RESEARCH LIBRARY COUNCIL

Minutes of the March 7, 2014 Meeting
Room 1320
Du Bois Library

Present: Billings, Elsden, Ganz, Johnson, Kinney, Rothstein, Russotto, Schafer, Schmidt, Wilcox

Absent: Cable, Degenhardt, Hayes, Kalmakis, Lankala, May, Ogilvie, Rudman, Schweik, Shimpach

Guests: Button, Connare, Roh, Sin, Sinha, Subramaniam (for Hayes)

A. Comments of the Chair
Prof. Kinney commented that he had shared an article with Mr. Schafer regarding the little free library movement and added that the closest one to us is near Cows in Amherst.

B. Approval of the February 7, 2014 Minutes
There was a motion to approve the minutes, which was moved and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Comments of the Director of Libraries – Jay Schafer
Mr. Schafer commented that February was a very busy month at the libraries, with many events related to Du Bois and Black History Month. We had the “Growing Up Bond” event with Julian, Jane and James Bond talking about their father, Horace Mann Bond. This was a very successful gathering, which provided interesting insights about growing up on segregated college campuses and the civil rights movement. The Libraries also sponsored the performance of a one-man play called “W.E.B. Du Bois: A Man for All Times.” The play was performed in Great Barrington on Saturday, February 22 and was also presented in the Springfield and on campus on Tuesday, February 25th. Mr. Wilcox commented that the performance was outstanding. The 4th annual tribute to Du Bois at St. John’s Congregational Church in Springfield took place on Sunday, February 23.

Mr. Schafer announced that two new science librarians have been hired and will start work in the coming months. We are also hiring an Internano librarian for the Science and Engineering Library, and an Interlibrary Loan librarian will be hired as well. These four positions that will be very welcome in the organization.

D. Comments of RLC Members
Prof. Rothstein complimented Peter Stern, of the Research and Liaison Services department, on the LibGuide on the Crisis in Ukraine which he has compiled.

E. Review of Revised Collection Development Policy – Leslie Button
At the February RLC meeting, there was discussion regarding the revision of this policy and some specific suggestions were made. These suggestions have been incorporated into the Format Selection Considerations section. This section has been revised with an eye to making it clearer. Prof. Sinha asked if the preference for digital format is now the norm. Ms. Button replied that it depends on the discipline; some prefer electronic access to e-books, which we are finding to be very heavily used. Mr. Wilcox said that he believed Prof. Ogilvie had asked for this modification of the policy and Mr. Wilcox thinks it answers perfectly Prof. Ogilvie’s concerns. Ms. Schmidt commented that students seem to prefer the searchability of e-books; they use them like journals. Ms. Billings added that faculty are also using our e-book collections instead of high cost textbooks.

Prof. Kinney moved to endorse the revised Collection Development Policy; the motion was seconded and passed with one abstention by Prof. Rothstein, who said he had not had the opportunity to familiarize himself with the policy.
F.  Library Publishing Coalition – Marilyn Billings and Charlotte Roh
Ms. Billings introduced Charlotte Roh, the Libraries’ new Scholarly Communications resident librarian, adding that she has a background with Oxford University Press. Charlotte introduced herself and summarized her background and experience. Ms. Billings then gave a PPT presentation on the Library Publishing Coalition. Ms. Roh discussed the projects of the Library Publishing Coalition, including the position of UMass Amherst in library publishing services. She noted that there is very high interest on campus and it is very helpful to have library involvement. Prof. Ganz thanked Ms. Billings and Ms. Roh for this informative presentation. She wants to understand how this will be used by promotion committees. Ms. Billings replied that all the faculty-related journals have an editor on campus. We provide the hosting solution, but not the editorial board’s work. She added that pre-tenure faculty should be careful and should balance their publishing. Prof. Ganz asked whether it is possible to track the number of downloads and Ms. Billings replied that download counts are shared with editors and authors. Mr. Wilcox said that in terms of tenure and review, committees are looking for peer review and quality of the publication. He expressed appreciation to the UMA Libraries for their assistance in hosting supplemental materials beyond what the UMass Press can afford to publish (color illustrations, etc.). He added that the UMass Press publishes a Renaissance Studies series which will now be digitized in cooperation with the Library and will be made available through Open Access so anyone can access it. Prof. Ganz said she believes this is the future of publishing for universities. More Q&A and discussion followed.

G. 2014 Horizon Report – Jay Schafer
Mr. Schafer stated that the annual NMC (New Media Consortium) Report comes out at this time of year and that a summary of the contents page from the 2014 Higher Education Edition is included in the meeting packet. Keys trends, significant challenges and important developments are identified. Ms. Billings noted that this was brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees last week. She added that it is good to pay attention to these trends. Q&A and discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Handouts (available from Jan Higgins in the Library Office, 5-6868):
  * Agenda of the March 7, 2014 Research Library Council meeting
  * Minutes of the February 7, 2014 Research Library Council meeting
  * UMass Amherst Libraries Collection Development Policy – Rev. 2/10/14
  * Library Publishing Coalition presentation
  * NMC Horizon Report 2014 Higher Education Edition Cover and Contents page