

Annual Report of the Librarian 2002/2003

Donations:

The library received generous donations of books relating to the Darwin family from Ron Davies and Milo Keynes.

Computerization:

The system for easy checking out of books is now fully in place thanks to the sterling work of Espen Koht. Members can check out a book by scanning their University card (or typing in their email ID) then scanning the book's bar code. Email reminders about books due for return are sent automatically.

Losses:

A new policy on charges for severely overdue books was introduced on a trial basis. This policy was effective: with its help several members were encouraged to finally return overdue books and no actual charge has yet been imposed on any member.

Of our collection of about 10,000 books, approximately 133 went missing in the year 2002-2003. This figure is a welcome reduction compared with former annual losses in the range 200-300. We attribute this reduction to the convenience of the bar-code-based checkout system and the effectiveness of the email reminders.

Book purchases:

Suggestions for book purchases are always sought from college members. We continue to purchase books of general interest and books related to Darwin and evolution. We have credit available to buy Cambridge University Press books. Book recommendations may be made by phone, paper or email to x63547, 'The Librarian' or librarian@dar, respectively.

Acknowledgements:

The smooth running of the library is entirely due to the outstanding work of the student librarians Christian Goeschel and Ariane Kossack, and the Computer Officer, Espen Koht.

David MacKay

Nov 10th, 2003