

ANU Library – committee change

PURPOSE To review and propose a new approach to library committees and project management.

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DATE 1 June 2017

RECOMMENDATION That the library committees be reformed with the following changes:

- Circulation become a community of practice with email and occasional face to face activities as required
- Technical Services, Information Access and Collection Coordination Groups be replaced by project activities
- Projects to be proposed to and approved by the Library Managers Group (Branch Managers, Associate Director and University Librarian)

ACTION REQUIRED

For discussion ☒ For decision ☒ For information ☐

BACKGROUND

The Library has used a range of committees and mechanisms of the years to ensure consistency of activities, best use of systems and to develop and deliver innovative projects,

Currently there are the follow committees:

- Library Manager Group- Branch Managers, Associate Director and University Librarian
- Circulation Coordination Group
- Technical Services Coordination Group
- Information Access Coordination Group
- Collection Coordination Group.

The Coordination Groups were reviewed several years ago with the two groups merged to become the Information Access Group.

While some great initiatives have come through some groups, such as the new guidance on LibGuides, it is timely to reconsider the groups given the need to review and redevelop a number of services/activities that reach across several group areas; changes in systems; the opportunity for the Library Managers Group to take a more strategic role and a new business plan.

WHAT SHOULD WE AIM TO ACHIEVE?

Our industry is at an exciting and interesting time. We see many changes in higher education with adoption of new digital teaching tools and methodologies, new e-research support needs including data management and new ways of opening up collections through digital means including digitisation and resource discovery initiatives.

Agility and innovation are the characteristics of libraries that are able to deliver services in new and interesting ways. Our opportunities to improve digital engagement and our services will inevitably need to consider all the library specialisation that is currently distributed across our current groups.

THE PROPOSED MODEL

Some groups are operating as practice improvement areas and this should be encouraged, but the model of formal committees does not support this in as flexible a manner as is required. A community of practice approach would enable those practitioners to continue to share information, make pragmatic operational decisions and gather together as required. It would create a dynamic, agile group able to move quickly and efficiently through the issues that require consideration.

This is recommended for the Circulation Coordination Group.

For the projects that are identified in the SIS Business plan and need to be addressed currently and in the future a project model will enable staff with relevant interest and expertise to be able to be involved. It will enable clear expectations for each project to be set, with timelines, scope and resources agreed to assist the projects to be successfully undertaken.

Each year there are likely to be between 2 and 5 projects.

Each project will have a project sponsor who may be a member of the Library Manager Group.

Membership of the project teams will be open for nomination by library staff to the project sponsor, and may include expertise from individuals who work outside the Library.

Reports will be presented to the Library Manager Group for consideration based on clear, considered research and analysis.

Some of the projects identified for consideration are:

- Open educational resources (currently listed in the Business Plan)
- Micromasters and implications for library collection access and support
- Overview of the collection purchasing profile
- Spine labels (work has already occurred).

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Library Manager Group meeting

Coordination Group meetings or via email

Individual Library Branch meetings as appropriate

Broad dissemination through the University Librarians newsletter

SIS Division meeting

Completion of consultation timeframe end July