be added that also no discussions were held about this issue.

4. Business arising from the minutes - Open discussion

- Sally-Anne Leigh -
 - David & Peta have put together a report about collections and services.
 - The maps collection will be retained as a unit.
 - The intention is for the collection to remain at the ERC, but this is difficult to predict.
 - It is planned in the future to have a full time Maps Curator plus Assistants. This would represent a staffing level of approximately 2.5 people in Maps
 - It is important to consider the level of staffing in light of the new curriculum.
 - A full time Maps Curator position is to be advertised last week of November/first week of December.
Action: Sally-Anne will send Richard the framework for a HEW 6 or HEW 7 position.
 - The framework for a position description for the position currently exists, but work will need to be done for a specific P.D
 - Possible inclusions in P.D.: Higher education or equivalent; IT Skills cartography/geography/history background; library skills.
 - A major task of the successful applicant would be to provide expert advice to other parts of the University.
 - Kath Phelan, Brian Finlayson and Amy Hahs will work with Peta to develop a P.D.
 - A representative from MCUG will be invited to sit on the selection panel.
 - The ERC is to be open for longer periods in 2007.
 - Future issues which should be considered:
 - Increased resources of digital material.
 - Increase demand of accessing material digitally.
 - More and more material being digitised and publicly available.
 - Spatial data that is specifically licensed to the University of Melbourne – not for public use.
 - Future material available via wireless networks on university servers.
 - It is relevant to note that these trends are especially popular amongst the student users. Academics and senior researchers will always request hard copy flat maps due limitations of monitor screen size and quality issues.

5. Library Collection Planning Policy

- Current policy is from 1998 and needs to be updated.
- Need to set directions.
- Need to outline collection strengths.
- Needs to outline how collected data is to be sustained, managed, stored and used.
- **Action: It was agreed that David and Peta will update the existing policy document and circulate it for comments. Aim to be ready for presentation at the Libraries Committee Meeting on 11/12/06.**

6. Report from David Jones

- Visited Urban Planning Section of Melbourne City Council to enquire whether we can obtain their data. Before this data can be made available to students it needs a.) an appropriate license agreement to be drawn up and signed between University of Melbourne and the City of Melbourne; and b.) appropriate software or some other IT solution to make it easy for students and others to access and interpret the data.
- Aerial Photography
 - Used by SAGES, Botany etc.
 - Ordered 2006 aerial photographs of Melbourne and Victoria from the Department of Sustainability.
 - Will be visiting QascoPhoto (aerial photography company) next week to purchase material. Any requests should be addressed to David including what scale is required.
- Landsat 7 satellite photography recently purchased. Also digital 1:500 000 Tactical Pilotage Charts. Non complete coverage of the world due to individual countries restrictions.
- Need an Information Management Policy to address issues on storage, backup and access. Data should not be stored locally but at the University server in the data centre.

- Need for expert map curator/librarian increasing with role of the Map Collection expanding to digital spatial data and imagery.
- Many enthusiastic users of the Map Collection from many faculties with individual needs require a specialized service not obtainable elsewhere in the university.

7. Close of Meeting.