

Notes of meeting of SCONUL Task Force on Information Skills, Friday 14th December 2001

Present: Hilary Johnson (Convenor)
Deborah Bragan Turner
Peter Godwin
Helen Hathaway
Martin Jenkins
Alison Mackenzie
Janet Peters
Stephen Town

Apologies: Sheila Corrall
Jo Parker

Item 1. **Notes of last meeting.** SC's comments noted and those relating to the OU course dealt with under item 6.

Matter arising – IT&ILit conference. Noted that a number of proposals had been submitted from TF members. Informally PG had heard that his proposal had been accepted, and that all should hear in next few days. (NB subsequent information received that all proposals submitted had been accepted).

Subject group progress. JP updated the meeting on discussions from the Subject group. The web questionnaire had been placed on LTSN web sites. 14th Dec closing date so no final number of responses but a lot of comments had been received to be analysed. This would be part of the IT&ILit paper.

UCISA. JP had circulated a report from UCISA TLIG after last TF meeting (see also below, item 5).

Item 2. **Performance measurement workshops.** All workshop arrangements now in hand. Following a request for a workshop 'north of the border' an offer from Glasgow to host was being followed up (HJ). Some places remain. HJ to re-publicise when Glasgow date sorted.
The format of the workshops would be 2 hours with a break – i.e. 2x 50 minute sessions. One session would look at critical success factors in small groups of 5-6 people (will therefore need small group facilitators). Second session would look at practical measures for each CSF. Need to get each group to put something on paper to capture it for subsequent analysis. Methodology – each group to brainstorm, group ideas, create statements, and refine to (say) no more than 6. Then in the second half each of the 6 statements would be examined for measures.

Discussion over how much pre-briefing to do for attenders - left that it would be given to them 'cold' so as not to inhibit spontaneity. People could be pre-identified as facilitators for small groups and pre-briefed on the process. The outcome of each workshop should be a table of CSFs and measures (with issues). Needs contextual 'rounding out' in terms of some info on how far each institution might be from being able to supply such measures as of now. It is likely that some of the CSFs will be contextual and not be amenable to quantitative measures, while CSFs to do with delivery may be more able to be quantified.

Item 3.

'Position Paper'

SC's intervention with LAR editor had borne fruit in the publication of the 2-page spread in the December issue. HJ reported no feedback other than message re IFLA (see AOB). Discussion of whether to aim for a paper publication elicited the following points

- ◆ Such a publication was needed in order to influence stakeholders
- ◆ It could in itself be a way of SCONUL marketing itself
- ◆ It could be designed within a PDF format on a web page to facilitate printing
- ◆ Need something to take to IT&ILit conference and others
- ◆ Need something to distribute to interested parties overseas
- ◆ Could act as a kind of 'business card' for the group when engaging in liaison with outside parties
- ◆ The diagram needed re-doing (ST volunteered)
- ◆ HJ to pursue further with Toby B/Jean Sykes

Item 4.

Report from 'Big Blue'. <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bigblue/>
AM reported on progress. Case studies were being identified, with emphasis on aspects that illustrated good practice and were drawn from both FE and HE. A project model was being developed. The results of the audit are on the web site. A short questionnaire directed at LIS teaching departments seemed to show little preparation for entrants to the profession in teaching skills or techniques. The meeting identified a number of strands coming together potentially in this area of training for delivery of IS work – NOF funded training for public librarians, LA document on Lifelong Learning and CDP developments, and ILT progress. The final report from Big Blue will provide a 'round-up' of issues with recommendations (see below, item 8).

Item 5

UCISA and Citscapes. MJ reported on outcomes of the UCISA survey of management and implementation of virtual learning environments. The Citscapes project had reported (delayed, now with JISC). Draft report on web site <http://www.citscapes.ac.uk/>
This has demonstrated the overlap between C&IT skills and information skills. Further work is still ongoing with regard to FE. The UCISA VLE survey has found that support is being offered to staff in this area but not students. The full report is on the UCISA web site <http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/TLIG/vle/VLEsurvey.pdf>

Item 6 **OU course (U120 MOSAIC).** HH reported favourable interest at Reading in the course development. Members of the TF had commented on sections of the course so far. A meeting is scheduled for 14th January.
The meeting discussed presentation to the SCONUL Executive Board meeting on 11th February. We will need to draft up information, ask for agreement in principle to a link with SCONUL and perhaps suggest that the EB nominate a member to liaise with us. Need to be clear about the relationships as we see them between subject/generic approaches and identify defensible uses for a generic approach. An initial attempt at drawing this together to be made and circulated, taking note of SC's comments re licensing. Also shared with Gill Needham at the OU. (HJ)

Item 7 **Web pages.** The Task Force is to have a presence on the SCONUL web pages (HJ liaise with Sit Mui).

Item 8 **Training for staff delivering IS work.** In the light of outcomes being revealed by the Manchester project, this topic will be returned to when the Big Blue project report is available.

AOB HJ reported contact from Cristobal Pasadas in Spain re. The **IFLA** Conference in Glasgow in August. There may be scope for activities around information literacy. HJ to respond positively.

JP reported on QCA document of **Key Skills** in schools and tertiary education (copies distributed). This included searching for information under an 'IT' label.

ST reported that he had been asked to do a session at the April **SCONUL Conference** for the performance indicators AC, but that this might include as IS component. Discuss further at the next TF meeting (HJ to include on agenda)

JP further reported that a **benchmark statement** had been drafted on media, film and cultural studies.
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/crntwork/benchmark/phase2consult.htm>

End of meeting 3.40 pm.

HJJ 10.1.02