

Senate Library Committee

Feb. 14, 2008

Attendance/Sign In: C. Filstrup, R. Shrock, K. Nyitray, J. Torre, B. Butt, J. Jo, J. Lockhead, J. Bock, M. Vigneaux (recorder)

A handout of “The future of the book” presentation that Filstrup gave in January served as “minutes” of that meeting.

[STATUS OF REVISED CHARGE] Bernie Lane stated that the existing language is sufficient to give the committee the scope requested in the revision.

[BUDGET STATUS] Shrock’s letter to Provost Kaler on increasing library funding was acknowledged but demurred on providing additional funds to the collections budget.

Director’s report.

07/08 budget

After a mid-year review, the library does not anticipate a significant addition to its monograph budget, leaving it at c. \$400K. Using Southampton funds, we have added significant electronic resources (e.g. Wiley and Cambridge e-journals) and by the end of the FY will purchase about \$100K of monographs for that campus, easily retrieved for use on West Campus. On this campus, we will use some lapsed salary funds to replace 30 very old staff computers.

Related to this current budget Lockhead noted that the Music Dept.’s requests for CDs and monographs have not been filled. This is crucial as some of this material will go out of print. Filstrup stated that he regularly meets with the Provost and brings up the issue of supporting curricular needs. This committee should consider having campus deans correspond with the Provost to emphasize the importance of the monograph budget. At a March 10 meeting of library selectors and department liaisons Filstrup intends to review the collections budget thoroughly.

08/09 budget

The library’s request includes: 1) \$300 to cover serials inflation and additional funds to boost the monograph budget to \$700K. These are tied to goals 3 [build research] and 8 [strengthen graduate education] of the Five Year Plan. 2) \$400K to increase the print monograph budget to \$800K (goals 8 [grad ed] and 9 [undergrad curriculum]. 3) \$500K to convert storage space on the fourth floor to a 50 seat computer classroom (to be shared with TLT) and smaller storage area [goal 9 undergrad curriculum]. 4) Several staff positions.

For Southampton, we will request a similar budget to this year’s, \$214K. I’m preparing a five year budget that will include the move into the new building.

Personnel

We have hired Fiona Grady as an instruction librarian. Among her responsibilities will be adopting social networking (YouTube, FaceBook, MySpace, etc) Web technologies to improve our services to undergrads. A search is under way for a librarian for Southampton.

Federated searching

Libraries are trying to break away from the cumbersome searching we require to search the library's many databases. We have in beta a federated search engine which can search up to 50 databases simultaneously and deliver the results in an easy to comprehend display. This will be very helpful to students who don't know quite where to search and to faculty who want to range outside their favorite databases for an interdisciplinary look at published research.

Integrated library system (Aleph)

Although this is a bit technical, I want to note that we were the first in the nation to bring into operation an effective authority system by which we control names and subjects in the catalog. Catalogs are so complex that this work can no longer be done manually. This successful upgrade has led to requests from the likes of Harvard, MIT, UMinnesota, Notre Dame for the code. DoIT and Cataloging deserve kudos for this achievement.

[OFF-SITE POLICY] Filstrup handed out the offsite storage policy and reviewed the pressures to move books offsite: the stacks are full and lots of print material is low use and should not be shelved in the center of the campus, for example, old reference books. By reducing shelving, including in the stacks, the libraries acquire room for study areas. The current stacks areas are poorly lit and isolated. As yet there is no word about acquiring storage space locally in the Gyrodyne property across Stony Brook Road.

[DISCARDING LIBRARY MATERIALS] Filstrup presented the case for discarding older materials. For example, national bibliographies are now completely online. Use of these old print bibliographies is very limited. The issue is whether the SUNY Center libraries need to keep multiple copies of these bibliographies. Shrock and Bock discussed uses of old publications on drugs for which a history is useful. In such an instance older editions could be archived in perhaps Special Collections. Filstrup reminded the group that discarding materials was politically sensitive. He will proceed slowly.

[HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY UPDATE] Jo told the committee that there are now no discards due to the problem created when a member of HSC needed an issue that was discarded. An outside team has reviewed the HSL and will issue a report in the near future. By 2020, HSL plans to be completely electronic. (John Hopkins set the benchmark). The current budget will not require any serials cancellations. There are 5 vacancies, including 4 professional positions. Spencer Marsh is retiring on July 23, 2008. Moises Eisenberg accepted the offer to be interim Director.

Continued discussion on the printed and electronic resources. Shrock reported that the Physics Dept. has agreed to cancel print subscriptions to Physical Reviews. Adequate working printers are essential if everything is online.

Next meeting: March 13. Proposed agenda items: institutional repositories (such as Harvard's) and a federated search system demo.

Upcoming dates fall on the second Thursday: April 10, May 8.