Food and Drink Policy in Stirling Campus Library

The Library is primarily a study and learning facility. Hot food or food which is smelly, noisy or otherwise distracting to fellow students should not be taken into the building. Any drinks should be in covered containers, and all packaging either placed in appropriate bins or removed from the building. Consultation with users indicates the need to maintain a supportive study environment, and students or staff not adhering to these guidelines may be asked to leave the Library

Background Information

The "old" Library had a clear policy of no food and drink except water. It was felt that this did not match the study requirements of contemporary students. A straw poll on the Library web page gave no hard and fast guidance, but it was clear neither a policy of no food, nor an "anything goes" policy would be supported by a majority of users. There is a divide in practice in other academic Libraries. A recent Sconul discussion list surveyed opinions from around 20 Libraries, and it was clear that where there was a "no food" policy it was initiated and most strongly supported by Library staff; where user consultation had driven the policy the outcome was more relaxed.

The above policy has been put in front of the Library Programme board and the Student Union representatives and received support. It will require some effort on behalf of Library staff and close liaison with cleaning staff if it is to work well. As with general noise including conversation, there will be specific areas within the Library where any eating or drinking will be strongly discouraged. In this way we hope to accommodate the study requirements of both traditional academic s and the new generation of undergraduates.

Poll result	
No food or drink	9%
No restriction on food or drink	8%
No hot food	11.5%
Any food if not disturbing others	27%
Water only	26%
Drinks only	18.5%
Total responses	424

Extract from existing IS regulations	Proposed amended text in bold
2 **User responsibilities General**	2 **User responsibilities General**
Users are required to observe the regulations published in the University Calendar and in the various libraries and other facilities managed by Information Services.	Users are required to observe the regulations published in the University Calendar and in the various libraries and other facilities managed by Information Services

The facilities are provided for the support of learning, teaching and research, and their associated administration. Other use may be allowed as a privilege but not as a right.	The facilities are provided for the support of learning, teaching and research, and their associated administration. Other use may be allowed as a privilege but not as a right.
Users must conduct themselves in ways which do not interfere with, threaten or disrupt the work of others	Users must conduct themselves in ways which do not interfere with, threaten or disrupt the work of others
Users may use the facilities only in ways which do not cause loss, damage, injury or offence to other persons	Users may use the facilities only in ways which do not cause loss, damage, injury or offence to other persons
Users must vacate computer laboratories when asked to do so by members of staff about to undertake timetabled teaching in them.	Users must vacate computer laboratories when asked to do so by members of staff about to undertake timetabled teaching in them
Users may bring children under 16 into the libraries but must ensure they remain under supervision at all times; they should not use the computing & network facilities.	Users may bring children under 16 into the libraries but must ensure they remain under supervision at all times; they should not use the computing & network facilities
Eating and drinking are not permitted in the libraries or the computer laboratories.	**Hot food, or food which is smelly, noisy or otherwise distracting to fellow students should not be taken into libraries or computer labs. Any drinks should be in covered containers, and all packaging either placed in appropriate bins or removed from the premises. Consumption of hot food or alcoholic drinks will require prior permission from Director of Information Services**
Smoking is not permitted within any University building.	Smoking is not permitted within any University building
Computers, library books and other materials are the property of the University: due care should be taken when using all Information Services facilities not to damage them in any way	Computers, library books and other materials are the property of the University: due care should be taken when using all Information Services facilities not to damage them in any way