Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council Meeting
November 22, 2010

Members attending: Judy Amsalem, Amy Blakeley, Ruth Chan, Matt Christensen, Juan Guerra, Jonathan Leape, Lauren Mangano, Ashley McEnery, Curran Muhlberger, Samantha Pedreiro, Kasturi Saha, William Spencer, Brant Torres, Josi Ward

Attending from the Library: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Bonna Boettcher, Music Librarian and Adjunct Professor of Music; Gaby Castro Gessner, Research and Assessment Specialist; Janet McCue, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Research, Outreach, and Learning Services; Dan McKee, Japanese Bibliographer; Leah Solla, Coordinator, Physical Sciences Library; Simeon Warner, Director, Application Development, Library Information Technology; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

1) Envisioning a Design Library

Bonna Boettcher, Music Librarian and Adjunct Professor of Music, the co-chair of the planning group appointed by Kent Kleinman, Dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (AAP), and University Librarian Anne Kenney "to develop a vision for a 'design' library that fully supports the new vision for AAP," reported on progress. The group is completing its data gathering. It surveyed peer libraries about collections, user surveys, floor plans and future plans. It identified and surveyed faculty and students in the following departments, considered to be the primary Cornell constituents: Architecture; Art; City and Regional Planning; History of Art; Landscape Architecture; and Design and Environmental Analysis. Information from the surveys is available in Bonna's presentation slides https://confluence.cornell.edu/download/attachments/90736818/Design+Library+Task+Force+presentation+to+SLAC+11-22-10.pdf

Highlights from the external survey include:
Future plans
•8 of 9 libraries who shared future plans are increasing or ameliorating group study/ collaborative spaces.
•3 of the same 8 are amplifying holdings or access to special materials (maps, archive material, special collection).
•1 library in a competitive design school is creating a Materials library

Highlights from the internal survey include:
Strong convergence on a number of points:
•**Collections**
--Striking commitment in 4 of 5 units (students and faculty) to ongoing development of the print collection, and to the concept of a browsing library.
--At the same time: almost universal desire for expanded digital collection: journals, visual archives, databases, maps, film/video/podcasts…
--Strong interest from students & faculty from 2 of 3 responding units for a materials library
•**Spaces**
--group work space(s) that could be used for collaboration (on-site, remote) and instruction. Location in the library to allow use of collection. Well equipped with computing, A/V, video conferencing…
--quiet study spaces daylit, furnished with "a palette" of provisions for individual reading/study
--some interest on display, exhibition space for books, current journals, student/interdisciplinary work.
--desire expressed in varying ways for the library to be in close proximity with, and therefore at the center of an expanding network of study/work spaces: design studios, computer labs,

workshops, cafe (though also strong opposition from 1 unit against competition with the Dragon), …

•Services
--Course reserve services: maintain, enrich; consider browsable course reserves.
--Staff expertise in the work of planners, architects, architectural education, landscape architecture and urban design, visual/design concepts --for acquisitions, for research/search assistance
--Augmented staff
--Staff expertise in technologies: computers, scanners, specialized software
--Individual research assistance
--GIS support & workstation
--Longer hours
--Equipment loans –maintain current or expand
--Digital librarian –expertise in online resources
•Equipment/Technology
Most common requests:
--scanners, integrated into email
--maintain, augment equipment loan
--more computer stations, printers, scanners, more viewersfor digital collection
--equip seminar/collaborative space with AV, broadcasting, teleconferencing…

The Task Force is working on a draft of its report with final recommendations due by Dec. 20.

Comments included:
- Support for "sunlit" work spaces and larger work stations for oversize books and materials.
- Like idea of "materials" collection. Some engineering libraries have kits, paints, etc. for students to work with.
- Now it doesn't matter which library you study in. But if move toward specialization in collaborative spaces, e.g., a "materials" collection, then this may change.

2) CUL Strategic Planning: The Library at 2015
Following up on the discussion of the 10 provocative statements about the Cornell Library in 2020 at the Oct. 25 meeting, members of the Library Strategic Planning Task Force conducted an exercise on future scenarios for the library. Council members were divided into 4 groups to consider six questions:

1. How do you see your own information seeking behavior evolving in the next 5 years, and how might the library help you prepare for these future information needs?
2. What will be the information needs of future Cornell students?
3. We need accurate measures to evaluate our success in the library. What measures can you suggest?
4. The University's strategic plan advances the "One Cornell" concept: "Cornell's academic strengths stem from and are based in colleges; yet Cornell's reputation and status . . . depend on how well colleges take advantage of cross-college synergies." What can the university libraries do to better become "one library"?
5. In order to maintain academic excellence, relevancy and cost effectiveness, the library will expand partnerships such as 2CUL, Tsinghua, and Google. What other opportunities do you see for partnerships?
6. Other wild and idealistic scenarios for the library of 2015?

Each group's comments were recorded on flip charts. At the end of this exercise, there was further discussion and some additional comments:

• Would like an area for current and popular fiction books, distinct from the "new & noteworthy section" of the library, which is tailored slightly differently
• To gather input from students, the library could use an online survey at the end of the semester, similar to what is used for course evaluations.   It should be relevant to all but specific enough for those who frequent particular libraries. Caveats and problems associated with surveys were also raised.
• Would like to learn about managing references and articles (pdfs) collected in personal libraries to avoid duplicative efforts.
• Problems deciphering massive amounts of data from databases and also finding specific editions of books in the library catalog.
• Think of CIT staff as the "go to" people for information management questions rather than librarians.
• Would like to see "micro-feedback from catalog"– a thumbs up / thumbs down approach to refine searches--similar to an approaches used in social networking programs such as Facebook.
• Willing to log into the catalog to save searches. Privacy and anonymity concerns do not override convenience.
• Would like the ability to do visual browsing of the catalog – as if in the stacks.
• Opening of the tunnel between Olin & Uris, in particular when Olin closes at 2am, would be nice.
• In the wild and idealistic scenario category, a teleporting system between libraries was suggested.

4) Issues and Concerns from Council Members
- Replicate browsing online for the floors under renovation in Olin Library, or let students onto the floors to find books.
- Problems with public access computers (1/2 can't upload attachments) and printers (many are broken.)

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, Feb. 7, 5:00-6:30 pm in 703 Olin Library.

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