

Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting
September 19, 2011

Attending: Lillian Aoki, Andrew Baim, Ankur Bajaj, Lara Bertoia, Janine Beydoun, Matt Christensen, Matt Clifford, Brian Cuddy, Susanne Forbath, Kiersten Frenchnu, Madison Grasty, Robert Hackett, Toniqua Hay, Hannah Holmes, Shamia Jai Kamur, Ariel Kaplan, Kelly Kubas, Margot Lystra, Ben March, Patricio Martinez, Charles McCann, Lisa McEnergy, Peter Narby, Jamie Roden, Kasturi Saha, Jorge Sarmiento, James Smith, William Spencer, Sijun Yang, Frank Zhang

Also: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Jesse Koennecke, Electronic Resources Librarian; Zsuzsa Koltay, Director, Assessment and Communication; Janet McCue, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Research, Outreach and Learning Services; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

1. Welcome and introductions

Anne Kenney welcomed new students to the Council and welcomed back returnees.

2. Opportunities to serve as informal liaisons/advisors to the Library

Ed Weissman distributed a sheet listing opportunities for members of the Council to serve as informal liaisons/advisors to the library in several different areas. This handout is posted on the SLAC wiki at <https://confluence.cornell.edu/download/attachments/90736818/SLAC+liaison-+advisor+opportunities+--+September+2011.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1316542252000>. Those who sign up to be liaisons/advisors will be contacted from time-to-time over the course of the year for advice and feedback in the areas they select. This complements other more formal methods, like focus groups and surveys, that the library uses to gather student perspectives. Council members who are interested in serving in this capacity were asked to hand in the sheet with their name and preferences or to send their preferences by e-mail using the SLAC-L@cornell.edu mailing list or directly to Ed at esw3@cornell.edu.

3. Summon

Jesse Koennecke provided background and gave a brief demonstration of Summon, the software that is being implemented by the Library as the new system for discovering digital content. The software is being beta tested and developed during the fall semester and will be made available as a service at the start of the spring semester. (The "out-of-the-box" version of the software can be accessed at <http://cornell.summon.serialssolutions.com/>) Library users will be able to use the beta version of Summon starting around Sept. 30 through a link on the Library home page. Summon will allow for searching and access to various types of information resources—articles, databases, image files, etc.--via a single search with Google search like features. It will eventually be possible to include search results from the Library Catalog as well. We will do usability testing and run focus groups this fall to determine what content to include. Comments and questions included:

- Can you save results? *Yes but only for the session.*
- Can visualization of search results be added? *Yes, but it would take additional development. Visualization is not built into the current product.*
- A consolidated/comprehensive search (covering various types of information resources) would be great. Otherwise, will still use Google Scholar.
- On the other hand, all-in-one may result a results set that is too large and confusing.

Jesse then demonstrated the Summon implementation at the North Carolina State University library (<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>) in which the search is run against various information types,

including the Catalog, but the results are separated into categories. Several people liked this approach, e.g., having everything organized so can select from the source or information type I am looking for.

Other comments included:

- The Library should consider having tabs instead of cluttered results sets on the search result screen; improved search options.

We'll notify Council members when the beta version is available on the Library web site and about opportunities to participate in usability testing.

4. Laptop loaner program

Zsuzsa Koltay distributed some tables and charts (available on the SLAC wiki at <https://confluence.cornell.edu/download/attachments/90736818/SLAC+Laptop+Usage+handout+9-19-11.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1316544917000>) showing a 21% drop in laptop circulation last year from the prior year and asked for possible explanations. Comments included:

- Perhaps this reflects a spike in laptop borrowing in the last couple of years.
- Should break circulation numbers out by class year to see if we can determine whether this reflects a decline in the need for laptops or the lack of knowledge about the service.
- Are there more desktop computers available in the library now than previously? *No significant increase.*
- Laptops are lighter and have a longer battery life than previously so more students now carry their own around.
- Is the library circulating more battery chargers than previously?
- Many students use Macs but the library is mostly circulating PCs.
- More use of smartphones and netbooks by students.
- Specialized/high end software used by engineering and architecture students doesn't run as effectively on laptops. Students use desktops for this.
- Mann Library seems to have newer computers than Uris and Olin. Always borrow from Mann.

Anne asked if the Library should plan to continue this service three years from now when the current laptops are due for replacement or if it should use the funding for other services. The majority of respondents said "no" to continuing the laptop lending service.

5. Library consolidations/moves

Janet McCue provided brief reports on the status of the consolidation of the Engineering Library, the planning for the consolidation of the Hotel, Management and ILR libraries, and the imminent move of the Fine Arts Library from Sibley Dome into Rand Hall. Background and status information about these developments is available at:

Engineering: <http://engineering.library.cornell.edu/node/6791>

Hotel/Management/ILR: <http://staffweb.library.cornell.edu/strategicplanning/unit-library-reviews/ILRHotelMgmt>

Fine Arts: <http://staffweb.library.cornell.edu/strategicplanning/unit-library-reviews/finearts>

Comments/questions:

- How much of the Fine Arts Library collection that was moved to the Annex will be brought back to the Library when it moves to Rand Hall? *Rand Hall will have the same capacity as Sibley Dome but we don't think more books can be returned from the Annex until the Library has both the 2nd and 3rd floor in the fully renovated Library.*
- Having reserve books in Uris Library rather than Carpenter hall is less convenient for students. *The Library is working to transition to e-reserves as quickly as possible.*

- Need better publicity in the Engineering College about transition developments, for example the new digital resources being made available. Suggest the use of department lists rather than college-wide lists, especially to reach graduate students.
- Concerned about keeping the 24/7 Carpenter Hall space from getting “too gross” as is the case with Upson Hall because food is brought in but not cleaned up.

6. Student issues and concerns

- Would like more convenient weekend hours: Olin closes too early and opens too late, especially on Sundays. JGSM students have exams on Saturdays and would like the Management Library to open earlier on Saturday. The need is more for study space rather than for collections and services. The Library is better suited for study than other campus spaces that are not always quiet.
- More outlets are needed in Olin Library, especially in the basement. *Anne reported that this will be addressed this academic year.*
- What is the status of the space previously occupied by the Physical Sciences Library? Students are confused about the space. *Offices for the two librarians remains in Clark Hall but the remainder of the space, now used for study, is the purview of the Senior Vice Provost for Research who is aware of the need for study space.*
- MacBook chargers should be available for loan in Olin and Uris as they are at Mann Library. *This is being investigated.*
- When Olin Library creates more group study space, provide screens to allow for projection.

Edward Weissman

Assistant to the University Librarian