

University Committee on Libraries
November 13, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. at Café Degraستا by Chairman David Smith. Also in attendance were Gail Bederman, Harvey Bender, Wesley Calvert, Ryan Finlen, Roger Jacobs, Charles Rosenberg, Mihir Sen, Marsha Stevenson, John Weber, Gordon Wishon, Jennifer Younger, observer Gay Dannelly and secretary Melodie Eiteljorge.

The minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2003 were approved as written. The committee's 2002-2003 annual report will be appended to the minutes.

Director's Report:

Younger distributed a report from Cheryl Smith to the library faculty on Younger's recent presentation to the Faculty Senate. She reviewed this document briefly, noting question #4: "What is the current process for deciding what is purchased and what isn't?" There are currently 41 separate subject funds. Expenditures for serials and books purchased through the approval plan take primacy within each subject area. Money that is left over after these materials are paid for is typically used to purchase other monographic materials. Selectors have the option of canceling journal subscriptions to free up more funds for the purchase of monographs. Subscriptions to "Big 5" journal publishing packages significantly limit options for cancellation of titles within these packages. Use statistics for electronic journals are readily available now, so the evaluation of journal costs and values will play a larger role in selection in the future. Faculty input on journal and book selection is welcomed and the library will re-double its efforts to ensure timely communication before and after collection decisions are made.

Younger also distributed a letter from the University of California Libraries (UC) to the UC faculty about the possibility of major reductions in available journals in UC's shared digital collection for 2004 and beyond. The root cause is rapidly escalating prices for scholarly journals, especially those which are commercially published. The unsustainable nature of these price increases has been brought into sharp focus by the university's unprecedented budget shortfall. The letter outlines strategies for attempting to prevent reductions and asks for support. It asks faculty who are editors of journals to discuss issues of fair and reasonable pricing for electronic access with personal contacts at publishing companies. Younger noted that this request is indicative of how the issue is heating up.

Younger also reported that she is meeting with members of the Graduate School regarding scholarly communication and dissemination of Notre Dame scholarship and research.

Bederman raised questions about archiving print copies of journals for future scholars, especially in the humanities. She is concerned that electronic versions are in formats that will become obsolete and inaccessible as technology changes. Weber added that, if this is true, it is across all disciplines.

Younger responded that libraries are investigating models for digital archiving but that they are also archiving on paper as a safeguard. Wishon added that there are many efforts underway to archive both content and the technology. Stevenson added that there are efforts to refresh formats so that we can migrate information as new formats become available.

Younger noted that, beyond access, part of the fees we pay to companies like JSTOR are for the capital costs of maintaining the archive. However, commercial publishers have no archiving responsibility. Thus, there are many efforts underway to look at this. Within Indiana, Younger is chairing a new consortium, Academic Libraries of Indiana. This group is looking into the establishment of a storage module in Bloomington in order to begin a collaborative effort to "de-dup" collections.

Weber asked about perpetual rights to electronic information. Dannelly responded that this depends on the contract and the publisher and is variable. Younger added that there is no obligation for the publisher to maintain the data. An increasing number of contracts provide perpetual rights, but only for as long as the data exists.

Rosenberg asked if the Library of Congress (LOC) is involved in archiving issues. Younger replied that they are and that in fact the U.S. Congress awarded the LOC \$100 million for digital preservation.

Bender suggested that the Libraries plan a campus-wide forum to discuss archiving and access. Younger will pursue this. She will also send to UCL via email some URL addresses for sites related to these issues.

Strategic Planning Update:

Younger distributed an updated spreadsheet. Revisions were based on observations at the last meeting that the goals did not adequately represent the humanities. The provost has asked the Libraries to prioritize within an \$80 million target. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) identified major goals and action items from the strategic plan to create the implementation plan. This implementation plan will have funding needs tied to major goals and will go to the Provost for review.

Wishon noted that within Renovare one project is a digital institutional repository. He thanked Jennifer Younger and Dan Marmion for their leadership in this effort.

At the last meeting, Weber asked Stevenson a question regarding the action item of improving communication within the library. Stevenson reported that she has learned since that meeting that there are some efforts underway to improve communication, including a communication audit. She will follow up on that at a later meeting.

Younger noted that at the fall meeting of the Advisory Council for University Libraries (ACUL), Jim Neal, Vice President for Information Services at Columbia University, discussed the future of research libraries. In addressing changes in the environment, he noted that we are in an environment of self service. The Human Resources web site is an example of that. In the library, we are in the process of redesigning our web site to include more self service features. Wishon added that we will see an increase in availability of self service features with the new portal.

Bederman asked about our goal to remain in the Top 50 of the Association for Research Libraries (ARL) rather than Top 20. Younger responded that it is not feasible for us to be in the Top 20. Our total operating expendable was about \$18 million last year while #1 Harvard's was \$80 million. We are looking more closely at the Top 20 Private Institutions, where we are ranked #14. Of course this group also includes Harvard. Top ranked institutions also have large historical print collections, which factors positively into their overall rank. Rosenberg asked whether libraries evaluate and compare what percentage of the total university budget they get. Younger replied that college libraries have larger percentages than research libraries and that this figure is not compiled or compared by research libraries.

Rosenberg asked if professional development funds are included in the implementation plan. Younger replied that this is not an action item but that we do make funds available.

Younger reported that John Unsworth, Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, will speak on campus on March 23 about scholarly communication in the humanities.

UCL Communication with Campus: Younger noted that the committee's minutes are published in *Notre Dame Report*. The Libraries also publish *Access* newsletter, which covers library issues in the local context. Jacobs suggested that UCL could send out a quarterly email to faculty regarding library issues. Wishon noted that "push communications" is an issue of discussion on campus. People complain about receiving email and voice mail without an "opt-out". This will be influenced by the portal. Listservs are the traditional means of communication.

Smith noted the use of "My Library" as a way to communicate. He also suggested that UCL could have a graphic within the rotating graphic on the library web page, a "keep up to date" feature.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Eiteljorge
Secretary