

Library Directors Leadership Team Meeting

April 27, 2015
420C Malott Hall

Minutes

Present: Kornelia Tancheva, Mary Ochs, Curtis Lyons, Bonna Boettcher, and Eric Acree
Guests: Anne Kenney

Agenda

- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Updates
- 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm – Anne Kenney

Updates

Eric

- There was an AAP department meeting in which the FAL building project was discussed.
- Eric Acree presented at the New York African Studies Association conference in Albany, at the “Teachers Session.” His presentation was titled, “The Use of Key Africana Studies Online Resources for Teaching and Research.”
- Five Fine Arts Library student workers have been added to the Africana Library substitution list for the duration of the spring 2015 semester.
- Africana Library tested having student workers open and close the building without supervision on Saturdays.
- As a part of Cornell Men Against Sexual Violence, Eric Acree took part in the tabling for the White Ribbon campaign and dinner.

Mary

- Sufia-Hydra pilot group is moving forward. Lynette Rayle is working on adapting the technology for Cornell’s use. The Pilot group is working in sync with the repository group. Jim DelRosso is on the Sufia-Hydra pilot group and bringing back information to RepoExec. Lynette and Tim Worrall are beginning to construct a front end for the TEEAL-AgriKnowledge system that will use this technology. This has been a good way to experiment in an actual applied situation without moving any Cornell Library collections into the new environment.
- **Tahir Poduska** was hired as a new web developer in CUL IT. He will be working on the USDA ESMIS system and other web development projects.
- Many of Mann’s statistical software packages are coming up for renewal. CALS has paid for them in the past for the CALS computer labs in the Mann basement. Last year Mann Library paid for them to keep them going in an interim period. This year there is no clear evidence that CALS faculty are using these software programs for instruction in the labs, so for now, the software is not being renewed. Meetings to discuss the need for statistical software around the campus are underway. We are also trying to find a way to collect good data to show who exactly uses this software.
- The Instruction team has partnered with CTE to create a program for librarians. We are calling it the Class Design Institute modelled on the faculty course design institute, but it will focus on the

single session class. The two-day program for librarians (up to 25 librarians), will be held at the end of July. The librarians that did not go to the immersion program will be especially encouraged to attend.

- The Geneva review task force is presenting possible scenarios for the Geneva Library moving forward, report is due June 1, 2015.
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Bonna

- Kick off meeting for the Uris ADA project. CIT will more than likely need to take the Tower Lab offline for the summer during the project.
- Phil says bids are in for the Olin roof and the project is in process.
- We will be sponsoring pizza breaks at midnight on May 12th and 13th, 2015.
- Slope Day is approaching. It's against fire code to lock the Olin front doors so we aren't going to staff the Stimpson exit. Staff will be monitoring the tunnel and will place barricades as close as we can to the Olin entrance. Three staff members will be placed to divert those who are looking for restrooms only. Confirmed with Jon Ladley that we will alert Facilities for emergency clean-ups. Uris will close at 8:00 am and Olin at 6pm.
- Olin/Uris has been running a sign audit of temporary signs that just seem to appear. Bethany and Jon have been noting locations and taking photos. They are 2/3 through and have found more than 100 temporary signs.
- Deb Muscato is retiring as in the end of April; her retirement reception is on April 28, 2015.
- Audio cassettes from the Maps and Media collection (including those from Asia) are in the process of being processed and shipped to the Annex. Once they're gone the large card catalog cases will be able to be removed and open up space.
- Annex construction continues. The most dramatic transformation is in the 5th module where they are just finishing up the drywall to enclose the mechanical room.

Curtis

- Daniel Hickey has returned to work.

Kornelia

- Please contact her if you feel that office hours at other libraries besides Mann would be productive.
- Kornelia will be attending an HLM Staff meeting in July and would like to discuss things to focus on vision and the future. Would like to visit all the libraries again and meet with staff or your direct reports.
- Discussion on free document delivery proposal, branding and instruction.

The Library Director's Leadership Team discussed the free document delivery proposal that Access Services put together. This concept would require more staff and more resources, which is something that we are unsure we can fund. Is this something we should be focusing on right now? Or, should we advertise the services that we currently have better?

- The general consensus was in favor but in a limited way—only to faculty and graduate students. Suggestion-- talk with some of our peers that have made the switch already to see how it has worked for them and what it has cost them in resources and staffing.

Library branding suggestions. We discussed what the most important thing about the library “brand.” Two ideas from Curtis: competitive advantage and part of the academic side. Eric: use the library Facebook page ‘Discover the past, analyze the present, and plan for the future.’ Mary will send a quote from a survey that Mann did about what the library means to users. .

Discussion to be continued.

Discussion on instruction tabled until our next meeting.

Anne Kenney’s visit

Anne had asked the AULs to spend some time with their various reports.

Things on her mind: the Sesquicentennial, the budget, and thinking about the next two years in light of having a different administration, faculty who have been energized around the issue of faculty governance, and students energized around the cost of education. We are coming out of a period of complacency on how things are working, more of a sense of citizenship of the world. Anne feels the economy, digital, and global are the three leading factors that will affect the years to come.

Anne has been working on a position piece addressing the issue of physical books in 20 years out particularly in the case of the FAL. The board of trustees approved the budget for the construction of the FAL, but they are agonizing over the question of ‘why should we be devoting our energies to creating a building that is purposefully built for physical objects?’ Anne has been meeting with graduate students and newer faculty as proxy for the future there.

Other things on Anne’s mind: library space, including the new Vet library, needing to hold fast on Mann Library, future developments in Management, as well as possible campus initiatives that may be of interest to the Library.

Anne assured the directors that any staff actions in connection to the sizeable budget gap have been completed. Next on the agenda is looking at rebalancing workloads. It is important that staff are aware that the budget cuts are affecting all of the units and departments, and that all of the AULs had to work together on them. It is important to clarify the issues with staff while acknowledging the loss. In times of stress it’s natural to have fear but it’s also natural to come together. Even though this has been said previously, all signs point to things going in the right direction and although it’s hard to predict, the degree of certainty is higher than it has been.

The directors asked Anne to share with staff anything from the new president on a positive note and suggested that she stress the importance of the people in the library to the new administration.