RESEARCH LIBRARY COUNCIL

Minutes of the October 3, 2014 Meeting
Room 2601
Du Bois Library

Present: Cable, Degenhardt, Dougherty, Elsden, Ganz, Hayes, Kalmakis, Kinney, May, Muriel, Ogilvie, Rothstein, Schafer, Schmidt

Absent: Billings, Maloy, Morales, Russotto, Schweik, Shimpach

Guests: Button, Marshall, Sin, Swinford

A. Comments of the Chair – Arthur Kinney

Prof. Kinney welcomed all and suggested that everyone attending introduce themselves. The introductions were made.

Prof. Kinney mentioned that the Library was requested to cover up handicapped signs outside bathrooms which are not actually handicapped and this has taken place.

Prof. Kinney said he is impressed by the organization of the Friends of the Libraries and he thanked Carol Connare and the Friends, calling them an active and interesting board.

B. Election of Chair – Ernie May

The floor was opened for nominations for the coming year’s chair. Ms. Schmidt nominated Prof. Kinney. No other nominations were made. All were in favor and Prof. Kinney was declared reelected.

C. Approval of the April 18, 2014 minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes, which was moved and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

D. Comments of the Director of Libraries – Jay Schafer

The Friends of the Library board meeting was held on September 20 and the Fall Reception was held on September 21. The Fall Reception had a very interesting program that included the presentation of the Siegfried Feller Award for Outstanding Service to the Du Bois Falcon Team. The team consists of the Library Systems Department and Richard Nathorst. The reception focused on the NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) donation to SCUA. The collection fits very well in SCUA, due to SCUA’s focus on social change. Keith Stroup and Allen St. Pierre of NORML discussed the history of the organization. At the reception, the library system’s 4 millionth item, one of the one million copies of the Emancipation Proclamation printed by John Murray Forbes in 1862, was displayed for the first time; these were printed for Union soldiers to distribute to slaves as they went into the Confederate States.

The Drug Policy Archive Symposium was held on September 22. Mr. Schafer said this is an important segment of history to capture and emphasized that the Library is only collecting these materials, not making a statement, pro or con. Mr. Schafer gave credit to Rob Cox and Carol Connare for obtaining the NORML collection.

Mr. Schafer displayed the new catalog of the University of Massachusetts Press, which includes a collection of essays by Prof. Kinney, Renaissance Reflections, as well as a picture of him. Mr. Schafer said this book is a wonderful thing for the press to publish and for Prof. Kinney to have written.

E. Comments of RLC Members

Prof. Rothstein asked for a list of the RLC members; Ms. Vachula will send this to the council. He also enquired about the preservation facilities in SCUA; Mr. Schafer said the special items are in adequate climate protection.

F. Campus Planning: Du Bois Re-Use – Doug Marshall/Dennis Swinford

Mr. Marshall and Mr. Swinford gave a presentation about the Libraries’ master plan and the reuse of library facilities, which would require moving some books off campus. The Libraries’ master plan, created four years ago by Campus Planning & Facilities Planning, has three themes: 1) repurpose space for “Center for Learning”; 2) move volumes to storage; and 3) the Library administration remains in the building.
Concurrent to this master plan, the campus determined not to further invest in Bartlett Hall, which would cost as much to renovate and renew as it would to build new square footage. The campus decided to demolish Bartlett and accommodate its occupants elsewhere on campus. The departments of art history, English, philosophy, and women, gender & sexuality studies, as well as the dean’s office and advising, will move to a new building to be constructed as part of renovating South College. Various destinations for the Writing Program and the Image Collection Library were considered: including them in the new building would have made that building too large, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is already utilizing Machmer, and French Hall is too far from the English department and peripheral to the academic core. It was decided that the Du Bois Library was the best destination, due to its “tower of learning” concept.

While certain floors in the library were designed for people (the floors with carrels), others were designed for books and it is problematic to use these for other purposes because of the need to keep steel columns there every few feet.

The Writing Program will be located on floors 12 and 13, which is optimal in part because it is close to the Learning Resource Center. Some spaces in 12 and 13 will be available to the LRC as spillover space.

The location for the Image Collection Library is yet to be determined. Discussions with Mr. Schafer and Ms. Warner are taking place about this.

Future goals include:

- Consolidation of IT space on the 7th floor
- Expansion of special collections stacks
- Research Commons
- Graduate hub
- Colloquium center
- Relocations of reference librarians and tech services staff out of Learning Commons to upper floors

Prof. Kinney asked where the special collections expansion will be. Mr. Marshall said this is a future goal. Mr. Schafer said SCUA has a stack floor on 24 and the master plan calls for a stack floor on 23. There has also been discussion of using Goodell for special collections; it would take a considerable sum to make that area environmentally acceptable. Moving SCUA would offer three more floors of Du Bois for use. Prof. Kinney asked if there will be more space in Goodell once the Honors College moves. Mr. Marshall said the Honors College has already moved and the plan is to put the International Programs Office in its place; the International Programs Office is currently in Hills House, a building plagued with even more difficult problems than Bartlett.

Other questions posed by RLC members were:

- What is the impact on elevator use if more things are moved to the upper floors? Mr. Marshall has been assured the number of elevators is adequate. There are peak times where there are waits, but he doesn’t think it will become an untenable situation. The Writing Program has a large volume of students, but they don’t tend to come all at once.

- Mr. Rothstein asked about the relocation of reference librarians. Mr. Marshall said the Learning Commons does not need to have that group in it and the space the reference librarians occupy is very accessible and could be used by the Learning Commons. Mr. Schafer said reference statistics are going down in almost every academic library so the Library is trying to rethink the Research and Liaison Services model. The master plan also includes a discussion of bringing technical services to the tower.

- Are some of these planned moves temporary? Will another building go up in place of Bartlett? Mr. Swinford said the master plan contemplated the removal of Machmer, which is not constructed in a way that it will live a long time and is also poorly designed for handicapped accessibility. When Bartlett is removed, the campus will look at taking down Machmer. In the meantime, since Machmer is central to campus, across the courtyard from the student union, the campus is contemplating having a building with student union functions there. Mr. Swinford said Bartlett is a great site for a new building.

- Ms. Schmidt asked if the research commons is being thought of as depicted in the master plan. Mr. Swinford said the research commons are as Mr. Schafer described, focused on serving clients.

- How would floors 12 and 13 look? Mr. Marshall said it depends which floor you are talking about. One of the challenges associated with putting the Writing Program on 12 and 13 is this is a pilot project making a people-oriented space on stack floors. The preference when changing a floor from stacks to business use is to keep the space relatively open. Predominantly there will be offices on the carrel floors. Most professional staff will be located on floor 13, which can accommodate them.

- What is the head height of floors 12 and 13? Mr. Marshall said it is 7’6” or in that range and right now there are sprinklers in there around 7’.
- Are the 13th floor conference rooms not heavily used? Mr. Schafer said they are heavily used. Mr. Marshall said there is a perception that carrels are underused. Mr. Swinford said there are a lot of commonly used spaces in the building and they are working on ways to use them more throughout the day.

G. Five College Catalog Virtual Bookshelf – Steve Bischof

Mr. Schafer asked Mr. Bischof to attend the meeting in order to present a new virtual bookshelf tool that is in prototype development. Mr. Bischof said this tool comes from the idea of being able to efficiently browse a collection across the Five Colleges. It allows the user to move from the record of a book to browsing the shelves in the Five Colleges. Users can see if the item is available and request it. If the full text is provided at HathiTrust or Google Books, links are included. This was the first public viewing of the tool.

The suggestion was made that the records include publication years. Mr. Bischof said this could be added.

H. Five College Annex – Jay Schafer

The Five College Depository is full, so the Five Colleges and Five College libraries have been looking at a way to expand. They have almost settled on a site close to Smith College. The new Five College Annex would be on the Five College courier route, with twice-a-day visits to maintain the one-day turnaround time for material requests. The Five Colleges have agreed on a funding plan; UMass, as the largest of the libraries, is funding a large portion. Groundbreaking will take place in the spring as soon as the weather permits, with completion in fall 2015. The Annex will include a small office space for staff, as well as a meeting room and a room for processing books.

Questions posed by RLC members were:

- What is the capacity? 2 ½ million
- What type of stacks? 30-feet-high, structurally sound stacks. A cherry picker on a truck will be used to access the shelves. The shelves will hold two boxes of books, arranged by size to maximize capacity.
- How will this integrate with the virtual bookshelf? These books will be listed the same way because they are part of the Five College catalog.
- Will the books be retrieved on the same schedule as the other libraries? Yes.

I. Proposal/Process/Timeline for Moving UMass Materials to the Five College Annex – Jay Schafer

In order to determine a process and timeline for moving materials out of the Du Bois Library and the Science & Engineering Library, Mr. Schafer and Ms. Button have been looking at circulation statistics to see what materials are being used by our constituency. Items published in the more current decades are circulating more than items published in the older decades. A proposal for the review of material that would be transferred to the Annex was presented. These materials would not be taken out of the collection; they would live in another facility where they could be easily retrieved.

Questions/comments from RLC members were:

- Are items that are not moved to the Annex and not being circulated candidates for deaccessioning? Yes, if they are duplicates of a title already in the Depository. The Five College Libraries have a “last copy” retention agreement that requires retention of one copy of every title owned in the consortium.
- Some kinds of multi-volume sets are poorly indexed. Mr. Schafer replied that some libraries keep the index volume for that kind of series and put the others off-site.
- Accessing volumes at other Five College libraries is efficient.
- It is useful to have primary sources near at hand.
- Will the whole collection be reviewed? Yes.
- Patterns of use change. How will the Library respond to “the next big thing”? Mr. Schafer said new materials are usually produced when something becomes a hot item.
- The circulation statistics only look at materials that are loaned to users; they don’t include materials users look at and put back.
- How long before all these materials are digitized? Mr. Schafer said it depends on copyright. Many of the old items have been digitized. The pending Google lawsuit will impact this question. HathiTrust is trying to go through registries to see what copyrights have and have not been renewed.
- Regarding periodicals, do we only hold hard copies of items we don’t have digital access to? Mr. Schafer said hard copies of items we have digital access to were the first items that went into the depository. Often an electronic journal is not identical to the print item. Journal requests are usually a rescan instead of sending the bound volume, although the bound volume will be sent if that is what the user wants.
Mr. Schafer said that down the road Mr. Bischof and other Five College catalog staff will run a list of materials that meet or don’t meet the criteria for retention in Du Bois. The list will be sent to research librarians and faculty to review as appropriate.

Mr. Schafer said he was presenting this proposal in order for RLC members to ask questions and then go back to their constituencies to talk about it. Mr. Schafer and Ms. Button could give a presentation to or attend a discussion with colleagues of RLC members.

Handouts (available from Rachel Vachula in the Library Office, 5-6868):

Agenda of the October 3, 2014 Research Library Council meeting
Minutes of the April 18, 2014 Research Library Council meeting
Circulation Statistics by Floor
Circulation Statistics by Decade and Floor
Moving UMass Libraries Materials to the Five College Depository Annex Proposed Process and Timeline