LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 10th May 2017

Materials Budget: Heritage Collections

Description of paper
1. This paper reports on spend in the area of heritage collections from 2010-2017 and asks that Library Committee support the Library in continuing this activity on a more sustainable basis.

Action requested
2. The Committee is asked to support a level of spend that reflects the University of Edinburgh’s profile and needs for heritage materials for research and teaching, and to endorse the use of the main Materials Budget for this from 2017/2018 onwards. This would formally recognise that investment in the heritage collections (to include rare books, archives, manuscripts and art) is not an optional activity but is essential core business.

Recommendation
3. It is recommended that Committee agree that this is an activity which the Library should support and develop, and to agree that a generic heritage collections purchase budget of £100,000 p.a. should be set within the overall Materials Budget of £7m+. Committee is asked to note the fact that endowments are being used strategically to support this area in 2016/2017 but once the accumulated income has been depleted, we expect that dividends for the funds available for heritage purchases would amount to only around £50,000 p.a.

Background and context
4. The University of Edinburgh is distinctive within the UK in the way it actively develops its heritage collections through gift and purchase. The programme of collecting across the full range of subjects taught and researched dates back to the foundation period and has created one of the largest and most heavily used heritage collections of any Russell Group institution. A strong programme of purchasing keeps the existing collections vibrant and allows for investment in new areas. For example, in recent years there has been a new focus on purchasing contemporary art and Chinese books, working closely with academic staff, to meet changing University needs. Every newly purchased item adds to the unique holdings of the University and opens up opportunities for research, teaching, digitisation and public engagement.

5. Purchase of heritage collections operates differently to the purchase of general library materials and normally entails rapid decisions on items which appear for sale in booksellers’ catalogues, auctions and from private quotation. This can make it impractical to consult academic staff about individual purchases. In order to ensure decisions are made which match the academic and strategic priorities of the University, the curators in the Centre for Research Collections base their selections on the overall Collections Management Policy: http://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/crc/about/collections-policies approved by Library.
Committee. In order to manage this programme as effectively as possible, a set and ring-fenced annual budget is essential. The evidence from the last seven years indicates that an annual spend of at least £150,000 is appropriate and realistic, balancing the availability and price of suitable material on the market against being able to bring real benefit to University teaching and research activities.

6. Graph showing breakdown of spend, 2010-2017 (detail on funding sources provided in section 5 below)

* Spend for 2016/2017 is projected and projected spend for 2017/2018 assumes only endowment funds are available.

Discussion
7. The programme developed in the Centre for Research Collections since 2010 has been highly successful and has brought in a number of major acquisitions. A few purchase highlights include:

- Papers of poet and activist Hamish Henderson
- Archive of mathematician Alexander Aitken
- Katie Paterson’s Timepieces (Solar System) – new art work
- Fine copy of Raphael Holinshed’s Chronicles
- Edinburgh suffragette belt with fine needlework

8. These are items which have never previously been in the public domain and which we can make available for display and exhibition as well as research and teaching, thereby enhancing the University of Edinburgh’s distinctive offering. This programme is designed to meet both current and future needs of the University and has taken time to develop the necessary relationships with curators, bookdealers, artists and auction houses. The current funding position places this programme at risk and any interruption to collection development could set us back years.
9. There is a clear justification for a long-term commitment to this activity within the £7m+ annual Materials Budget, as other sources of funding are currently insufficient to sustain a strong and growing programme. The following section describes the main alternative means of support which have been used in recent years and why they are not able to provide a sustainable, stable source of funding for this strategic activity:

9a) College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. From 2010-2016 College provided funds specifically for heritage collections purchases (£100,000 in 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014; there was a gap in 2014/2015 but £150,000 was made available in 2015/2016). This support has been very beneficial and has allowed for the purchase of heritage materials in areas across all the schools in CAHSS. In particular, following the merger with Edinburgh College of Art, these funds have allowed for investment in contemporary art with a number of courses and student programmes now directly linked to the new acquisitions. Academic engagement with the Art Collection has increased by 147% from 2013/14 to 2015/16. However, this did not allow for the purchase of materials relevant to CMVM and CSE, despite the growing importance of historical research in science and medicine and the existing collection strengths in those fields. It is also clear that there are no longer CAHSS funds available in this way.

9b) Library Endowments. There is a tradition within the UoE of giving money for collection development, which we actively encourage, and a number of discrete endowment funds still exist to support this activity. Some of these funds had accumulated additional income and this has been drawn on in 2016/2017 in the absence of other funding. However, as noted in (3) above, the overall dividend from the endowments allocated to heritage collections is projected to be around £50,000 p.a. Of this, only around £16,000 is available to be used without restrictions on the subject matter. The other endowments are restricted to purchases in specialist areas such as Scots Law or French poetry. This means that we cannot meet all the current needs of the University solely using endowments. It should also be noted that these funds are not applicable to art collections.

Table showing endowments with projected annual dividends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endowment name</th>
<th>Terms &amp; conditions</th>
<th>Projected annual dividend (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neillands</td>
<td>Scots Law</td>
<td>3,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramage</td>
<td>French &amp; English poetry</td>
<td>13,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>American History</td>
<td>4,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomson-Dunlop</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>3,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>8,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small (1)</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>2,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small (2)</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>2,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathcart White</td>
<td>Open / Special Collections</td>
<td>10,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbairn</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>3,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>54,586</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9c) Philanthropic support. The Friends of Edinburgh University Library have been instrumental in supporting the purchasing programme since 1962 and particularly during the difficult years in the late 20th century when internal funding was scarce. They continue to provide valued support, but due to a shrinking membership base this can only be at a relatively low level. In 2016/2017 the Friends have given £4,000 for heritage purchases and it is clear that they cannot afford to provide more.

9d) Capital funds. It has recently been agreed that capital funds may be used for the purchase of heritage collections, which are then added to the University’s asset register. In 2017/2018 Library & University Collections has allocated £100,000 of its capital budget for investment in collections. This offers potential for long-term sustainability, but at present there are numerous uncertainties as to what can be acquired that is compliant with accounting rules and University policy. This is not currently a secure and sustainable funding stream.

9e) Internally sourced funds. In previous years small amounts of funding for this activity have been found within Library & University Collections division operational budgets, supplemented by funds received through the sale of unwanted duplicate library stock. These resources are no longer available.

10. With Development & Alumni, the Library is working to build up a wider community of support and to develop more secure endowments for future purchasing. However, this will take time to progress. We do receive the occasional one-off gift to purchase an item in someone’s memory, but this does not sustain a programme.

11. Given the above, it is recommended that a budget line of £100,000 be identified within the overall Materials Budget. Without this, the current programme will potentially cease. The only readily available funds to support purchasing without restriction or delay will be the £16,000 from the open library endowments. This would not allow for a strategic approach or for any development of the Art collection.

Resource implications
12. This paper recommends that £100,000 p.a. be ring-fenced for heritage purchases within the overall Materials Budget. It is recognised that there are many calls on the Materials Budget and that particular pressure arises from the inflating cost of electronic journals, from the need to support more reading lists and from the currency fluctuations associated with political uncertainty. Nevertheless, the sum requested is less than 1.5% of the total. It should also be noted that unlike general library materials, heritage assets can potentially be added to the University’s asset register, so there is both a financial and an intellectual resource investment.

Risk Management
13. The main risk is that there is insufficient resource available to deliver the programme, which would mean that UoE loses out on unique research material, courses using new acquisitions have to be changed and relationships in the sector are damaged to the detriment of the University and its reputation.
Equality & Diversity
14. This activity does not require an EQIA and the policy and programme are fully in line with Equality and Diversity, given the range of international and multi-cultural material to be acquired.

Next steps/implications
15. If support is received from Library Committee, this will be taken to Materials Budget Planning & Expenditure Group for the 2017/2018 budget.

Consultation
16. This paper has been reviewed by CAHSS LISC.

Further information
17. Author & Presenter
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Freedom of Information
18. This paper can be included in open business.