

Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council Meeting, April 19, 2010

Members attending: Andrea Armstrong, Emily Cusick, Heather Levy, Lauren Mangano, Ashley McEnery, Alka Menon, Erin Penner, Kelly Vaughan, Corey Wronski-Mayersak

Attending from the Library: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Jeremy Cusker, Engineering Library; Nan Hyland, Mann Library; Janet McCue, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Research, Outreach and Learning Services; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

1. Article Search/Database Search/Image Search

Webfeat, the software underlying Article Search/Database Search/Image Search is being phased out this summer. Jeremy Cusker, a member of the team looking into replacement software discussed the several options the team has investigated. The team is likely to recommend utilizing an option based on EBSCO Host. The article search is intended to serve as a first look to identify articles found in selected recommended sources but is not comprehensive. Most of the comments reflected the fact that this service was not highly regarded or much used. A TA said that she discourages her students from using Article Search because she does not want them to think that the resulting search is comprehensive. She suggested that there be a disclaimer to that effect. Another Council member said that she prefers Web of Science and other specialized databases as starting points for finding articles.

2. Confidentiality of Library Records

Ed Weissman presented the Library's new [privacy and confidentiality statement](#) which will soon be up on the Library Web site and distributed a document providing information about the Library's practices on the collection, use, disclosure, maintenance and protection of personally identifiable information.

Libraries have always had to collect information about their users for reasonable purposes, for example to keep track of materials patrons borrow. At the same time the library profession recognizes the importance of protecting the privacy of its users and the confidentiality of library records and personal data. New York State and 47 other states protect the confidentiality of library patron records by law. Such records can only be disclosed with the patron's consent or in response to subpoena, court order or other legal requirement. The Patriot Act has expanded the circumstances under which federal authorities may request patron records and prohibits the notification of the patrons involved. The Cornell Library will not disclose any records unless authorized to do so by the Office of the University Counsel. Also, the Library has put procedures in place to minimize the retention of Library records.

At the same time maintaining confidentiality has become considerably more complicated as library infrastructure and systems have become networked. In many cases third party systems are used to provide basic library services. For example, the Library Catalog (the new, not the Classic catalog) is operated by OCLC rather than Cornell. Many database and electronic journal sessions are run on publisher sites. The Library attempts to ensure that third party vendors we contract with have policies and procedures in place to protect your privacy. But even with Cornell run systems, there are concerns that compete with privacy. Basic system security requires that system administrators be able to identify those who are using networks and systems illegally and/or for nefarious purposes. Also, as Cornell and other libraries seek to provide more customized and personalized services the identity of patrons must be known. The world of social networking is, of course, based on the idea of sharing information including private information, and it is affecting many things including library services. Finally, as we look to improve services in general we do so by gathering usage data. All of these factors make maintaining confidentiality and protecting privacy a moving target.

Ed then reported on an issue raised by a graduate student pointing out a serious privacy problem. Student ID numbers are provided to instructors for grading purposes. Cornell ID number and last name may be used to log in and see patron information. This means that instructors can log in and see their student's patron information including items checked out and requested. The Library is working to resolve this issue but it may take some time to provide a Cornell NetID only log-in.

Comments included:

- Privacy is very important. The Library should always err on the side of caution.
- There should be easily seen disclaimers associated with services where confidentiality is an issue.
- Users should have to "opt in" to use customized services.

3. Library Strategic Planning Update

Anne Kenney reported that the preliminary endowed operating budget cuts are "not as steep as I had feared." She said that the collections budget allocation will be held flat although endowment payouts will be lower which, in conjunction with expected price increases, will result in reduced purchasing power.

The unit library reviews covering the Veterinary, Entomology, Engineering and the ILR/Johnson School/ Hotel School libraries are moving forward. The recommendations of the Veterinary Library Review Committee were reviewed by the Faculty Library Board at its March 29 meeting. The Board will review the Entomology Library recommendations at its April 21 meeting. Following these reviews and in consultation with the respective deans, Anne will present the final recommendations for these units to the Provost and the Deans' Council.

The Fine Arts Library remains the only library on campus without air conditioning and good environmental controls. Kent Kleinman, the Dean of the College of Art, Architecture and Planning and Anne have talked about the collections' importance and the danger to it from environmental conditions and he agrees that something needs to be done soon. There are real possibilities offered by the work underway for constructing Millstein Hall that would entail relocating the Fine Arts Library in Rand Hall where the load bearing floors can support denser collections housing and proper environmental controls can be assured. Dean Kleinman has pledged his support to raising the funds necessary for retrofitting the space. If this cannot be accomplished it may be necessary to look for other space, possibly outside the college.

With the sale of the duplicate materials in Uris Library to Tsinghua University, plans to remap the Olin and Uris collections have been made. Uris Library will house LC classes Q-Z with the remaining LC classes housed in Olin. The relocation of books will begin after final exams are over. The Tsinghua sale will result in an endowment with an expected payout of \$38-40,000 per year, all of which will be used for building collections.

Lastly, final approval by the Trustees for the Olin Fire Safety project is expected in May and work will likely begin in June.

For additional information see Library Strategic Planning: March 2010 Summary at http://www.library.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/LibStrategicPlanning_Mar2010Summary_public.pdf

4. Issue from Council Members

- Appreciate the feature in the WorldCat Library catalog that fills in the interlibrary loan request form with information from the catalog record. At the same time there are still Library holdings not represented in this catalog.
- There is a problem finding catalog record for journals with generic titles, e.g., Proceedings.

- It would be helpful if you could immediately issue a recall on an item that was recalled from you. Now, you have to wait until the recalled book is checked out before you can issue your own recall.
5. Announcement
- The indefinite loan policy for faculty is being ended following review and endorsement by the Faculty Library Board. The loan period for faculty will be changed to one year.
 - A new exhibition, “Known to Everyone, Liked by All: The Business of Being Mark Twain” featuring the Mark Twain collection of Susan Jaffe Tane, is opening on Friday, April 23. The exhibition includes first-edition books, manuscripts, letters, photographs and other materials. You are invited to a lecture by Robert H. Hirst, curator of the Mark Twain Papers and general editor of the Mark Twain Project at the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley at 4:30 p.m. in the Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall and to a reception and the first public viewing of the exhibition from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections in the Carl A. Kroch Library.
6. Anne thanked the members of the Council for their service this year and asked those who want to serve another term next year to let her know.