

ISD: Library Report for Student Experience Committee – November 2015

Library activity – key statistics – August to October

- So far this academic year, for the period 1 Aug to 31 Oct 2015, footfall into the Library has largely remained largely static year on year at 283,210 visits compared with 283,525 for the same period in 14-15. However over the same period there has been a significant increase, of 17.3%, in the actual occupancy of the Library building, from an average headcount of 643 to 755 based on benchmarked sample days. This may be due in part to the increase 4.7% in overall student headcount figures for the university but also to changes in the academic model affecting how students choose to study.
- Over the headcount days so far this semester, we have seen occupancy of both the PGR and PGT spaces reach a peak of just over 70% which is in line with expectations.

Library building closure

Although the Library aims to be 24/7/365, unfortunately this year the Library building will be completely closed from 7pm on Sunday 27 December 2015 to 12 noon on Saturday 2 January 2016 owing to essential critical maintenance work taking place by Estates in the building. The work involves replacing an electrical panel which serves not only the Library but other areas of the campus and means that there will be no power or lighting at all in the building, making it unsafe for both staff and Library users. The sub-station is situated in the Library Building and it is not possible to provide a generator supply to the Library and Lecture Theatres as this would pose an unacceptable safety risk to the contractors undertaking the works.

Alternative facilities for Library users will be made available during the closure period as follows;

Building	Room	Facilities available	Availability
Union House	Bookable Room 6	20 computers plus 1 MFD*	tbc
Union House	Bookable Room 5	Quiet study space	tbc
ITCS Building	01.26 Group Study Room	23 computers, 1 MFD*, group study space	24/7
ITCS Building	01.17 Teaching Space	80 computers plus 1 MFD*	24/7
INTO	Various, ask at Reception	Quiet and group study spaces	7am-11pm

*MFD – multi-function device providing printing, scanning and photocopying

A communications plan has been developed in discussion with the Internal Communications team and includes news items in the weekly e-bulletins & school e-bulletins, targeted emails via DOS & ACCOM, school e-bulletins, messages on the student desktop screen saver, as well as flyers and posters. Publicity about the closure and the alternative spaces we have arranged will be stepped up from mid-November.

PG spaces review

In autumn 2014 two new study spaces were opened in the Library, to meet the needs of taught postgraduate and research postgraduate students. We consulted widely about the design and operation of these rooms by canvassing those who had used study facilities in the past. Others consulted included the Graduate Students Association, the Staff Student Liaison Committee and the research community via the Faculty Assistant Directors of Research. This feedback was used extensively in the design.

Now that the rooms have been in use for a full academic year, we are reviewing these spaces to see if there are any changes or improvements that could be implemented. We are inviting comments and suggestions from the university community about these spaces and will be holding an Open Forum in the Grad Space in Union House on 18th November. We aim to complete the review and report back to users by the end of the autumn semester.

Digital Voyager – around the web in 30 days

The Library, has developed and designed an innovative fully online learning course to help UEA students explore the digital environment. The course is designed be taken alongside student's academic studies. The course is now live and will run for a 4 week period in November. It has four main themes: 'who are you in the digital world'; 'the digital university'; 'digital professionalism'; 'you and digital – where are you now'. The programme aims to enable UEA students to make informed use of digital tools, resources, behaviours and practices in various contexts, initially in their learning, but also on placement and in the workplace after they leave. The Library has worked closely with Careers in the development of the course and especially the 'digital professionalism' unit. Because of this, if students complete the course they will gain 5 hours' credit for the Campus & Personal category of the UEA Award.

Students can still self-enrol via blackboard at

https://learn.uea.ac.uk/webapps/blackboard/execute/content/blankPage?cmd=view&content_id=1535410_1&course_id=113738_1&mode=reset

Nicholas Lewis, Library Director 10th November 2015