

## Science Museum Library Application for membership of M25

### ***Location and collections***

The library occupies the 3rd level of the Imperial College library. Their stock is catalogued on to Imperial's system so we already have it on Inform25. Access is controlled by Imperial front desk, so in practice anyone who has access to Imperial can access the collections, as can the general public. The library has a stock of some 500,000 items, with anything added since 1984 on the shared catalogue and the rest on the card catalogue. 80% of the stock is in Swindon at old RAF base used to house the museum's spare large exhibits. This is lesser used material and journals back-runs. They run a daily van and so can get any item up from Swindon to Kensington in 24 hours. Where copyright permits they scan and email as soon as they can. The Imperial collection is the most used materials and concentrates on historical biography and history of science. Some of the collection is loaned. It is used as a teaching resource on an MSc History of Science degree and by the curators doing research. All walk in users can use their e-resources. This is still a substantial collection occupying most of one floor of the Imperial library or roughly 100,000 items.

### ***Staff***

They have 5 staff in London and 8 staff in Swindon, so 13 in total. Both teams are managed as one and they hope that, if accepted in to membership, the Swindon staff might attend some CPD25 events from time to time. There are 25-30 curators employed at the museum, who would be the main users of the M25 Access scheme and would be very keen to do so. In the dim and distant future the library may possibly merge with the library service at the National Railway Museum in York and at the Media museum in Bradford, as these two museums are part of the Science Museum family.

### ***How do they check out against our membership criteria?***

In London	= Yes
Research	= Yes
M25 Borrowing	= Yes
Inform25	= Yes (and catalogue already in via Imperial)
Disaster recovery	= Yes
Mutual support and meetings	= yes.
Is research HE?	= Yes
Rights and responsibilities agreed	= Yes
Full membership fee	= Yes

**The M25 Steering Group recommends to the meeting that the Science Museum be approved as a member of the consortium**

Adam Edwards, 13/1/09