UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

University Library Committee
Minutes
May 4, 2020

Attendees: Peg Boulay (guest), Kristin Buxton (guest), David Condon, Bettina Cornwell, Alex Dossin, Beth Harn, Shelley Harshe (ex officio), Sara Hodges (guest), Barbara Jenkins (guest), Mike Peixoto, Andrew Lovering (guest), Jens Noeckel (guest), Peter Ralph (guest), Margaret Sereno, George Sheridan, Xiaobo Su, Dean Walton (guest), Mark Watson, Michal Young (guest), Annie Zeidman-Karpinski (guest)

Absent: Jesse Cohen, Kate Thornhill

ULC Agenda

Welcome and Introductions (Margaret Sereno)

Update from the Interim Dean (Mark Watson)
- Since the March 24th physical closure of the UO Libraries, there have been rapid changes to meet the remote needs of students and faculty.
- As we come to grips with the fact that our professional and personal lives have not been put on pause, but have deeply changed, we begin to build a new and uncertain future day-by-day. Traditional library practices have been put into question with this current remote environment.
- The UO Libraries is now planning for the FY2021 budget. Currently and in the past, the Libraries has allocated collection funds by discipline. For next year, to avoid disproportionate effects of budget cuts, we will begin allocating larger pools of funds, basing allocations on schools and colleges (with three sub-pools for CAS).
  - Pooling the funds will help the libraries support interdisciplinary research better than when the dollars are allocated to specific department.
- The Libraries has created an internal Remote Workforce Team to lead the effort to transform the libraries into an even more skilled, technology forward, remote, and hybrid work organization.

Update from Senate Sub-committee on Open Access (David Condon)
- Web site: openaccess.uoregon.edu
- The committee was charged by the Provost and the University Senate in December 2019 to undertake an investigation of the overall state of open access (OA).
- The committee is on-track to meet the deliverables by the end of academic year:
  - An overview of the current landscape of OA trends and practices in the area of scholarly communication and publishing,
  - An analysis of the role that open access plays in research and the dissemination of scholarly resources and works at the UO,
  - Overview of options for renegotiating the libraries' contract with Elsevier,
  - Recommended next steps to further the discussion and adoption of OA at the UO,
  - Create opportunities for campus-wide discussion that involve stakeholders from across the academic disciplines,

and facilitate broad awareness of its work among all campus stakeholders.

- In winter term, the committee created a working group to develop a white paper; the full document as well as an executive summary are available on the committee's web page.
- A short video on open access will be posted shortly.
- The committee will be speaking to the Senate on May 13 and hosting a town hall meeting on May 28.

Discussion with Faculty from the Natural Sciences
- This academic year, the ULC has been reaching out to departments across campus to learn about what faculty like about library services, want to see more of, or would like to see improved.
- Discussion:
    - The [DeArmond MakerSpace](#) has been a tremendous resource for computer science.
    - Really like the active learning classrooms.
    - How close is the library working with [UO Online](#)? Has there been an integration of efforts?
        - Yes. Mark has regular meetings with Carol Gering, and the eLearning & Open Educational Resource (OER) Librarian (Rayne Vieger) works with UO Online and TEP as part of the larger team providing remote and online resources
        - On the IT side, the libraries has been working with Jesse Minton in Information Services and been involves with the [Transform IT](#) process.
    - Appreciation expressed for interlibrary loans and the continuation of physical loans (by mail!).
    - The way we use the libraries now is quite similar to pre-COVID, so kudos to the libraries for continuing services. The libraries has demonstrated flexibility.
    - The science librarians are great.
    - Human Physiology uses library classrooms and small reservable rooms, but has experienced ongoing technical issues.
    - Finding certain indexes can be difficult. One faculty member has struggled this term with periodical subscriptions for a class that needs them for current events (primarily newspapers and news magazines). The search interface is not set up well to be able to search for topics within one periodical or even to search for a specific article.
    - Faculty have noticed that, if a source is not immediately available electronically, graduate students tend to give up. Suggestion to find ways to encourage them to reach out to librarians for help, and to repackage the indexes to facilitate this.
    - A graduate student mentioned using VPN to access library resources. Is there a way to streamline authentication to increase efficiency?
        - Since switching to more online services, the libraries has added a bookmarklet, which launched a few weeks ago. The bookmarklet is under Library Proxy Service on https://library.uoregon.edu/library-technology-services/proxy.
    - One faculty member is using an open access textbook for large classes; it is working so far. It was important to get guidance from colleagues.
    - Labs would be hard to switch over to open access.
    - An open access checklist would be helpful.

- The libraries has a LibGuide on open access resources: https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/openedatuoregon.
- Faculty are often interested in writing open access textbooks, or moving class notes towards becoming a textbook. This is in principle easy to do (e.g., with bookdown), but these are often self-hosted on github; here is a good example: https://gcbias.org/population-genetics-notes/. It could be great if the libraries hosted these in a centralized and more formal-looking way, that would let the books persist into the future even after the author has moved on.
  - The OER Librarian, Rayne Vieger, should be able to provide information about what others have done. Some faculty may have used Scholars' Bank as a repository for their OER content.
- Feedback from students about how they are using their textbooks would be helpful in guiding decisions, but this should be separate from course evaluations.
- A lot of people are teaching using (Python) Jupyter notebooks; it would really help if someone would facilitate the technical side of this: set up a jupyter hub for classes that need it.
- Preprint servers are arguably the most crucial part of OA, but a faculty member has heard that several of the major preprint servers (arXiv, bioRxiv) are currently needing to renew their funding. In his view, funding preprint servers is more essential than subscribing to expensive journals. Partnering with these and/or the Center for Open Science (which runs eg PsyArXiv) might be a good way to support these, but not sure what that might look like.
  - The libraries already financially supports arxiv, though not bioRxiv or PsyArXiv (https://library.uoregon.edu/memberships-affiliations) and, yes, the loss of those would be momentous.

Next Meeting Preview
- The next ULC meeting is Thursday, June 4 at 3:00 pm. Year-end wrap-up.