

University Library Committee Annual Report 2003-2004

COMMITTEE CHARGE

The University Library Committee (ULC) reviews, consults on, advises, plans for, and receives reports and recommendations on the performance of library services, automation, budget, administrative structure, and allocation of resources. Responsibility for keeping the faculty informed of major issues and for creating opportunities for the faculty to discuss priorities also falls to the committee. (see *Faculty Policies and Procedures* 6.46.B)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

During this academic year the University Library Committee devoted much of its attention to the need to increase funding for library collections. Additional priorities included participation in planning for major changes in library campus facilities including the new Ebling Library to be located in the Health Sciences Learning Center and the compact storage facility in the Middleton Health Sciences Library. Members of the ULC are closely monitoring the potential impact of these changes on research and instruction.

Summary of issues the ULC addressed during this academic year:

- 1) **Budget and scholarly communications.** The continual erosion of the buying power of the library acquisitions budget—resulting in substantial reductions in campus journal collections—has been a priority concern for many years. Within this context the ULC is working with the libraries to evaluate options to commercial information systems as a means of accessing and disseminating research and scholarship.
- 2) **Space.** The ULC continues to review the progress made in the implementation of major projects related to space and storage. Plans are in place to install compact shelving in the basement of the Middleton Health Sciences Library, Special Collections, and the Kohler Art Library.
- 3) **Health Sciences Library.** The merging of the health sciences libraries into a single facility, the Ebling Library, has been a major undertaking.
- 4) **Collections.** Increasing costs to the collections are of continual concern to the ULC. Discussions highlighted potential crises especially in the sciences.
- 5) **Services expansion.** The libraries continue efforts to provide expanded services to faculty, students, and staff within the constraints of the budget. Examples include: high-speed article delivery, 24-hour library service, reorganizing and reallocating space based on user needs, a library service quality survey, and an Alumni Web page.

Other Issues and Developments Addressed:

- 1) **Private fundraising for collections and services.** As in preceding years the ULC discussed the importance of private fundraising to supplement library budgets for collections and services.
- 2) **Textbook pricing taskforce.** The libraries are participating in a campus-wide taskforce established to evaluate issues relating to the high cost of textbooks. The ULC will continue to provide input to this important issue.
- 3) **Digitization of government documents.** A large nation-wide project is currently underway with other research libraries to digitize government documents collections.
- 4) **Wisconsin Historical Society.** The ULC supports the libraries ongoing collaboration with the WHS to provide a long-term strategy for the North American history collection.

Budget and Scholarly Communications

The libraries have steadily fallen behind in expenditures for library acquisitions in comparison to peer universities. The UW-Madison library system ranks 36th out of approximately 120 ARL institutions in its collections budget and places in the last quartile of CIC institutions for its materials budget. The library administration submitted a request for a \$2.1 million increase in the acquisitions budget over the next three years. In response to this request, the university administration provided a one-time allocation of \$217,000 for the current fiscal year. In addition there will be a campus-funded, base budget increase of at least \$400,000 in 2004-2005. Campus funding was provided through budget reallocation; additional state funding is not anticipated.

These budget additions are essential to maintaining the strength of core research and instructional collections. However, the budget increase will not keep pace with the relentlessly rising costs of books, journals, and databases. Because of continuing price increases and the declining value of the dollar in foreign currencies, the annual inflation rate for scholarly materials now exceeds 10% in many academic disciplines.

The library budget increase for collections must be understood within the context of the larger economic challenges affecting the scholarly communication system. Few public universities are able to increase library budgets to keep pace with double-digit price inflation. Additions to the UW-Madison budget would permit our campus libraries to maintain access to core research materials in most disciplines. These would include the scholarly materials published by university presses, professional societies, and associations. However, the university cannot provide the library system with sufficient annual budget increases to continue buying commercial journal subscriptions and licenses at the current level. In light of this the ULC has discussed a draft resolution that will be submitted to the Faculty Senate during the 2004/2005 academic year. The text of the draft resolution is as follows:

Draft Text Resolution of the ULC to the Faculty Senate

1. The commercialization of academic publishing threatens to undermine the research enterprise and the dissemination of knowledge to society. As costs spiral out of reach, many scholars, researchers, students, and Wisconsin citizens are being cut off from vital knowledge resources.
2. As the university becomes less able to afford access to commercial journals and databases, the University of Wisconsin must, therefore, become less dependent on commercial information systems as the means of accessing and disseminating research and scholarship.
3. Consequently, faculty and academic staff researchers—particularly those publishing in science, technology, engineering and medicine—must retain and apportion their copyrights to ensure that their works are accessible to advance research and learning. Specifically, researchers should consider publishing their research articles in:
 - S Affordable not-for-profit journals published by professional societies and associations;
 - S Peer-reviewed “open access” journals and databases; and/or
 - S “Self-archiving” their works in information repositories supported by research institutions and professional societies.
4. The University Library Committee supports the efforts of the campus libraries to control the cost of journals while maintaining high-quality and interdependent library collections. The ULC urges both the library and faculty to support alternatives to commercial ownership and management of scholarly and scientific publication.

Space

Plans are ongoing for the refitting of the Middleton Health Sciences Library basement for compact storage of overflow collections from overcrowded libraries. This will occur when the Health Sciences Library moves to its new facility in June 2004. There will be close to 28,000 linear feet available for storage. A committee has been established to make recommendations on materials to be transferred. They expect to issue a report by the end of the fiscal year.

With the support of a major donor, plans are also moving forward to double the shelving capacity of Special Collection’s vault storage at Memorial Library by using compact shelving. Additional compact shelving will be provided for the Kohler Art Library to alleviate crowded conditions.

All of these projects will begin this summer (2004). The campus administration has provided \$400,000 of the \$600,000 total cost. The balance of the cost for expanding library shelving capacity will be covered by gift funds and the library system’s operational budget. The ULC is being consulted in decision-making related to the transfer of collections to closed-stack shelving areas.

The additional shelving capacity will ensure that there is adequate space for collection growth for the next five years. Over the longer term the security and preservation needs of the great research collections of the UW-Madison Libraries and the Wisconsin Historical Society can only be met by the construction of a high-density conservation facility.

The libraries are also in preliminary planning stages for the development of a preservation and conservation facility. This is a major project that will take years to fully realize; however, initial planning has begun.

Health Sciences Library

In June 2004 the three Health Sciences libraries will merge into their new facility, the Ebling Library, in the new Health Sciences Learning Center. The Ebling Library will house the collections and staff of the Weston Clinical Sciences Center, Power Pharmaceutical, and Middleton Health Sciences libraries. The new library will have over 50,000 square feet, wireless network capabilities, a patron seating capacity of over 350 seats, sixteen group study rooms, and over nineteen research workstations. Operating from a single location will enable the HSL staff to expand the quality and quantity of services.

Collections

Increasing costs to acquire materials and renew subscriptions especially in the science, technical and medical fields is outstripping fiscal strategies. GLS has engaged in cancellations and tried to mitigate the increasing costs by expanding article delivery and piloting a high-speed article delivery service, converting to electronic journals, and promoting UW System licensing. However, it has been clear that the libraries have reached a point where further cuts to publications will compromise the core research needs of the university. Discussions have been initiated with faculty and deans of the university to discuss research needs and scholarly communication issues.

Presentations by chemistry faculty members to the committee highlighted the potential crisis in libraries stemming from the continuing loss of titles due to journal cancellations. Claims were made that the crisis can be sensed from use, the impact on the training of graduate students, and the reactions of distinguished scholars and potential recruits when they don't see core titles they expect to see. Possible solutions were presented that included: more state assistance, user fees, garnishee research grants, and student computer fees.

Services expansion

High speed article delivery

Funds have been reallocated from the cancellation of high-cost journals to pilot a high-speed article delivery program in the Biology, Geology and Geophysics, Physics, and Chemistry Libraries. This program is designed to electronically deliver a requested article often within 24 hours or less. This is primarily for delivery of articles not found in campus libraries and there is no cost to users for this service. The libraries will be evaluating the use of this service at the end of the year.

College Library 24 hour service

The 24 hour library service was transferred from Memorial Library to College Library at the beginning of the fall 2003 semester. Hours have been adjusted based on student use and needs to 24 hours/5 nights per week. Student response has been extremely positive—the count of student users at College Library increased by more than 100,000 during the fall semester. Periodic surveys will be conducted to evaluate the service and find ways to meet student needs. The Open Book Café continues to be very popular.

Information commons at Steenbock Library

Supported in part by the Parents Enrichment Fund, Steenbock Library has created an information commons area. The Information Lab is now distributed in a large open environment with new furniture and additional computers to provide additional group study space. With reorganization and consolidation of services points, the Information Lab now shares a service desk with the Reference Department which allows for cooperation and consultation of information services.

UW alumni Web page

The libraries are collaborating with the Wisconsin Alumni Association to develop a Web page that will provide alumni with access to library services and resources. Discussions have centered around providing an email reference service, access to a fee-based database for online searching, and access to many free digital resources (focusing on institutional history) developed by the libraries. The goal is that the libraries will provide materials and resources that will support the mission and goals of the Alumni Association. A recent survey conducted by the Alumni Association highlighted the desire of alums for these services.

LibQUAL+ survey

The libraries are in the midst of conducting a service quality survey of its users. The LibQUAL+(TM) survey is a project sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The project's goal is to define and measure library service quality across institutions and to create useful quality-assessment tools for libraries. LibQual uses an instrument designed to measure how library users perceive the quality of service they receive. This tool measures library users' perceptions of their libraries' service quality and identifies gaps between minimal, desired and perceived levels of service. Approximately 2500 undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff were randomly selected for the survey. Many of the UW System libraries participated in the survey allowing for additional data comparisons across institutions. Survey results will be shared with the campus through presentations and articles.

Other Issues and Developments

Private fundraising for collections and services

In the General Library System the Parents Enrichment Fund (the UW Foundation campaign focusing on raising funds for library services to students) has provided substantial resources for improving library study facilities and expanding library services to undergraduates. Contributions to the Parents Fund will increase by close to 30% in 2004/2005 – a record with more than \$450,000 in donations earmarked for the libraries. Last year the Parents Enrichment Fund supported such projects as the development of an information commons at Steenbock Library.

Textbook pricing taskforce

Discussions will continue with the taskforce regarding options for dealing with the high cost of textbooks. Input from the ULC will be important as this task force moves ahead towards recommendations for further action.

Digitization of government documents

Ken Frazier is the chair of an Association for Research Libraries working group on digitizing government documents. A great deal of discussion has occurred regarding options for rethinking access to government information in a networked environment. Congress and the Executive Branch are interested in reexamining the government's dissemination policy and new leadership at the Government Printing Office recognizes the need to reform the agency and how information is made available to the public. Members of ARL will be discussing options for digitizing close to 2 million volumes (or 60 million pages) of government documents.

Wisconsin Historical Society

The libraries continue collaborative efforts with the WHS to develop long-term strategies for the maintenance of the North American History collection. During the last year the UW Libraries have partnered with the WHS to provide technical services that include materials acquisitions and processing. Bibliographic instruction has also been coordinated between the libraries and the WHS to provide library instruction for American History courses. The UW Libraries have also been working closely with WHS to reorganize the federal documents collection.

Future issues that the ULC will address in 2004-2005:

- S Duplication of resources across libraries. This includes not only the duplication of journals, but also books. A report on duplication will be forthcoming.
- S High-speed article delivery. The pilot project will be ending and the libraries are looking to expand this service campus-wide.
- S The Parents Enrichment Fund. The libraries will work with input from the ULC to allocate these funds in a manner that will benefit students and the libraries.
- S Health Sciences Library move.
- S Middleton Health Sciences Library storage facility. A report will be issued on materials to move and further implementation plans.
- S Textbook taskforce and addressing the concerns of high-priced textbooks.
- S Collaborative activities with public and school libraries.
- S Wisconsin Historical Society collaboration. This will include the integration of out-of-state interlibrary loan and public access services.
- S Scholarly communications. Work will continue on the draft resolution, presenting the resolution to the faculty senate, and publicizing information and issues.
- S Evaluation of electronic reserves. A new policy is being developed.
- S Middleton Health Sciences Library building. ULC will undertake discussions regarding the long-term use of the upper floors of the Middleton Health Sciences building

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Elected Faculty (voting members)

Arnold Alanen (Landscape Architecture)
James Baughman (Journalism & Mass Comm.), Chair
Evelyn Howell (Landscape Architecture)
Christopher Kleinhenz (French and Italian)
Anne Lundin (SLIS)
Kenneth Potter (Civil & Environmental Engineering)
Teryl Roper (Horticulture)

Appointed Academic Staff (voting members)

Susan Breckenridge (UW Press)
Susan H. Hellstrom (Engineering)

Students (voting members)

Hilary Edwards
Sophia Estante
Nina Ziebarth-Pavlovich

Ex Officio (nonvoting members)

Phillip Braithwaite (Budget Planning and Analysis)
Eden Inoway-Ronnie (Special Assistant, University Administration)

Librarians (nonvoting members)

Steve Barkan (LCC Liaison) (Law Library)
Jim Buckett, (Steenbock Library)
Ken Frazier (Director, General Library System)
Irene Zimmerman (Head, CTS-Cataloging, General Library System)