
Library photocopy service

As you will be aware, you receive, as a benefit of Membership, the right to have 50 sheets of photocopying free per calendar year. This applies to any copyable item in the College Library, subject of course to copyright legislation (books, papers, journals, etc.), and to any copies we obtain for you from elsewhere.

However, the Library Committee has confirmed that where this Library is itself charged for obtaining a copy, it should pass the charge on to the member concerned.

It is in your own interest to make an initial approach to your local library, where such exists; it may subsidise such requests, and you may be able to obtain them more cheaply. The College Library should not be seen as your first port of call, although where no local facilities exist we are most willing to help. However, we do not hold general medical journals, and it is not therefore cost-effective to approach us for articles from such titles.

The copy requests which we receive can be supplied from various sources:

- From our own stock. (We can supply a list of our journal holdings.) Please bear in mind that not all our stock is housed in the Library, and may be in parts of the College where it is not immediately accessible (usually the unbound older journal runs).
- Through our membership of the Psychiatric Libraries Co-operative Scheme (PLCS) to which many of your local libraries may belong. This is a consortium of some hundred libraries, which between them hold around 1500 journal titles. With the exception of a few sites, which make a charge, copying is done freely on a recipro-

cal basis. Please note: the titles listed are specialist ones, not all sites are fully staffed, and some stock is held off site and is not immediately accessible.

- Other libraries, including the BMA Library or Kings Fund Library (for more general titles) and the British Library (for titles not held by PLCS). These sites make a charge, varying from £1.90 (BMA) to £4.25 (BLL) per citation. These charges will be passed on.
- We have to date been advising members of expected costs: this is time-consuming for all parties. We would propose that *where the cost to be incurred does not exceed £10.00, we will go ahead with the requests; where it exceeds £10.00 we will notify you first, and seek your confirmation before progressing the order.*

If any member wishes further clarification in general, or in respect of particular requests, please contact the Library on 0171 235 2351 x138.

Library closure

The College library will be closed for stock-taking for the last two weeks in August, Monday 18th–Friday 29th inclusive. The library staff will be available to take telephone enquiries and letters but would appreciate it if this were kept to a minimum. However, if any member has a real need to visit the library during this period, it will be accommodated.

THE LIBRARY STAFF