

University Committee on Libraries
December 3, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. at Café Degraستا by Chairman David Smith. Also in attendance were John Adams, Craig Barbolla, Susan Blum, Wesley Calvert, Walter "Jack" Pratt, Charles Rosenberg, Andrew Sommese, Marsha Stevenson, John Weber, Gordon Wishon, Jennifer Younger, guests Nigel Butterwick, David Jenkins and Parker Ladwig, observer Gay Dannelly and secretary Melodie Eiteljorge.

The minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2004 were approved as written.

UCL on the Web: Smith proposes that the committee establish a web site with minutes, membership, contacts and any other pertinent information. This would be available from the library web page and available to anyone. The committee agreed that this would be a useful means of communication. It might be useful to include a counter to monitor use. Eric Morgan, Head of Digital Access and Information Architecture in the library, has agreed to assist in putting the site together. Smith asked for volunteers from the committee to assist in planning the site. Marsha Stevenson and Andrew Sommese agreed to work with Morgan on this. Secretary Melodie Eiteljorge will also assist.

Updates: At an earlier meeting there was a question about difficulties in using Acrobat to open pdf files when attempting to download articles. There are two levels of Acrobat: Reader and Pro. In downloading an article, if the computer senses the patron has previously used Acrobat Pro, it prompts him/her to use Acrobat Pro, which is available through a campus site license but only for a specified level of use at any one time. This is misleading since only Reader, which is freely available for use on all computers, is needed to view files. If the patron knows this, s/he can continue without a problem. Unfortunately this is not clear. It is a configuration problem in the browser. Wishon will look into possible ways to correct this.

Smith reported that the provost's Library Task Force has not met.

Younger reported that OCLC has announced to its library members that it will begin testing the opening of WorldCat records to Google access. The project will extract a 2 million record subset from the more than 53 million records in the WorldCat database. The subset will target the most popular and widely available books by selecting records with a minimum of 100 libraries holding each item. Searches on Google will retrieve the records and link through OCLC to library holdings.

Younger also reported that The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has received support from Congress for enhanced public access to NIH funded research information. Its proposal would

request investigators to voluntarily submit electronically the final, peer-reviewed author's copy of their scientific manuscripts if the research was supported in whole or in part by NIH funding. The NIH would archive these manuscripts in NIH's digital repository for biomedical research, PubMed Central (PMC). Six months after the publisher's date of publication the manuscript would be accessible publicly through PMC. This would introduce another cost dynamic for subscriptions in the life sciences.

Younger also thanked UCL members for participating in the Libraries' recent survey to evaluate the role electronic journals play in faculty research and teaching activities. The survey will next go out to the faculty as a whole.

Notre Dame participation in Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI) pilot programs for reciprocal borrowing and no-charge interlibrary loan - guest Nigel Butterwick:

The aim of the ALI Reciprocal Borrowing Program is "to promote, enhance, and facilitate research, teaching, and learning in Indiana academic institutions." Sixty-five libraries currently participate in the program and the University of Notre Dame will join in January 2005. Initially, the program will run through June 30, 2005 as a pilot service.

There were questions regarding why we are participating in this program when most of the libraries nearby are much smaller. Butterwick responded that ALI is experimenting to work out governance issues among libraries. This on-site borrowing program is a small step in determining whether we want to go to direct borrowing remotely. We are a net lender overall, but we are a net borrower at some institutions with specialized collections.

The no-charge interlibrary loan program has been operational since August 15, 2004, and Notre Dame signed up at the launch date. The program runs through June 30, 2005 initially. It is limited to the lending of books and utilizes delivery systems already in place. In effect this is virtually no change for us, as we have been operating a no-charge ILL service with other Indiana libraries for some time. Purdue University is a participant. In previous years Purdue was not a participant in any of the less formalized "no-charge" ILL arrangements.

Communications Working Group (CWG) update - Marsha Stevenson:

Stevenson provided the following update from Jo Bessler, chair of CWG. The CWG held eight open fora with library employees during October and November. They have prepared draft policies and recommendations regarding the communication-related responsibilities of committees, decision-makers at all levels, and individual employees. After meeting with an independent consultant, Lou Wetherbee, they are preparing to share these proposals with library employees and are developing strategies to

ensure that these statements change behavior rather than merely rest in some metal or electronic file.

Stevenson will report back to UCL on the progress of these proposals.

Continuing discussion on analysis of e-journal package use -
quests Parker Ladwig and Dave Jenkins:

Ladwig and Jenkins provided a recap of discussions at the last meeting and distributed charts comparing the costs involved in leaving the Big 3 - ScienceDirect (Elsevier), Wiley, and Kluwer/Springer. Of the three, Kluwer/Springer would save the most if we decided to cancel a package. There would be virtually no savings in canceling Elsevier. Notre Dame cannot keep pace with inflation with or without the packages. Dannelly noted that the strength of the Euro against the U.S. dollar is also a major factor reducing library purchasing power.

Staying in the packages is a means of controlling inflation. However, savings is based on how many years you commit to, and right now we are only committing to one year at a time. If you stay in the package with a cap on inflation, the spread between the list price and the package price grows. Thus, you pay for the spread all at once if you cancel the package. So far we have been fortunate in getting "one time" money from the Provost Office, making it possible for us to stay in the packages.

In order to stay in the packages, we must cancel other journals to keep expenditures within the library budget. Younger noted that this analysis and looking at cost per use will be useful in seeing that some are better deals than others.

It was noted that there are different cost factors for information in different disciplines and that there is competition about the distribution among subjects. The competition was mitigated by one-time funding from the Provost's office. It was suggested that the library benchmark the distribution among subjects at other institutions. For example, Princeton seems to have canceled the packages but also maintained their print copies.

Weber suggested that Jenkins and Ladwig return for the January meeting. They agreed to do so.

The meeting originally scheduled for January 7 will be moved to January 21. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Eiteljorge
Secretary