

**Union List Working Group report for the Shine AGM  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008**

Members of the Union List Working Group:

- Catriona Denoon, GC/PC
- Gordon Dunsire, Database R&D Consultant (Deputy Director, Centre for Digital Library Research, University of Strathclyde)
- Liz Garrity, GC/RI
- Claire Leach, L/WGH
- John Scott, GC/HB
- Dr Michael Wells, Union List Administrator

Currently, 90 libraries contribute to the union list scheme (22 providers and 68 participants), providing access to 4,528 publications and approximately 13,500 holdings.

Statistics

Dr Michael Wells has provided the following statistics for the numbers (or forms\*) issued for the year ending 31 March 2008. These statistics only cover requests made between provider libraries, and not those made between participant libraries - no central record is kept of the transactions between participant libraries. The statistics show another drop in the annual number of requests made between provider libraries. In summary:

Number of numbers issued in 2007/08:	3,175
Numbers issued in 2006/07:	4,862
Numbers issued in 2005/06:	6,356
Numbers issued in 2004/05:	10,669

This year, for the first time, there is a deficit of income over expenditure (amounting to £793), and this is accounted for by the number of completed numbers/forms returned this year. At the end of March 2008 the balance in the union list bank account stood at £26,516.

The union list working group would like to record their thanks to Michael for his continuing work on the scheme. Michael took on the job of

\* Most libraries now use numbers – any forms still held can be exchanged for numbers

administrator 14 years ago, and reports that the workload has diminished out of all recognition since then! Michael's work is very much appreciated.

### Changes over the past year

There is one new institutional membership (Queen Margaret University Learning Resource Centre) [L/QMUL]. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (L/RCS) has decided not to renew membership this year.

The 2007/08 print copy of the union list was distributed in January 2008 and was the final print copy of the union list to be produced. The committee and the working group decided that it is not feasible to sustain the costs involved in producing a printed list as well as an online database, and that it is more productive to spend money in maintaining and developing the union list database. The union list working group are interested to know how members are adjusting to the online (and therefore more current) version of the list, and we will be issuing a questionnaire this year. If you have any comments or suggestions about the union list database, please contact [unionlist@shinelib.org.uk](mailto:unionlist@shinelib.org.uk)

The working group wishes to express its thanks to Gordon Dunsire for his invaluable work on the maintenance and development of the database. Gordon's work is very much appreciated.

And finally ...

The union list working group would be delighted to welcome any new volunteers that are interested in joining. It's a friendly team and we meet perhaps 4 times a year. Contact [unionlist@shinelib.org.uk](mailto:unionlist@shinelib.org.uk)