

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RESEARCH LIBRARY COUNCIL
FOR
ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007**

**Presented at the
667th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
November 15, 2007**

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The Research Library Council held six meetings during AY 2006-2007: on September 19, October 26, November 30, March 1, April 19 and May 17. The meetings served primarily to inform and seek response from the Council about changes in library policy, organization, staff, initiatives, development, users, Five College library cooperation and collection development. During the year RLC discussed the excitement and great publicity the Learning Commons has received from the campus, the students, local papers and NPR. The Library has shared preliminary plans for a Self Study, which will have a visiting team review the library in Fall 07.

One area of considerable concern and interest to the Council was the 2nd phase deck construction project. This project is a continuation of the original deck project, which has transformed the Library promenade. The 2nd phase will look at replacing the lower level AVAC units and completing the renovation to the Lower Level. In preparation for this work, the Council advised the library on the separation of the long standing current periodicals and microforms collection. The library recommended that the current periodicals be placed with the bound journals in the stacks and that a smaller popular reading room be created on a different floor within the tower. The library also recommended that the microforms collection all be housed in the basement of the tower and that the equipment be moved to the Reserves and Media department. The Council supported these recommendations.

Another area of great interest is Scholarly Publishing. Consequently, a subcommittee of the Council membership was appointed to look into the next steps to encourage faculty, librarians, staff and the administration to address the changing landscape of scholarly communication in ways that will provide both broad and open access and preserve that scholarly work for the future. The subcommittee submitted a resolution to the Faculty Senate to encourage the campus to be supportive of new forms of scholarly communication. Faculty Senate endorsed the recommendations of the Research Library Council and encouraged faculty, librarians, staff, and administrators to be supportive of new and innovative models of scholarly communication and utilize these options whenever possible. This resolution was passed by the Faculty Senate on May 10, 2007 at the 662nd Regular meeting.

Members of the Council participated in a variety of Library activities, attending, for example, the Friends of the Library's Annual Dinner. One of the Co-Chairs, Arthur Kinney, was a featured author, engaging the audience in "The Complete Works of Shakespeare."

Increasingly, with the Learning Commons and soon the Teaching Commons coming later this fall, the Library is becoming the very busy hub of the campus. At the same time, technical advances are changing the needs and services of the Library as well as the shape of its collections and the delivery of items from it. The Council continues to monitor these changes as it aids in these transformations.

Respectfully submitted,
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Arthur Kinney, Co-Chair