We’ve been moving the furniture again...

We have been busy over the summer making changes to the layout of services in the library. This work is in response to consultation, feedback and voting from our customers as part of an ongoing programme of improvements to meet the needs of our diverse user groups. This includes addressing student complaints about lack of study spaces and PCs.

**Improved support**

We have improved 24/7 support by creating a single Information Desk on Level 1 and incorporating the Media Shop and equipment (e.g. binders and guillotines) that was on level 0.

Two of our Large Format printers (up to A0) have been replaced with faster models that deliver superb print quality. Although they are self-service and easy to operate, they have been installed on Level 1 so we can more easily provide support, particularly at night or weekends.

By locating all the high activity services on Level 1, we have been able to redesign the layout on the other levels of the library to meet differing requirements for study space. PCs, vending machines and furniture have been repositioned to increase and more clearly define quiet and silent study areas. 24 individual study carrels have been installed on Level 3 atrium so that Level 3 is now designated for Quiet study only. Power supplies for personal devices have been increased on Level 2.

**Increased spaces**

Overall we’ve been able to increase the number of study spaces in the library by 60 including 34 equipped spaces (10 high specification PCs, 10 standard PCs, 6 ‘quick use’ PCs and 8 Macs).

Stop Press: In order to accommodate large classes requiring IT facilities, Babbage 102 will be used for teaching during the first 4 weeks of term - from 28 September to 23 October. Alternative open access facilities will be posted.
Library and IT Essentials

In the library induction sessions all first year students are introduced to the Library and IT Essentials course on Moodle. You can self-register to access it. This provides all the basic information for students to become ‘course-ready’. The Moodle course includes a twenty question quiz. We challenge you—how many can you get right?

Teaching support libguide

The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed a few changes to the library web page which we hope will make it easier for our users to find their way around the resources and services we offer. One such change is the introduction of a support for teaching libguide. Our aim is to gather together all the library information you may need as a teacher. Whilst this has an obvious application for new members of staff we hope that even established staff will find it a useful reference tool to enquire within upon everything related to the library’s support for teaching and learning.

The main areas covered are:

- Subject support (finding out about your subject specialist and the subject related work we do)
- Working with students (the support and sessions we provide for your students)
- Ordering stock for the library
- Research support
- Training sessions for staff offered by the information specialists

The guide is still under construction and we would very much value your thoughts on any useful information we could include.

Ideas and suggestions please to information-specialists@plymouth.ac.uk
E-textbooks

The e-textbook project staff have been pulling together the final orders for core e-text titles to be delivered to new students at the start of term, and are linking them through to the relevant Moodle modules. They have negotiated with more than 20 publishers for the supply of over 300 different titles, expanding the offer on last year considerably. Over 4,000 first year undergraduate students will receive e-textbooks this year.

We believe that the reach of the Plymouth eTextbook project is the largest of its kind in the UK, currently covering approximately 80 per cent of the 1st year undergraduate cohort.

E-Textbook Services Coordinator Tifaine Dickinson has been busy promoting the service, and capitalising on its innovation to raise the profile of Plymouth University. Her article for CILIP Update was listed in CILIP’s Top 6 library and information stories. You can read the original article here: [http://www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/blog/free-core-e-textbooks-practical-way-support-students](http://www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/blog/free-core-e-textbooks-practical-way-support-students)

Open Access and the next REF

Most of you will be aware that the next REF requires that research articles and conference proceedings (with an ISSN) should be deposited in an institutional repository as soon as possible after a paper is accepted for publication.

We recommend implementing the HEFCE Open Access Policy now in order to make sure we are ready to comply by the policy start date (April 2016), to make sure all outputs will be eligible for the next REF, and to gain all the benefits of Open Access as soon as possible.

If you are unsure about how or what to deposit, check out the library research support pages or contact openaccess@plymouth.ac.uk or your Information Specialist.

Most research funders now encourage or require some form of open access, and most publishers will present you with a range of options. We can help you decide which option to take to ensure compliance with your funders’ policies.

For RCUK funded authors, there is a publishing payment ‘APC request form’ on the library support pages for researchers wishing to make their work Open Access via the ‘Gold’ route. (APC stands for Article Processing Charge).

If you would like us to attend a School or Research Centre meeting to provide more details or to answer your questions on Open Access, then contact your Information Specialist.
Booking training sessions

The Academic Engagement team is responsible for the provision of training sessions in copyright issues, the TalisAspire Reading List system and End-Note reference management.

These can be booked through Employee Self-Service Learning & Development.

The team is also happy to provide bespoke sessions and one-to-one sessions by arrangement.

Contact either your subject information specialist or informationspecialists@plymouth.ac.uk.

Find out more about our training provision.

New members of Academic Engagement team

We would like to welcome two new information specialists on to the Academic Engagement team.

Abigail Heath supports the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences and the School of Tourism & Hospitality.

Sam Brown supports the School of Computing, Electronics and Mathematics and the School of Biomedical & Healthcare Sciences.

What do your students think of the library?
Find out here in the information specialists NSS and SPQ reports.

Don’t forget that you can find out who is your Information Specialist as well as the resources and support for your subject area by looking at the Library Subject Guides.