

13th December 2013

Connetable Steve Pallett,
Chairman, Digital Skills Sub-panel,
Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel,
Morier House,
Halkett Place,
St. Helier

Dear Connetable,

Thank you for your letter dated 28th November 2013 addressed to Pat Davis, Chief Librarian, regarding the Digital Skills Review that is being undertaken by the Digital Skills Sub-panel of the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel. For your information I should advise you that Pat Davis retired at the beginning of October, and her replacement will not be taking up his position until 3rd February. I am therefore responding on behalf of the ESC Department in my capacity as line manager of the Chief Librarian.

Your letter has specifically asked for a response to no. 6 of the sub-panel's terms of reference, and I can advise you that digital skills and digital technology are seen as being extremely important in the context of the Jersey Library service. As we all know, there have been major advances in digital technology in recent years, and these have had a dramatic effect on the ways in which we access information. The Library Service still retains as one of its core functions the promotion of reading through books, and this core function will remain for the foreseeable future, but it is also recognised that libraries are changing at a national and international level in order to respond to the public demand for access to new digital services and technologies.

The new services that have been introduced by the Jersey Library Service in recent years will complement and support the two recently launched strategies on the 'Vision for IT in Education' and 'Developing a Digital Economy', and our library services will be further reviewed and developed in this wider context in the years ahead. In this connection, it is worth noting that many of the recent additions to the range of library services at the Jersey Library have been introduced with the express aim of supporting adults in developing and improving their digital skills.

A summary of the current range of digital services at the Jersey Library is attached for the information of the sub-panel, and we would welcome any further questions or suggestions that you may have as to how these services may be further developed.

Yours sincerely,

J.M.E. Harris,
Head of Policy and Strategy

A Summary of current IT provision within the Jersey Library Service

Public libraries have a unique role and position within their communities. They provide an open learning environment for all adult learners, with opportunities for both formal and informal learning.

Jersey Library has two learning centres. Between them they provide Internet access on 25 PCs. They also offer scanning and printing facilities.

Internet access is free for all registered library members and a small charge is made for non-members who wish to use the Internet. Free access is also available from within the library buildings and via the Internet (not all packages) to various online packages for which Jersey Library pays an annual subscription. These include the following -

- Britannica Junior (5 to 11 year olds)
- Britannica Student (12 to 18 year olds)
- Encyclopaedia Britannica (over 18s)
- Oxford Reference Online website
- Encyclopaedia of Popular Music
- Benezit Dictionary of Artists.
- Oxford Music Online
- Oxford Art Online
- Oxford Dictionaries Pro
- Oxford English Dictionary
- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography website
- Driving test theory
- Theory Test Pro is an online simulation of the UK's driving theory test.
- Theory Test Pro website
- Ancestry.com
- Findmypast
- Forces war records
- ECDL
- BBC Webwise
- Which online
- JEP online

Several staff provide 1-2-1 tuition on IT needs, covering areas such as Talentlink, CVs, email, online shopping and printing boarding cards. Library staff are also able to offer support with adult learning.

There are 4 PCs in the Children's library providing Internet access. These are used for homework and playing of educational learning games. The system is filtered and monitored for online safety.

Free WIFI is available within the library. It is provided primarily for reference and study purposes. It is monitored and password protected.

Free access is also available to e-books, e-audio and 54 popular e-magazine titles. These are accessed via the Library section of the gov.je website

Future plans – it is planned that the Library will further develop digital and online services during 2014 and beyond, and indeed this will be a major priority for the foreseeable future.