

Library Directors Leadership Team Meeting

May 26, 2015
235 Olin Library

Minutes

Present: Kornelia Tancheva, Mary Ochs, Curtis Lyons, Bonna Boettcher, Erla Heyns, and Eric Acree
Guests: Oya Rieger and Kizer Walker

Agenda

- 9:30 – 10:00 am Oya Rieger & Kizer Walker
- 10:00 – 10:30 am Instruction
- 10:30 – 11:00 am Library Branding

Oya Rieger & Kizer Walker

Collection Development

At the Selector's Retreat they talked in detail in regard to: Oya's role, Kizer's role, and emerging issues in collections development. Oya and Kizer wanted to build on some of the outcomes and see meeting with the Library Director's as an opportunity to get their input comments and questions.

Pressure Points.

The appropriated budget for collections will be held flat for the upcoming Fiscal Year: no increase and no decrease in funding levels.

- Kizer, Oya, and CExec are looking at ways to take some of the central materials funds to get some big ticket items that selectors have prioritized, as well as, asking selectors who have significant fund balances at the end of the year to contribute for these expensive one-time purchases. Approximately \$200,000 will be directed at large year-end, one-time purchases.
- The campaign for collections has focused heavily on bringing in one-time money, which is good for immediate spending, but doesn't work for ongoing commitments – have you thought about how to address that? Over the past couple of years, there has been an influx of one-time funding, for example, the reserve funds that Anne graciously directed to collections a couple years ago. One way that collection development and CUL administration has tried to address the need for ongoing collections support is to lobby with the Provost for annual increases that will at least match inflation. For the current fiscal year, we received a 5% increase over last year, which with inflation is the minimum needed to maintain a steady-state collection; for the coming fiscal year, the flat budget amounts to a loss of buying power of approximately 5%. Kizer noted that the University has raised the minimum amounts required for donors to establish endowments, which have traditionally been an important source of ongoing funding; some donors who would have established endowments in the past are now donating one-time funds – which we appreciate, but which have inherent limitations.
- While one-time funds are not appropriate for ongoing serials subscriptions, they can provide relief by allowing outright purchase of resources that we would otherwise subscribe to.

- Many selectors will manage a flat budget by reducing monograph purchases in order to protect serial subscriptions.
- After months of discussion, a decision has been reached to invest in the Springer ebook archive, a perpetual-access collection of ebooks, primarily in STEM fields. This will be a \$500,000 purchase over 5 years with funding divided among central materials funds, the Database Review Committee (DRC), and the science selectors. As part of the deal, annual cost increases for all Springer materials will be held down for an estimated savings of nearly \$130,000.

We are in the process of contacting several of the largest publishers regarding our flat budget to determine whether they will offer any relief from annual cost increases. Once the new president and provost have arrived and settled in, we hope to get a sense of what we can expect regarding the materials budget for FY17 and going forward. Until then, it will be difficult to make informed decisions about collection development.

If budget pressures have an upside, it is that they may encourage selectors to collaborate more. The expensive one-time purchases we have been able to make over the past few years have been joint decisions on the part of groups of selectors.

Kizer put a survey together on selectors' strategies for coping with the flat budget and issues such as how changes in academic programs affect collection needs. Oya and Kizer noted that while the budgetary problems are very real, the individual statements suggest that selectors are coping. Some selectors have unspent funds. This may seem ironic in light of budget pressures, but the surveys suggest that the unpredictability of the annual budget situation has motivated some selectors to save funds for future use. Kizer and Oya are working with Ezra on strategies to give selectors spending flexibility from year to year without building up balances in the subject funds, which is not a good practice.

At Mann, thinking about the model for monograph selection. Is there a way to do it more efficiently without sacrificing the quality of the collection?

- There will be an opportunity to review the central approval plan because of the transition to a new approval vendor that in connection with the phase-out of WorldCat Selection in June 2016.

Over the next 3-4 months, Kizer and Oya will be interviewing the AULs of peer institutions with collection development responsibilities to gather an understanding of models they are using and also the mechanics of their budgeting process. To try and get a better understanding of what the trends are.

Collaboration with Ivies Plus Group.

Last summer a preliminary proposal was submitted from Yale for a more intensive coordinated collaboration with the Ivies Plus Libraries and it was approved by the directors of the Ivy Plus Libraries.

- This will involve the hiring of a Director of Collection Coordination. That person will be stationed at Yale and reporting to the University Librarian there.
- The three focuses are:
 - print retention,
 - web archiving, and
 - some kind of collaborative collection development.

Updates

Kornelia

- Update from last week's LEG meeting: LEG discussed goals and priorities for 2015-2016 that are requested by the Provost's Annual Report. CUL's current Strategic Plan will conclude by the end of the year. LEG has decided to postpone developing a new strategic plan until the new president and provost are in place. More discussion to follow.

July LDLT meeting is with Terrie Wheeler (Director, Weill Medical College Library).

- Kornelia is asking everyone to say a few words regarding their cluster such as what their top priorities are and what their top challenge is and exchange service ideas with Weill. .

PSEC meeting update:

- Zsuzsa and Gaby presented on the *Faculty Survey*. They talked about the analysis they have done on comments and asked about questions that people might be interested in. So far, they are scheduled to discuss specific findings with Mann and HLM staff.
- *Statistical software*. All Colleges except Law and Architecture, Art, and Planning are members of CISER and their students can use statistical software packages through CISER. The library will not be providing any on the public computers.
- Free document delivery proposal from the Access Services Committee. The AS Committee recommended continuing the service as is but improving the access points and advertising it. They are going to delineate in detail what improvements are needed. A rep from libris provided a demo of Leganto, the reserve module of Alma. It is an add-on, can be used with Alma only. Looked very user-friendly. Alma has "reading lists," which allow for only items already in the catalog to be included; while Leganto can pull items from anywhere. There is an additional cost for Leganto.

Bonna

Uris ADA entry is moving forward. Working beginning Monday, June 8, 2015.

- The tower lab is closed for the summer, while work is underway.
- The purpose of the project is to allow those who register with Disability Services to have independent access to Uris during regular operating hours.

Work on the Annex's 5th module continues. Delivery of one of the air handlers has been delayed, but this should not affect the finish date.

The Olin roof replacement project will move forward, beginning late June/early July, and ideally completed by late November.

B05 Uris also is being upgraded this summer. The project is primarily a CIT project, but Meghan Sitar has been involved in the planning, and Library Facilities staff have also been included in discussions. The classroom will support active learning and teaching styles, in addition to being available for collaborative work when classes are not scheduled.

Erla

The Veterinary Library move to our temporary space and moving a part of the collection to the Annex has been postponed to later in July. We hope to have the catalog records converted before school starts in August.

Erla is going to start a review of the virtual libraries.

- What does it mean; what are national trend; what are best practices,
- What do we look like currently,
- What are we doing, and
- Where are we going?

Anyone who is aware of a virtual library that works well as a model you can send information to Erla. I am currently looking at peer Institutions and doing a literature review.

Doing several different goal setting projects right now.

- Working with Erin on setting goals for her position for outreach for the vet school and really defining what that looks like.
- She has shared the goals for Vet with everyone who reports to her and will start to define goals for EMPS and, as we define the goals for the virtual libraries, set goals within that broader context.

Jill Wilson has started her work in Research and Learning Services at Olin for 20 percent of her time per week (basically one day). Jeremy has started his work in technical services 20 percent of his time one, day a week. Diane is continuing 20 percent of her time with DSPS.

Instruction

Kornelia will have conversations with the Instruction Committee as well as the Reference and Outreach Committee because even though the number 38% caught her attention in instruction, it's not like research help is doing any better, it's about 27%. Have a conversation at PSEC on what we can do about that and what it means.

Kornelia is looking for suggestions, what might be the reasons and how can we find what the reasons are, what does it mean for our future work in instruction – as we are beginning to form the report to the Provost there's one category that says, report on your previous goals, and one of the goals from last year says effect student learning through instructional offerings and one of the LEG members who had put together the template for us to start populating – Kornelia put in red, is this really a goal?

Suggestions.

- Get a group of reference coordinators together or start introducing that through instruction. Ask the people from the instruction committee to get a focus group or something, the people who are really coordinating reference work or who are working on consultations rather than using RNO because they are much more a programming group rather than a doing group. If you want a broader opinion from multiple reference librarians, but using it as a forum to get input. Both could be useful in different ways.
- What we are missing in this information is context, alter the student survey. PSEC Instruction came up with a list of questions of why could this be, the question is formed as an opinion rather than a, what did you learn question. Those who used the service overwhelmingly said it was helpful.
- Get a student focus group or groups.
- Make it a working session to help students learn. Eric can provide guidelines from UB. The classes that were meaningful where the students had an assignment, otherwise it was a complete waste of time.
- Recently, Erla taught a class. There was only 20 students in the class, typically they would do a session at the end to use a few resources. The felt that even that wasn't useful, because everyone has different needs.
 - This semester she asked if the students would be interested in individual instruction, small group instruction, or have the presentation at the end of the semester. Everyone wanted one-on-one instruction which was very successful and the reviews were fantastic! Feedback projected to doing it individually the next year.

Everything that the instruction team is doing to build a more thoughtful information literacy program, hopefully is going to send that number in the right direction. But if we are looking at improving people's teaching, developing learning outcomes for class sessions, working with Faculty on assignments and having librarians build their skills in developing assignments, and staff holding instruction so that we don't PubMed to people five times without realizing it are what we are really trying to do. Hopefully Librarian's out there are really embracing these new approaches because it is definitely different then what we've done in the past. Hoping that as we progress in that direction both individually and programmatically that the number will improve, that's the goal.

Is there something you think we should do about the training, how can people improve their teaching capabilities?

- Class design Institute coming up in July. Working with CTE to fine tune their course design institute specifically for librarians and focus on a one session class as a first step. We will see how this goes in July, it can accommodate 25. Mary sent out a save-the-date which went out to the instructor's list, Mary will forward to the other Director's to forward to their appropriate contacts. Priorities will be given to anyone who didn't make it to the emersion program, the program is a day and a half.
- Perhaps maybe develop a mentorship in addition to what Mary has devised for this summer, something on going.
- Meghan has been encouraging the assessment activity at the end of the sessions leaving enough time for students to write down one thing that you learned today that will help you with your work for this course. To reinforce what they've learned.
- Encouraging more team teaching of classes.

Training, finding out what wasn't helpful, focus groups, changing the way we give instruction, it's what we teach. Make's sense to specialize things that have high impact higher than teaching freshman writing seminars, there's no research component.

How do you make it engaging?

- A research assignment rather than 'how to do research.'

Before doing anything drastic we need more assessment done. We need to select where to do assessment. But would that be representative? Perhaps having the faculty member send out an evaluation survey after the class, a short one?

Library Branding

A tag line for the Library. Can the phrase emphasize the library's academic role and mission rather than branding ourselves as a study hall?

A central connecting hub, much evolves around the library.

Mary will be sending out some information that Mann has collected regarding this topic.