Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting
March 3, 2014

Attending: Abigail Duvall, Susie Forbath, Rachel Gilbert, Jason Haider, Darragh Hare, Curran Muhlberger, Samuel Ritholtz, Delphia Shanks, Sheena Thomas, Peter Wissoker

Also: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Dianne Dietrich, Physics & Astronomy Librarian; Kornelia Tancheva, Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning Services; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian; Jill Wilson, Outreach Coordinator, Engineering, Math and Physical Sciences Libraries.

1. Virtual Library Services

    Jill Wilson and Dianne Dietrich gave a brief demonstration of the services developed for the virtual library presences of the Physical Sciences Library and the Engineering Library. Comments/questions included:

    - What is the state of the field with respect to RSS?
    - Passkey should always be prominent on (any) library page, with a short explanation.
    - It is helpful to have LibGuides prominently featured on a web page and to make it clear that they are more than a "collection of links"?
    - What tools can help those researchers whose primary method is "citation chasing"?
    - JSTOR has an article recommender (based on the article you're currently on). Can the library do this?
    - It would be helpful to have clear language about what a database offers that makes it a worthwhile resource (that's not derived from publisher copy).
    - Citation management information is helpful; can it be featured more prominently?
    - Do unit websites work better for novice users as opposed to advanced researchers?

2. Research Papers

    Kornelia Tancheva asked how the library helps students write their research papers. Comments included:

    - Library environment indispensable to get work done. You know that you are "not alone."
    - Book delivery and Interlibrary Loan very helpful (graduate student.)
    - Being able to go to the stacks and browse.
    - I use everything—start at the library website, chat with librarians, get materials I need.
    - Start at Web of Science but then go to Library web site for known item searching of articles, etc.
    - Large monitors on library public terminals allow for multiple windows.
    - Use the citation management software that the library supports—Zotero, Endnote.
    - Would like the Law site to be better integrated with the CUL site. It would help if first year Law students had better general bibliographic instruction.

3. General comments and concerns

    - Concerned about student safety when Olin closes at 2 am and students head home. Library should be involved in campus-wide conversations about this.
    - Would be good to have rooms/spaces for cell phone calls, phone call interviews, etc. in the library.