

## Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting November 18, 2013

Attending: Mindy Appold, Sarah Berger, Max Bernstein, Katherine Boehrer, Avik Dutt, Abigail Duvall, Devra Flatte, Susie Forbath, Rachel Gilbert, Curran Muhlberger, Dhruv Singhal, Sheena Thomas, Peter Wissoker

Also: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Nina Scholtz, Digital Resources Librarian, Law Library; Gaby Castro Gessner, Research and Assessment Analyst; Susette Newberry, Interim Director, Research and Learning Services; Mary Ochs, Director, Mann Library; Sara Wright, Head of User Services, Mann Library; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian.

### 1. Online Library Instruction

Nina Scholtz, chair of the Library's Instruction team, explained that the Library is interested in developing an online learning component to its instruction program. Through a series of questions she asked members of the Council about their experience with and views on online tutorials, videos, and modules. All indicated that they had used an online tutorial in the last year on topics from fixing zippers, knitting and applying make-up to using various software packages and leveraged buy-outs. Most agreed that the ideal length was 5-20 minutes but that "it depends" on the topic and level of interest. Among the favorite aspects were:

- Transcript included so can read along
- Ability to see the instructor's face (provided a level of trust)
- Videos that demonstrate what is being talked about
- A preview of what is covered
- Division into sections so you can skip over /jump to selected topics
- Knowing the length of tutorial
- A marker showing how far along you are in the tutorial
- Reviews to help decide whether to view
- Not having to install software to use

It was suggested that any library tutorials not be made available only on the Library web site but through Google as well.

Nina said that she would be back in the spring with some examples for the Council to critique.

### 2. Plans for the Uris Library Fiske roomy

Susette Newberry said that the Library was interested in turning Uris Library into a 21<sup>st</sup> century library. Planning is now focusing on the Fiske Room (the "fishbowl") which is underutilized space. The conception is to turn the Fiske Room into a space encouraging creativity using new forms of scholarship. This would involve subdividing the space to include office space for staff, a 3D printer, plotters, a Skype station, a "green room" where students could prepare for videocasting, and high-end software and computers. Comments included:

- Need to make sure that the 3D printers are used safely. *These will be lower-end like those in Maker Spaces.*
- Concern about noise. *That's why we will subdivide the space.*
- Can't envision this—think of Uris as quiet study space. This seems more appropriate for Carpenter. Also, don't like taking beautiful, historic space and breaking it up. It's a historical room, we don't need another high-tech space. Why the Library? *New scholarship is being produced that requires the use of library resources and staff. Digital tools are needed for this.*

- Cool idea. Like having 3D printers because now, if you are not in certain fields, getting access to one is difficult.
- Perhaps the design should be modular like in the Bisset space in Mann Library.
- Like having mixed/multiple use spaces (like in Mann Library. Can move from space-to-space as needed).
- Like having a Skype room, [green room and other learning spaces](#). This would be helpful.
- This would be an efficient use of Uris. It's nice to have everything together in one place, centralizing tech opportunities in the library for interdisciplinary research opportunities.
- Lots of quiet study spaces in Uris and elsewhere in the library already. Collaborative production space is a great idea (Mann referenced as only other opportunity; "you don't want to feel like you're imposing on someone"—to reserve a collaborative space for a learning opportunity in, say, a departmental space)

### 3. Mann Library space transitions

Mary Ochs and Sara Wright reported on the new occupants on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Mann Library, the Department of Communication. In exchange for relinquishing the 4<sup>th</sup> floor space, the Library will recover formerly occupied space on the 2<sup>d</sup> floor. The Library will now have full use of floors 1-3. These changes will result in the loss of some individual and group study rooms on floor 4 but individual study rooms will be added. There will be space dedicated to quiet study and the general plan on all floors is to go from noisier to quieter as you move from the front to the back of the Library.

Also, food is now allowed on floors 1 and 2. "If it's neat you can eat." There are not many books on these floors.

Finally, Mann Library hours were reduced so that the Library now closes at midnight instead of 2 am. At the same time, the Mann Library lobby is now open 24/5 along with the CIT classroom.

Comments included:

- Need tables in the lobby that can hold larger groups
- Would be good to have "computer shelves" in the lobby like those in Mandible Café.
- Like the outward facing benches around the columns in the lobby. How about adding some around along the walls?
- There is parking available near Mann at night which makes it convenient
- Some students in Architecture Art and Planning did not like getting kicked out at midnight—the lobby doesn't feel like a library. They would appreciate morning hours on weekends, especially on Sundays.

### 4. Student issues and concerns

There was a wedding held in the AD White Library in Uris. It was not clear to all whether the party had permission to use that space. *Anne Kenney replied that the Library will make sure that use of Library space for external purposes is minimally disruptive and that appropriate people are informed.*

Edward Weissman  
Assistant to the University Librarian