10 April 2006 for immediate release

Reprieve for LISU’s Public Library Materials Fund and Budget Survey

LISU is delighted to announce that the Public Library Materials Fund and Budget Survey will, after all, continue as a series. Thanks to the timely intervention of Nielsen BookData in offering funding support for its compilation, the survey is back on track and will appear as usual in 2006. Agreement was reached recently between LISU and BookData on a two year sponsorship arrangement for the publication.

The Survey provides details of both the estimated and actual expenditure on various categories of materials by public library authorities in the UK as well as summary figures and commentary on trends. Changes in staffing levels and service points are also covered. As such it represents a valuable resource that is objective and independent, for policy makers, the library profession, the book trade, academics and the media.

LISU's Director, Dr Eric Davies, remarked: “This represents a vote of confidence in what LISU is achieving. When we announced the cessation of the series earlier this year following MLA's withdrawal of funding, we were truly surprised at the reaction. So many people told us how important it was to them - we received a welter of messages of support from a range of businesses and associations. This gave us encouragement to seek a means of keeping it going. BookData came to the rescue and we are very grateful to them”.

Paul Dibble BookData’s UK Library Manager commented: “As a regular user of the report, I was surprised and concerned to hear that it was under threat. By sponsoring the report, Bookdata, is pleased to be able to demonstrate our support and commitment to the library community, and play our part in ensuring that this valued resource is not lost.

I know that the LISU figures are used by a wide range of stakeholders within the library community, providing an independent, trusted, and accurate summary of library spending and trends. As the leading data provider to libraries and library suppliers, we could see immediate synergies between our role and the data collection and reporting role of LISU and, as such, we look forward to developing a long-term relationship with LISU.”
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About LISU
LISU is a national research and information centre based at the Department of Information Science at Loughborough University. LISU comprises a team of experienced Information Managers, Statisticians, Researchers and Administrators focusing on the analysis, development, interpretation and dissemination of statistics, performance assessment measures and related management data. LISU seeks to contribute, in appropriate ways, to good management practice in the various public and private sector agencies that make up the strands of the information economy and cultural services.

About BookData
Nielsen BookData (www.nielsenbookdata.co.uk) is the leading provider of comprehensive, enriched and timely bibliographic data worldwide. The company is wholly owned by VNU, one of the world’s largest publishing and information companies. BookData provides a unique source of bibliographic data services to librarians, booksellers and publishers in 110 countries around the world. Under the brand Nielsen BookNet, it also provides value-added transaction services to the industry. Sister company Nielsen BookScan operates the world’s only continuous retail monitoring service for English-language books. The group employs more than 150 staff in the UK; BookData Asia Pacific based in New Zealand and Australia collects data for the Asia Pacific market and is the leading provider of bibliographic services for the region.

About VNU
VNU is a global information and media company with leading market positions and recognized brands in marketing information (ACNielsen), media measurement and information (Nielsen Media Research), business information (Billboard, The Hollywood Reporter, Computing, Intermediar). VNU is active in more than 100 countries, with headquarters in Haarlem, The Netherlands and New York, USA. The company employs 38,000 people. Total revenues amounted to EUR 4.3 billion in 2002. VNU is listed on the Euronext Amsterdam (ASE: VNU) stock exchange. For more information, please visit the VNU website at www.vnu.com