In response to comments from student satisfaction surveys and other user feedback the University library is proposing to make changes to the way they loan books, DVDs and equipment.

Key points of the new proposal include:

- All users having a loan entitlement of 20 books at one time
- All items having a standard loan period of 12 weeks
- All reserved items being recalled after seven days
- Overdue charges being applied only to reserved items
- No loan charge for equipment loans
- The library has consulted with key stakeholders and student representatives but wants to hear more views.

There will be a 24/7 display in the library foyer from 4 to 15 February, where there will be an opportunity to vote on three key questions as well as make general comments. Library staff will be available at the display area Monday to Friday, from 10am to 4pm, to answer questions.

This phase of the consultation period will end on Thursday 28 February.

More information about all the proposals can be found on ILS Self-Help.

You can email the library loan review with your response.

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Changes to Primo

We have also been listening to what people have been telling us about Primo. Much of it has been complimentary—thank you.

However, it has always been our aim to make Primo as intuitive as possible and people have pointed out that some things were not so obvious. For example, what we have called our searches. “Everything except articles and chapters” might have been very accurate but needed to be explained. So in response to your comments our search categories are now called “Everything”, “Books, etc” and “Articles”.

Primo, as all of our services, should never be static and we hope that you will keep telling us what we can do to improve and provide the service you need.
Online payments

After a period of down-time the Web Payments to Print Accounts service is now back up and running for all staff and students. In this way customers can add credit to their Print Accounts using a debit/credit card and it is a great alternative to using the Money Loader Revaluers.

You can access this from the Portal by selecting MyEdesk then My Print Account and following the link on that page - or you can go direct.

Research support update

February / March 2013 will see the upgrading of Elements to version 4, which has a new modern interface. There is a video preview of the new look Elements at Symplectic’s website. The URL for Elements is http://elements.plymouth.ac.uk.

Work is also continuing with the preparations for the REF 2014 submission. Elements will be used for the REF 1 Staff data and REF 2 Research Outputs submissions.

Meetings will be held shortly with REF Admin staff in the Faculties to introduce the REF module and to start preparations for the roll out to REF staff.

1st April 2013 will see the start of the new RCUK (Research Councils UK) policy on Open Access to research outputs. RCUK is supporting a mixed model to OA so supporting Gold OA (e.g. Open Access journals) or Green OA (e.g. submission to PEARL, Plymouth University’s open access research repository). For more information see the Pearl and Open Access community.

E-books in the classroom

• they are accessible to part-time and distance students,
• they relieve the pressure on print copies when large groups are trying to access,
• and of course they never go missing!

Recently, more of you are wanting to use e-books in the classroom, which, of course may require a group of students to open the same e-book at the same time. This may not be possible with the existing license for that particular book. Even if we have a multi-user licence it may not provide enough access for your specific requirements. We can purchase different license options for e-books depending on how you are planning to use them in your teaching. So, we may need to buy several “virtual” copies in order for you to allow a whole group simultaneous access.

If you think this may affect you please contact the Information Specialist for your subject who will be able to arrange the correct licenses to meet your needs.
“It was Christmas-time in the library…”

The Library was open 24/7 throughout the University’s Christmas ‘closed’ period from 22nd December to 1st January inclusive. On 25th and 26th December the University arranged for buffet food to be available and on other days there were sandwiches and cakes.

Our staff on duty reported, “On Xmas day, I was working when the food was put out - I had multiple users (approx 10) come in saying they had seen the message re. food - they all seemed very happy that it had been provided. There were also several users already in the library, so we went round and told everyone - that led to quite a few people sitting down, eating and chatting, and made it a festive atmosphere.”

There was a steady use of the library throughout the period with over 3818 visits in total of which 193 were on Christmas Day. 1393 items were issued and 916 returned. 4988 pages were printed and 451 photocopies made. Our busiest day was 30th December.

“people came up to the desk specifically to thank us for opening over Xmas and one even left some chocolates! ”

SCONULUL Access—register online

Some of you may be aware of SCONUL Access, a scheme which allows many university library users to borrow or use books and journals at other libraries. The scheme now covers most of the university libraries in the UK and Ireland.

Who can use it?

- Academics on an open or fixed term contract
- Postgraduate research students registered for a PhD, MPhil or similar qualification
- Part-time, distance learning and placement students

SCONUL Access also provides a reference only service for full-time undergraduate students.

Users who want to apply for membership of the scheme can now do so online from the SCONUL Access homepage.
Lunch Bites

Could some of your students use a little extra help with Primo, Harvard referencing or Endnote Web? Why not recommend one of our 30 minute lunchtime sessions? They can book a place online.

February Sign ups

PRIMO. REFERENCING. ENDO NOTE WEB.

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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.