Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting
November, 19, 2012

Attending: Brian Cuddy, Allan Delesantro, Avik Dutt, Stacey Eilbaum, Susanne Forbath, Diana Hamilton, Darragh Hare, Hannah Holmes, Diana Hong, Patricio Martinez, Curran Muhlberger, Delphia Shanks, Joseph Simonis, Dan Temel, Saba Vahdat, Peter Wissoker

Also: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Peter Hirtle, Senior Policy Advisor; Jill Powell, Engineering Librarian; Linda Stewart, ; Lynn Thitchener, Reference & Instruction Librarian and Government Liaison, Research & Learning Services, Olin & Uris Libraries; Ed Weissman, Asst. to the University Librarian

1. The HathiTrust decision: what does it mean for students
    Through its participation in the Google Books Project over 400,000 Cornell Library books have been scanned by Google. Through its Google Books site <http://books.google.com/>, Google provides full-text access to those books that are in the public domain. For those books in copyright Google provides either a limited preview, a snippet view, or basic catalog information, depending on the copyright holder's authorization.
    The Library also sends a copy of its scanned books to HathiTrust Digital Library <http://www.hathitrust.org/>, a partnership of major research institutions and libraries, in order to store, preserve, and make accessible the scans of these books. The extent of access permitted in the HathiTrust Digital Library is more limited than in Google Books, though efforts are underway to expand it. For example, Michigan is making versions of all the scanned books found in its library available to visually handicapped students as a "fair use." HathiTrust also has begun to explore providing limited access to "orphan works," those books still under copyright but for which the copyright holders cannot be located for permission to provide access to the scanned version.
    In addition to a lawsuit directed at Google Books for copyright infringement which is currently before the court, the Authors Guild sued the HathiTrust and several of its members, including Cornell University, for copyright infringement. It sought to force all copyrighted works in the HathiTrust database into a dark archive making these works completely inaccessible either for searching or for access to the print disabled. Peter Hirtle told the Council that the suit was dismissed by District Judge Harold Baer Jr. in the US District Court Southern District of New York. The Authors Guild is appealing the decision. This means that for the time being the Library's efforts to work with the Disabilities Office to allow expanded access for visually handicapped students at Cornell have been put on hold.
    Peter provided a brief demonstration of the HathiTrust Digital Library and encouraged students to make use of this extensive resource.
    Comments/questions included:
    - Fighting the Authors Guild when authors are having such a hard time does not seem like such a good idea. Authors are hurting.
    - Why did Cornell partner with Google instead of the Internet Archive or other organizations working for the same purpose? *Anne replied that the Library has sent Internet Archive 90,000 titles we scanned in earlier projects but, unlike Google which pays for the scanning, Internet Archive charges to scan*.
    - Are there any publically accessible web tools in HathiTrust. *Peter responded "not yet."*

2. How students can keep up to date about new information sources the Library acquires
    Jill Powell, Lynn Thitchener, and Linda Stewart demonstrated a few new electronic resources from the disciplines they select in and reported on how they get the word out about new

acquisitions/electronic databases. Methods include blogs like the Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering Library's *Problem Solved* blog <http://blogs.cornell.edu/problemsolved/>, @ Olin & Uris Libraries <http://blogs.cornell.edu/olinuris/>, and History @ CUL <http://blogs.cornell.edu/historycul/> , the "Keeping Current" and other sections of the Library Guides created for the various disciplines, e.g., Fashion Design Management <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/fashion>. For a list of current awareness options see the Current Awareness page on the CUL web site at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/current>. And you can always ask a librarian. <http://www.library.cornell.edu/services/askalib.html>.

Also, Library selectors "push" new resources to faculty who can present them to their classes. The library's liaison program is being enhanced and we'd like to see the names of library liaisons to departments on the departmental websites and on course syllabi.

Comments/questions included:

- Who can we go to about new resources students want? *There is a list of library selectors by subject at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/aboutus/coll/strength/select> and a list of library liaisons to all departments <http://www.library.cornell.edu/svcs/serve/liaisons>.*

3. Comments and concerns about the Library

In response to concerns expressed at the October 22 meeting, Ed Weissman reported that A working group in the Library is recommending the creation of a virtual service to identify and reserve group study rooms throughout the library. The recommendation will be reviewed by the senior managers after the holidays but we've heard from students that this is highly desired.

- The additional outlets installed in Olin Library over the summer are "awesome." Can more outlets be added to the stacks in Uris Library?

Edward Weissman
Assistant to the University Librarian