

## Report to CAUL– 18 September 2006 – 25 April 2007

This report includes items previously reported to the Executive.

### CAUL Office.

Late September and early October were occupied by a flurry of media activity and correspondence after the joint press release on the banning of terrorism books was picked up, particularly after the interview with the Attorney-General on ABC's *Lateline*. Details are listed in the minutes of Executive 2006/6 under media reports.

CAUL elections for the Executive Committee, CEIRC and the Datasets Coordinators were completed. The CAUL report for 2005-2006 is all but completed, and the strategic plan finalised and printed.

I convened a working group to respond on behalf of CAUL to the IFLA study library services for Visually Impaired People. The results are available from the CAUL survey register. Members of the working group were Geoff Payne, La Trobe; Jenny Wildy, UWA; Deidre Boland and Rose Shaw, CSU; and significant comments on the draft were received from Veronica Dawson, Griffith and were included in the final response.

University of Newcastle procurement project. I have been in touch with Nat McGregor of the university and Cynthia Hansen of HES regarding the project, and potential relevance of the CEIRC program.

Prior to Christmas most activity was related to the processing of CEIRC subscriptions and invoices, while post-Christmas, there is bulk catch-up of the associated paperwork. The volume is increasing annually, and has highlighted the need to monitor CEIRC vs other CAUL activities for 2007 (itself a major task) to determine the current cost of maintaining the CEIRC program.

Both Alisha Davies and I began tracking our allocation of time between CEIRC and the rest, from January 29. This was last done by me in 2003, and by Rachelle Morgan in 2004. This time I have broken it down into CEIRC, Finance and the rest – a high proportion of finance-related activity is CEIRC-related, except for the actual preparation of the CAUL budget papers. Finance activity increases in proportion to CEIRC activity.

### CEIRC.

There is relatively little new activity in the first quarter of the year, but 20 new offers have been received and made available to members, and renewals information for two others have been processed. Ongoing negotiations with Sage have consumed considerable time – initial discussions were held in March 2005, suffered significant interruptions from the Sage end, and were restarted in November with a new Sage office opened in Singapore, and attendance by Sage and EBSCO representatives at the January CEIRC meeting.

I attended a meeting of the Springer North American Library Advisory Board in Orlando, March 14-16. It was attended by senior Springer representatives, including Peter Hendriks, Global Director of Sales and Marketing. The meeting was facilitated by an outside company to allow all participants to participate fully – it worked very well. There were a few short presentations, with more time devoted to breakout groups and discussion, topics covering the new SpringerLink platform, e-books and pricing models. Springer is keen to sell full packages with targeted pricing, rather than targeted collections, or unbundling – which is both expensive and reduces the distribution of the content. Transfers into collections are a big issue for all libraries,

I attended the North American ICOLC meeting in Montreal, April 22-25. Vendors invited were Wiley-Blackwell – who were very open with merger activity to date and plans for the future, including confirmation that all current contracts will stay in place; CSA-ProQuest, who weren't prepared to discuss merger activity or future plans, but instead discussed their new approach to selling digitised databases, to include subscriptions rather than just purchases; Lexis Nexis discussing their new archival databases, purchase only for significant amounts of money. The licensing discussions focussed on approaches to pricing models, included internal consortial allocations (I chaired one of three breakout sessions); the SERU guidelines for a shared understanding of terms of use to replace contracts and licences, particularly for small and society publishers; the issues and impacts surrounding the transfer of titles between publishers and their packages (I presented this session

with Joan Emmet from Yale); and the proposal for encoding licence conditions for inclusion in ERMs. Other sessions focussed on group-based repositories.

### **Finance & Audit.**

From November to January, 2,100 invoices were raised; 580 payments received (many covering multiple invoices); for a total of AUD 22m approximately (USD 10.1m, AUD 1.5m, £ 2.9m). The bulk of these transactions were CEIRC-related.

Many of the December invoices were raised *ad hoc* for those institutions who wanted to pay all their subscriptions before their finance department closed down – some as early as November 30. Provision of “estimated” invoices generally takes significantly more time than those processed normally. Some vendors were extremely late in providing information for 2007 ( Taylor & Francis (both the journals and the Europa reference division)), or have been slow in dealing with reconciliation of subscription lists (Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press) and consequently we have not received final invoices from them.

The audit of 2006 accounts began on February 5, following the final reconciliation of the four accounts, and the collection and compilation of the data required by the auditors. The 2006 budget report has been updated, but won't be finalised until after the audit is completed. Under- and over-expenditure is generally as reported to the CAUL 2006/2 meeting and reflected in the draft budget for 2007.

The 2007 budget for the President's meetings has been reduced because this item is consistently under-spent - in the main because the President extends travel for other purposes, and makes only a few trips specifically in the role of CAUL president.

Similarly, the 2007 budget for representation/seminars and CCA meetings has been reduced. This item will be monitored.

Only one ADT meeting will be held in 2006, in October. The costs are likely to be less than budgeted.

CEIRC has not commissioned any external work, with the committee undertaking all identified work. The research budget is likely to be unspent.

Audit and accounting costs have increased, both because of the volume and because, in the case of the audit, of greater complexity. Complexity is mainly due to the foreign currency accounts and the accrual of subscription purchases and sales in the year in which the invoice is received – to show subscriptions as income neutral. The last major clean-up task for this year's audit will be to balance the balance sheet for the USD account – to ensure that the “retained earnings” and “current earnings” accurately reflect that state of the account.

The 2007 budget presentation document has been prepared in the new format, involving all Profit&Loss, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow Statements from the four accounts included, and reconciled with the main budget presentation worksheet (to allow automatic update of the latter when the P&L data in the other worksheets is updated monthly.)

The CEIRC committee requested that the program's budget show all the foreign currency interest. As this was one of the issues in the revamp of the budget presentation over the past year, that the different currencies be kept completely separate, I offered to prepare a notional CEIRC report, though its actual value will vary according to exchange rates, and cannot be regarded as real figures unless the funds are physically transferred from the foreign currency accounts into the AUD account.

Balances in the foreign currency accounts provide a cash flow for payment of subscriptions if institutional payments to CAUL are lagging. For example, at the end of January USD 11k was more than 90 days overdue, another 81k more than 60 days, and another 53k more than 30 days. By contrast, I contract with our vendors for a 60 day payment period, but try to pay as close to 30 days as possible.

**Banking.** The Commonwealth Bank asked us to change the way we make payments from our foreign currency accounts. Since 1998, we have taken signed authorities to the local branch where they have entered the transactions online, usually as we wait, and we are provided with a printed receipt. In late August, the branch advised us that we were to change our procedures, to fax

authorities directly to Global Payments, and were required to sign an indemnity document to release the bank from liability should they make transfers in good faith on receipt of our faxes (should there be some problem with the eventual payment.) There is a security call-back made if the payment is over \$50,000, but there is effectively no security for CAUL for lower amounts if we fax them ourselves. An alternative is to take the fax authorities to the branch and have them counter-sign and fax them to Global Payments. We are now doing this.

Online banking is another option, but when investigated last year, the documentation required to be signed was incomprehensible and I could not in good faith recommend that we move to that option. I am now reviewing a new service with better and clearer documentation.

The following appeared in the IT Australian on March 27:

AUSTRALIAN financial institutions are bracing for hundreds of millions of dollars in new compliance spending as they prepare to meet the requirements of stringent anti-money-laundering (AML) laws. .... Financial institutions have two years to comply with the Anti-Money-Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006, which introduces an unprecedented level of customer transaction monitoring. ....

I have concluded that the above is the reason that the bank has been changing its procedures for international transactions over the last six months, and making our lives more complicated as a result. We were unable to process a request for a bank draft in NZD that we prepared on February 20 for more than six weeks. The "compliance manager" has made it impossible for us to process our transactions at the ANU Branch (where they know us by sight) without previous approval by our "relationship manager" (whom we have never met). It is costing CAUL a lot in wasted time – in the above comments they refer only to the banking systems costs!

#### **Meeting Planning – Agenda, Minutes, Travel, Venues – & attendance**

CAUL 2006/2 18-19 September, 2006 and associated meetings & dinners – Perth  
ADT Policy Reference Group 30 October 2006 – Sydney  
CAUL Executive 7-8 November, 2006 – Melbourne  
CCA Meeting 8 November 2006 – Melbourne  
CEIRC 9 November, 2006 – Melbourne  
Datasets Coordinators Meeting 29 January 2007 – Sydney  
CEIRC 30 January, 2007 – Sydney  
CSFG 1 February, 2007 – Sydney  
ADT Technical committee 1 February, 2007 – Sydney  
CAUL Executive meeting with the NLA re Libraries Australia, 1 February 2007 – Sydney  
CAUL Executive 2 February, 2007 – Sydney  
CAUL Executive 19 March, 2007 – Sydney  
ADT Futures Workshop 20 March, 2007 – Sydney  
CEIRC 18 April, 2007 – Melbourne  
CAUL 2007/1 3-4 May, 2007 – Melbourne  
CEIRC/CAVAL Forum/Workshop on Management of Electronic Statistics – June/July/August – Sydney?  
CAUL meeting 2007/2 September 2007 – Adelaide

#### **Other Meetings/Events attended/held.**

September 12 – teleconference re CAUL web site with Jeff Murray and Jenny Dewar  
October 26 – teleconference re review of CAUL principles for library services to offshore campuses  
December 1 – Eve Woodberry, in Canberra for DEST RQF meeting  
December 1 – Christian Lackner, Radisson, re Sydney meetings venues  
December 12 – Margot Bell and Clare McLaughlin, DEST, Eve Woodberry re RQF readiness survey of universities (via teleconference)  
December 15 – Vic Elliott with visitors Dr Haruki Nagata and Dr Uda from University of Tsukuba in Japan  
January 19 – site visits for CAUL 2007/1 venues, Melbourne  
February 13 – RQF Colloquium – Sydney  
March 9 – DEST RQF meeting re copyright in institutional repositories – Brisbane  
March 23 – Russell Livermore & Ingrid Shogren, Walter Turnbull, re CAUL audit 2006

April 2 – Noel Bradfield, CAUL’s Commonwealth Bank Relationship Manager re ongoing problems undertaking normal banking transactions (see report under Banking, above)

April 16 - Australian Digital Alliance AGM, Canberra

### **Meetings held – CEIRC-related.**

September 20 (ALIA2006 Trade Exhibition) – David Elek, Springer and Gayle Villaume, DA Information Services;

Ian Hames and Susanna Lob, Oxford University Press;

Bev Foster and Carol Durham, Emerald;

Linda Dunne and Robert Gorter, Elsevier Science;

David Sidebottom, ProQuest;

Anthony Shaw, Thorpe-Bowker;

Maryce Johnstone and Marika Whitfield, Thomson Gale;

Heather Crosbie, Blackwell Publishing;

September 25 – Carsten Boeckmann, Ovum, teleconference;

Carol Dykman, Crown Content, teleconference;

October 18 – Geeho Liu, Thomson Scientific

October 19 – Bruce Heterick, Portico, teleconference

October 26 – Nancy Matus, Director of Marketing, Thomson ResearchSoft and Ben Currie, Crandon re EndNote

November 1 – Alex Pring and James Murray, Lexis Nexis

November 27 – Albert Prior, Content Complete re JISC Collections Program and possible inclusion of other consortia members (via teleconference)

December 6 – Tom Taylor and Mark Kendall, Sage Publications (via teleconference)

January 24 – David Sidebottom, ProQuest.

January 30-31 (Online Trade Exhibition) – Yeoh Wey Loh, BMJ Publishing

Adrian Tang, IEE

Lesley Boyle, CUP

Andrew Hall, Alexander Street Press

Eric Calaluca, Paratext

Poonam Ramchand, Euromonitor

Nicky Hewlett, Swets Information Services

Jay Glaisyer and Sid McNeal, EBSCO

Patrick Doogue, IOPP

Antoine Bocquet & Tamara Joyner – Nature Publishing Group (with Andrew Wells)

Marianne Josserand, BioMed Central (with Andrew Wells)

Andrew Pitts, ACS re new pricing model

Christine Midwinter, CISTI

Belinda Sharpe and Terry Macmanus, Ovid and Betsy Jones, LWW VP & General Manager re late payments to CAUL

Jenny Walker, Xrefer

James Mercer and Ged Welford, OUP

Mike Walsh, CAS

Mohamad Baghdatis, ebrary

March 14-17 – Springer Library Advisory Board, Orlando, Fla

March 19 – Jeroen Prinsen, Thomson Scientific

March 22 – Andrew Coffey, Alex Pring, Lexis Nexis re account management for CAUL, LexisNexis.au package options.

March 28 – Rick Bremble, Andrew Birmingham, Fairfax Business Media re continuing access to Fairfax news after the withdrawal of content from all third party channels on March 31.

April 3 – Peta Menck, Thomson Legal and Regulatory, re a potential offer for all Lawbook Online content

April 22-25 – ICOLC 2007 – Montreal, Canada – including a joint presentation with Joan Emmet on the transfer of journals between publishers, and chairing a parallel session on cost models and internal cost allocations within consortia.

Diane Costello

27 April 2007