FACULTY OF MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES
UCL Library Services Bulletin
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Library MAPS Team contacts

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http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/blog/maps/

1. Book funds

The total of this year's book funds for MAPS is £40,783.30, of which 61% is already committed. Please keep sending reading lists and book requests to your subject librarian.

2. UKRR

UCL has recently joined the UK Research Reserve (http://www.ukrr.ac.uk/), an initiative aimed at releasing much-needed shelf space by sharing responsibility nationally for storing and preserving a number of print copies of research journals. HEFCE has made £10 million available to support the current five-year programme, which is led by Imperial and involves 29 HEIs (including 17 members of the Russell Group), along with the British Library.

For each title, the BL will hold one copy, and responsibility for retaining the 2nd and 3rd back-up copies will be distributed amongst the other participants. This will be a formal undertaking. It will then be possible to dispose of copies held elsewhere. The costs involved will be met from the HEFCE funding.

Preliminary estimates indicate that we will be able to discard up to 6,000 print titles from our offsite store, releasing 8 km – equivalent to around three years' growth – of shelf space. This is a high priority as the Wickford Store will be at capacity in less than three years at present rates of growth. Unwanted runs of journals from other UCL Library Services sites can also be included.

We are currently focusing on lists for disposal of print titles where we also have electronic access (and where a back-up copy of the e-version is held by an independent trusted third party) – this means that staff and students at UCL will continue to have ready access to the content.

(from Diana Mercer, Group Manager, Bibliographic Services)

3. Research publications service

Library Services is participating in the project to introduce a new Research Publications Service in place of the current OnCite system. The new service will provide easier ways of entering research publications, including automated loading from PubMed and Web of Science as well as manual and batch entry. It will also include the ability to submit full-text articles directly to UCL Eprints, in compliance with UCL's new Open Access Policy. It is scheduled to go live by Easter 2010, and a pilot phase has begun with a small number of departments, including Physics and Astronomy. The Library's role will include quality assurance of the data and guidance on bibliometric measures. Further information is available on the project website at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/isd/community/projects/rps

4. Research Survey

Library Services ran an online survey targeting UCL's researchers in December 2009. Of the 1500 respondents, 135 (9%) were from MAPS. Top priorities across the board for researchers at UCL were access to electronics journals, access to electronic books and access to electronic journal backfiles (pre-1997). Researchers in MAPS gave a higher than average priority to backfiles and to access to bibliographic databases. Full results will be published shortly.

5. SFX Recommender service

UCL has a trial of an article recommendation service using SFX until April 2010. This works in a similar way to Amazon's "Customers who bought this item also bought..." service, but for journal articles.

During the trial, users see recommendations appearing in some SFX menus. The recommendations are based on actual (anonymised) SFX usage data from SFX customers around the world, including UCL, using algorithms to ascertain the strength of links between articles. They offer another mechanism for researchers to find articles on their topic, as a complement to systematic literature searches.

More information can be found at
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/sfx_recommendations.shtml

Feedback can be submitted via the problem report form at
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/e-res_prob.shtml

5. Learning Laboratory Launch

UCL hosted an event on 19 January to formally mark the completion of the creation of the Learning Laboratory on ground floor of the UCL Science Library. The event was to thank the Wolfson Foundation and Lord and Lady Wolfson for their ongoing support to UCL. Further details can be found on the UCL News page http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/news-articles/1001/10012701.

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