

University Library Committee
Minutes
October 24, 2011

Attendance was not taken.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Deb Carver, Dean of Libraries. Introductions followed and Deb provided a brief overview of the committee's charge.

Review of Last Year's Activities

Deb reported that last year's committee work was very productive. She reviewed the document, "Envisioning the 21st Century Research Library-Faculty Perspectives," that was created last summer after holding several focus groups for faculty who were serving as their departmental liaisons to the library. The goal of those discussions was to find out how faculty's research and teaching are changing and to use that information in shaping the library's strategic plan. Faculty's immediate concerns centered on:

- collections
- lack of research skills by students
- physical facilities
- not wasting time learning new technologies, etc.
- Blackboard challenges
- Variety of media in teaching

Deb encouraged all members to review the document. The committee will be able to focus this year on these issues, including budget, content and services.

FY2011 Annual Report Overview

Two documents were reviewed by Deb: "Quick Facts – A snapshot of the UO Libraries as of 6/30/11" and "Library Budget and Expenditures." The library received a \$300K permanent increase for collections and a \$200K one-time increase to focus more on operations. Even with the collections increase, there was still a 4.2% decline in collection purchases. Some of that is a result of the journal cancellation process. The library also saw an 8% increase in digital content which reinforces the shift from print to electronic will continue.

The more compelling information in the Library Budget document is that although the library's overall budget and expenditures have increased, there continues to be a decrease in the percentage of the university's education and general (E&G) funds, which includes tuition revenue plus the state contribution. Enrollment does drive costs more in the schools and colleges, but enrollment also has an impact on equipment, space, and technology. Licensing is also based on FTE. There is some movement towards a budget process for central support units. That campus task force is looking to roll out the model to administrative units. The

library has put together a central budget committee to begin working on this process. It is expected that by March or April, there should be a current service level and budget to present. .

FY 2012 Library Budget overview

Deb provided a brief review of the “Quick Facts” document. Traditional services such as print circulation and reserve use continue to decline. Reserves are now managed through Blackboard. Use of digital collections continues to increase. Face-to-face reference questions are going down by the same percentage that virtual reference is going up. The “chat” service connects the patron with a librarian instead of a student at the reference desk. The door count for all libraries during a typical week, 2010 fall term, was close to 50,000. This number is based on an electronic counter. It does take into consideration the number of library staff. People do not come to the library just to look for books. There are many reasons - research, study, classes, technology, etc.

Re-purposing of space is important. There is a campus-wide crisis with space. Some of our classrooms have been turned over to the Registrar. Five hundred students are taking classes in the library now. Rm. 101 has been very successful. It has flexible furniture and good presentation equipment. It can seat up to 80 students. Journalism is also utilizing space in the library for equipment check out, computer lab and classroom space during their relocation.

Current Library Strategic Plan

A handout was distributed on the library’s strategic directions. The library is entering the second year of its strategic plan. The handout shows where the library is focusing its energies: scholarly content, collaborations, user experience, academic success, diversity, and learning environment. There is a strong alignment with the ULC’s vision statement. For more information on the library’s vision and strategic directions and objectives, go [here](#).

JSTOR Print Journals

There are three options to consider: 1) keep them all in the stacks, 2) keep selected titles in the stacks, and 3) rely on the archive. Members discussed these options – noting the challenge for some is dealing with a tangible item for sentimental reasons. Other than sentiment, what makes a hard copy valuable? There are some disciplines that require more visual analysis for research. Images in JSTOR are poor quality. Some prefer browsing books in the stacks, where others prefer to browse journals online. **????don’t understand Mark’s notes on this conversation. Something about storing or getting rid of books/journals.** Deb will update the ULC on the project.

Open Access Events

JQ Johnson reported on open access (OA) at the UO, focusing on journals that publish online with no subscription fees and instead different funding sources (often author fees). One benefit of OA is that it offers new ways to break out of the long term library funding trap of rapidly inflating subscription prices. A second is that it is good for the author since it improves scholarly access; articles published as open access on average show greater use and higher citation rates. A third is that it improves public access. An open access article can be read by an interested non-academic in Baker City, OR or Lagos, Nigeria.

Some example UO Library activities promoting open access include increasing faculty awareness, for example through on-campus events scheduled for Open Access Week (Oct 24-30), grants providing partial funding for author fees for OA publishing, a library publishing service which currently publishes 3 UO OA journals, Scholars Bank, and assistance for UO authors with copyright and rights-retention questions.

ULC Chair Selection

The committee will select a chair for this year's committee at its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Submitted by Sheila Gray