

# Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting

October 21, 2013

Attending: Mindy Appold, Sarah Berger, Katherine Boehrer, Ashton Connor, Avik Dutt, Jason Haider, Darraugh Hare, Curran Muhlberger, Samuel Ritholtz, Dhruv Singhal, Dan Temel, Sheena Thomas, Peter Wissoker, Daniel Wong

Also: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Boaz Nadav-Manes, Director, Acquisitions and Automated Technical Services; Tracy Mitrano, Director of Information Technology Policies, office of Information Technologies; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian.

## 1. Open Access, Privacy and Hacker Culture

Tracy Mitrano discussed the social, technological, legal and economic issues that are impacting the use of the Internet and the information/content that is available through it. Social norms, technology and the market are out of sync with the law. The cases of Aaron Schwartz at MIT, Edward Snowden, the file sharing prosecutions and penalties, among others point to the need to revise the Copyright Law, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and the Electronic Communications Act to bring them into balance with contemporary social norms and current technology. The strong opposition of Internet companies-- Google, Facebook and others--to tightening privacy provisions and by content owners to more reasonable copyright provisions makes reform politically difficult.

Anne Kenney pointed out that the Library has received strong support from the University in support of "fair use" provisions of the copyright law, most recently in a suit filed by the Authors Guild against Cornell (and several other universities.) Cornell worked with Google to digitize over 400,000 volumes from its collections and deposited these digital copies with [HathiTrust](#). They were scanned for preservation purposes and to make the full text searchable (if not immediately readable). The Author's Guild wanted to have these titles taken off-line pending Congressional action on whether they could continue to exist or be destroyed, claiming they violated copyright. The suit was dismissed. The Library is a strong proponent for open access but also is careful to honor its contracts and licenses with vendors.

## 2. eBooks in the Library

Boaz Nadav-Manes presented an overview of the Library's eBooks collections and the various models for purchasing, licensing and use. The Library prefers eBooks in certain disciplines and for certain functions (e-texts, e-reserves, audio books, etc.) but there are variations with regard to the preferred purchasing model (subscriptions, perpetual access, Patron-Driven Acquisitions) and usability/user interface issues (single/multiple users, PDF vs. HTML format, ease of printing, etc.) Comments included:

- Like eBooks. Don't have to carry heavy books around and can easily access them anywhere.
- A big advantage is the ability to search the text.
- eBooks are as expensive as print in my field. Why can't libraries, especially the big libraries like Cornell, more effectively negotiate with and influence the vendors?
- It is frustrating not knowing if I am going to get a print or an eBook version of a book I need.
- Like the Springer user interface—can download PDFs. Do not like eBooks in the HTML format.

## 3. Proposed changes in the fines structure for short-term loans of items that accrue fines on a minute-by-minute basis: course reserves, equipment, etc.

Several questions were raised at the Sept. 23 meeting about the fine structure for short-term loans of items that accrue on a minute-by-minute basis. Ed Weissman responded to the questions raised in the [notes](#) from that meeting and went over them again. He announced that the Library would be implementing the change proposed, increasing the maximum fine from \$35 to \$150 in January. The Library will provide students with ample warnings about the change to the fine structure before instituting it and also make sure to let borrowers know about the change when they are checking out these materials.

Edward Weissman  
Assistant to the University Librarian