

ULC Meeting – November 20, 2009

PRESENT: Alisa Freedman, Daniel Pope, Michael Young, Frances Cogan, Gordon Sayre, Marilyn Linton, Steven van Enk, Deb Carver

GUESTS: Mark Watson, Associate University Librarian for Collections & Access; Dave Fowler, Head, Acquisitions Department, Laura Willey, Assistant Head, Access Services

Historical Spending Data

Dave Fowler, Head, Acquisitions Department, presented the results of a research project to collect and analyze data about how the UO Libraries allocates materials budget funds over the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities. He distributed two documents (**Executive Summary & Executive Summary Addendum**) looking at library expenditures over the past seven years. Deb explained that the purpose of gathering this historical data on expenditures was to shed light on the question of whether spending was balanced and equitable.

Dave noted that the documents contained a summary of all the data that had been compiled from library records and supplied by the Office of Institutional Research. An obvious conclusion is that expenditures on information to support the natural sciences exceed that of the social sciences and humanities. Although allocations are historical and have evolved over time, the pattern of expenditure tracks the proportional amounts of grant money that each of the major disciplinary areas bring into the University.

Several suggestions for future data collection and analysis included finding out how the UO data compares to peer spending patterns and determining the rate of spending growth over time in each of the major disciplinary areas. Gordon noted that the rate of growth may indicate the need to reallocate or shift resources if increased spending for some disciplines begins to disadvantage others. He also suggested that the relative need for older versus newer materials in some disciplines could affect the need for the library to spend more or less. Frances asked about the possibility of creating an equitable spending formula. Deb replied that the ULC had undertaken such a task in the past but found the models to be overly complex and flawed. At the time, John Nicols posited the theory of the “squeaky wheel”—a practice that has evidenced a great deal of success in practice. Deb encouraged Frances and everyone on the Committee to make their information needs known to the library.

Subvention Funds for Monographs

Gordon reported the existence of a [program offered through CAS and OHC](#) to assist UO authors in paying subvention fees. This program is meeting an important need, and, although relatively small compared to the amount that the Library has put towards OA author fees, seems to be holding. These grants go a long way towards ameliorating the perceived inequity between scientists and humanists where the distribution of the OA funds is concerned. Subvention fees are different from author fees in that the former are not really part of a process to change scholarly publishing and move authors away from high-priced commercial publishing options. Deb suggested that the ULC monitor both the OA author fee and subvention assistance programs and discuss again once more data had been collected about demands and needs.

Faculty Studies

Deb explained that while faculty studies in the Knight Library are in high demand by faculty, they actually receive very little use. She then asked Laura Willey, Assistant Head, Access Services, to present the findings of a **use study** conducted during Winter Term 2009. After discussion, the ULC agreed that

the UO Libraries should proceed to implement the recommendations presented in the handout (listed below):

Recommendations:

- Reduce down the number of faculty study rooms from 27 to 14.
- Remove locks from the doors of 8 of the remaining 13 and allow them to be used by all library users during all hours the library is open.
- Allow room reservation and key checkout for the remaining 5 faculty studies for 2 hour use. (For both faculty and students)
- Remove the locks from the doors of the five group studies that students can reserve and checkout. This will increase the use of these rooms.
- Require departmental signature for all faculty study assignments to verify appointment date ranges and ensure key return before faculty leave.
- Reassign responsibility for graduate and faculty study rooms to the Checkout/Information Desk from Library Administration. This will reduce a labor burden and allow better tracking of use.
- Keep the CAS room assignment responsibility with Library Administration but tighten up the process to ensure high use. Require for instance, contract end dates and make sure CAS is aware that the rooms should not be used for Courtesy Faculty.

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Scholarly Communication

Gordon reported that Peter Gilkey is appointing a group aimed at the goal of instituting an Open Access (OA) Mandate for the UO. Peter cites the precedent set by Harvard, MIT and Kansas and wants the group to consider the possibility of making a similar proclamation at the UO. Adoption of the mandate will not require additional funds, but it will mean the UO Libraries needs to gear up for the possibility of increased submissions to Scholar's Bank. Deb said that the word "mandate" often makes people nervous, but she said that it only applied to submission of the metadata associated with the publication. All of these programs provide a provision for the faculty to opt out of submitting the actual text in order to ensure that no one's publishing efforts are put in jeopardy. It's unclear whether the mandate would apply to monographs. Committee members include Deb, Gordon, Peter, Barbara Altmann, Dev Sinha, and JQ Johnson.