Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council Meeting
September 22, 2008

Members attending: Jennifer Adams, Angie Boyce, Sarah Brown, Leslie Diaz, Brittney Edmonds, Scott Eidler, Brian Grambow, Melissa Hardstone, Katie Horning, Heather Levy, Christine McEnery, Alka Menon, Rella Moag, Erin Penner, Elizabeth Phillips, Apama Sharma, Merina Tejada, Darla Thompson, Kim Todt, Harrison Tsai, Corey Wronski

Attending from the Library: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Xin Li,, Assistant University Librarian for Strategic Initiatives; Lance Heidig, Reference and Instruction Librarian; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

1) Announcements

Anne Kenney announced that the Library will host a two-day Hip Hop Conference and Celebration October 31 - November 1, 2008 to mark the official opening of the Librarys recently acquired collection Born in the Bronx: The Legacy and Evolution of Hip Hop. The collection documents the early days of hip hop with recordings, photographs, posters and more. Information about the conference and to register (free) for one or more of the sessions which includes A Conversation with Hip Hop's Pioneers (Friday, Oct. 31, 2-6 PM), Music by Hip Hop's Pioneers (Friday, Oct. 31, 8-10:30 PM), and the academic sessions (Sat., Nov 1, 9 AM-3 PM) visit < http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/hiphop/conference.html>.

2) The book in the digital age

In 2009, the Library will be considering the role of the book in the digital age. Among the issues to be examined is the nature of reading and the impact of technology on how we read. Council members filled out a short questionnaire distributed by Lance Heidig asking how they get books and about their reading habits (see the summary of responses attached.) A discussion followed. Comments included:

- Electronic textbooks are useful; can print out specific chapters or sections as needed.
- Electronic books are good for quick reference and for browsing material.
- Paper is needed for "deep" reading or "active" reading when it is important to physically interact with the material, e.g., write in margins, underline, attach sticky notes.
- Often start online to identify books--Amazon, Google Books, Library Catalog-- but want to end up with the physical book in hand.
- Browsing in the stacks is helpful. When you find a useful book, scanning the same and nearby shelves can turn up additional useful books.
- Great to have journal articles online; this makes it easier to follow citations immediately and download several relevant articles in one sitting.
- Most print out the articles for reading. Some convert the articles into PDF for added functionality, e.g., searching across the articles for terms or phrases.
- Many read newspapers online.

Anne recommended the article "Online Literacy Is a Lesser Kind" in the September 19 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. < http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i04/04b01001.htm> The article echos some of the comments in distinguishing between the "fast scanning" (i.e., browsing) that is typically done online with "slow"(i.e., "deep" or "active") reading that is necessary for "liberal arts learning."

3) The role of the Library in research and learning (and comments/concerns about the Library)
       Anne asked Council members to talk about the role of the Library in their research and learning. Comments included:

- Engineering students often study in Duffield Hall rather than the Library because group study and interaction is important. The Library does not have enough group study rooms to meet the demand. Duffield Hall has alcoves and empty classrooms with white boards where group study can take place.
- The double screens on the computers in the Uris Library CL3 Lab make writing papers and other tasks easier.
- Graduate students find it difficult to work in Olin Library during the day. It's often hard to find an empty computer and the carrels are not sufficient. Books left in assigned carrels sometimes disappear. Graduate students with teaching assignments get offices but these are shared and not conducive to doing research. Physical space for graduate students is important but is not sufficient in the Library. Anne responded that the Olin Library renovation plans take account of this issue. She will learn whether the Library can proceed with the renovation following a meeting of the CF&PC on September 30.
- There is a problem with the carrel renewal process in Olin Library. Some graduate students are getting notices that their carrel is being cleared even though they have tried to renew.

FOLLOW-UP:
The procedure for assigning carrels and lockers in Olin Library is spelled out at < http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/access/carrels/index.htm>. For both Fall and Spring Semesters, renewals start on the Monday two weeks before Instruction begins. The renewal period continues for one month. Email reminders are sent to all carrel and locker holders and a second email is sent if there has been no response to the first email before any material is cleared.
As of September 25, there has been only one student who has contacted Olin Library to ask for a renewal in response to the second email notice.

- The Reference Librarians are wonderful. There is no replacement for the services they provide.
- Great that the Library policy has been changed to allow beverages to be consumed in the Library.

- There are not enough outlets in the Olin Library stacks. This is another issue that will be addressed when Olin Library is renovated. Lance noted that there are outlets in the stacks area of Uris Library.
- The new printer room in Olin Library is great (less noise/more room for computers) BUT now you can't keep your eye on your belongings when you go to pick up your printouts.
- An older man was viewing pornography on a public computer in the Veterinary Library recently. Is there a policy to prevent this?

FOLLOW-UP:
The Cornell Library Public Computing Policy is available at < http://campusgw.library.cornell.edu/about/policyPublicComputing.html >. It states: Priority use of the computing equipment is for academic rather than recreational purposes. If there are people waiting to use a computer and you are engaging in non-academic pursuits, you may be asked to give up the computer you are using. .. .Use of all university computers and networks is governed by university policies, codes, and applicable federal, state and local laws.
Cornell's Information Technologies Rights & Responsibilities document states: Adult pornography: Possession of adult material is not a violation of policy or code unless the material is illegal.

As such, there is no written policy that prohibits viewing adult pornography on public computers in the library. At the same time library staff members will try to address situations causing discomfort for patrons, as was done in response to this case at the Veterinary Library. So, please report to library staff any such situations that affects your ability to use the library safely and comfortably.

Ed Weissman said that members of the Council will be added to a Council list serve (SLAC-L) and that a Council wiki will be established for distributing agendas, meeting notes, background documents and to facilitate communication.

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, October 27, 5-6 PM in 703 Olin Library.

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