

Academic Affairs Library
Administrative Board of the Library
2011-2012 Annual Report

Members:

ending 2012: Robert Allen (Am Stu Cur), Adam Domby (grad student rep), Frank Dominguez (Romance Lg), Paul Jones (Journalism), Charles Kurzman (Sociology), Megan Matchinske (Engl & CL), Karen O'Brien (Drama Art), David Stotts (Comp Sci), Robert Windsor (undergraduate rep)

ending 2013: Philip Vandermeer (Univ Lib)

ending 2014: Arlene Bridges (Pathology), Fitz Brundage (History), Sue Goodman (Mathematics), Laurie Langbauer (Engl &CL)

ex officio: Sarah Michalak (Univ. Librarian)

Number of Annual Meetings: 7, approx. monthly during spring and fall semesters

Report prepared by David Stotts (chair)

Charge:

Shall advise the University Librarian on the administration of the University Library system; formulate, together with the University Librarian, the basic policies governing the acquisition of library materials and the use of such materials; allocate, with the advice of the University Librarian, the book funds which are not specifically designated; submit to the Chancellor, through the University Librarian, its advice on the establishment or discontinuance of library service units outside of the general library building; review the University Librarian's budget request; and report annually to the Faculty Council.

Updating the Charge

The Board was requested in late spring 2011 to consider its current charge and discuss a possible rewriting. It was felt that the current charge is dated and has not evolved along with the library structure and services. We began this discussion in fall 2011, and we are iterating proposals with the Faculty Council Committee on University Government. We expect to have a final proposal for the updated charge to the Council for consideration in spring 2012.

Budget Issues

At the first meeting, the Board received a review of the budget for the fiscal year. As with every part of the University, the library is working with yet another year of large reductions, with this year's cut being 12.7% of state appropriations. A significant portion of the reduction has been absorbed via personnel attrition, but the ability to do that seems at an end without sacrificing services that are popular and necessary. The Board generally agrees that absorbing reductions in this way keeps reductions in acquisitions to a minimum. The acquisitions process is driven by necessity rankings from academic units and by usage, so that most collections cuts are being made in serials that are both expensive and rarely used. New acquisitions continue to be made with the funds that are available. The Librarian is also finding special funding and gifts to continue to offer popular services, such as late night study hours in Davis.

A review of the budget request for next year is scheduled for mid-spring 2012.

SUMMON

The Board received a demonstration of a new library service coming online in 2012. Called SUMMON, the software is a web-based resource discovery engine that allows searching of many different research databases and compendia without having to know the specific interfaces of the individual systems. Not only does SUMMON discover the resources, but it returns direct linked accesses to the found articles for faster and more effective use of research time. Because it can exploit the special structure of its constituent databases, SUMMON produces result lists with more relevant articles up top than general Google search. SUMMON is not intended to replace direct access to these databases, but rather make it easier to search across many of them.

We found SUMMON to be a very interesting facility and expect it will be greeted enthusiastically by the library user community. The Board was also pleased that even with severe budget cuts, the Librarian working with the Provost was able to direct funds to this new project.

Wilson Special Collections Update

We received a presentation on several projects being carried out in the Wilson Special Collections Library. Sprinklers are being installed in the core collections area to bring the facilities up to current code standards. The building security systems are being upgraded as well. Finally, a study is underway to map out use of the public spaces in Wilson. The results of this study will allow the public spaces to be organized and outfitted to best provide services desired by the users of the library. All these efforts are scheduled to be completed in 2012.

e-Science and e-Research Data

The library has been participating in the Association for Research Libraries (ARL) / Digital Libraries Federation (DLF) e-Science Institute. This is a six-month interactive program designed to help research libraries develop a strategic agenda for e-research support, with a particular focus on the sciences. It covers the use of information technology to support scholarly research in all disciplines, including e-science, cyberinfrastructure, and digital data curation.

This program will leave the library in a good position to support the data management plans that will be required in NIH proposals, as well as NSF and other granting agencies. It will also help the library be prepared to support the forthcoming UNC framework for research data stewardship.

The training received by this exercise is also helping define the capabilities for the new Kenan Science Library. As a new resource, it is a particularly good time to establish new digital data management capabilities. An assessment is underway to determine the e-science and e-research data requirements of the users of the library.

Ongoing Work

Ahead in the spring, the Board will be hearing from the Law Librarian and the Health Sciences Librarian for summaries of the year's issues and activities in their respective facilities. We have a session allocated to a budget discussion with the Provost. We have a session allocated to discussing long range plans and visions (5-10 years) for the library with the various librarians; we have asked them where they see the library going -- what needs will be there, what trends are developing in services and particularly what are the implications of ongoing digital transformation of content and delivery. We also have a meeting allocated to a review and discussion of the budget request for the coming fiscal year. Finally, we have a session scheduled to hear about development activities that are underway to enhance the library's collections and facilities; this is especially important in lean budget years.