ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RESEARCH LIBRARY COUNCIL
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COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Seth Cable
Canan Cevik, ex officio
Lauren Coakley, ex officio
Mary Dougherty, ex officio
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Brian Ogilvie
MJ Peterson, ex officio
Robert Rothstein
Margarita Russotto
Maxine Schmidt
Charles Schweik, Chair
Shawn Shimpach
Charles Weems
Caroline Yang
Introduction

The Research Library Council met four times during AY 2016-2017: October 7, 2016; December 2, 2016; February 10, 2017; and April 7, 2017. The discussions from the year’s meetings are summarized in the items below.

Programmatic Discussions

- The Libraries are partners in a Mellon grant to expand the W.E.B. Du Bois Center’s programming activities and also increase the number of Du Bois Fellows. The plan is to broaden the Center’s scope and to have some programing done in the space. There will also be fellows associated with the Center.
- The Class of 2021 Portfolio Project began, which studies the Class of 2021’s academic performance matched with their use of library resources to evaluate the Libraries’ impact.

Policy Discussions

- The Libraries’ Responsible Use and Privacy of Library Data Statement was revised and posted on the library website.

Facilities Discussions

- The groundbreaking for the Five College Library Annex took place in September. The Annex will be opening in late spring or early summer. Initially the majority of the Annex space will be used by Smith College as their swing space while they build a new library, with UMass occupying a smaller subset for the first three years.
- The Emeritus Academy will share space with the Faculty Commons. A modest renovation will include transferring some existing library furnishings into the space.
- Accessible parking spots and their proximity to the Library were discussed.
- The mobile desk from which the Research & Liaison Services librarians provided service on the Lower Level has been removed. Librarians now provide that service from the Circulation/Reserves desk. This is part of the plan for preparing for the first phase of the Learning Commons refresh project, in anticipation of a single co-located service area, as well as for forging a stronger partnership between the Writing Center and the librarians who provide research consultations.

Library Services Discussions

- Stephen McGinty, Social Sciences Research Services Librarian, gave an overview of the Thomson Reuters InCites Tool, which allows users to compare peer programs and schools around areas such as faculty research, sponsored research and publication impact.
- Sally Krash, Head of Information Resources Management, presented on the Libraries’ implementation of EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS), which will be replacing WorldCat Local. Beta testing began in the spring; after this analysis, there will be further customization of the platform during the summer in order to have EDS ready for fall 2017.
- A virtual shelf browse displaying new acquisitions is available on the library website.
- Erin Jerome, Open Access and Institutional Repository Librarian, presented on the ScholarWorks faculty submission form and the open access policy workflow.
- Maxine Schmidt presented on three of the Libraries’ task forces—the Common Knowledge Set Task Force, the Customer Service/Service Guidelines Task Force, and the Co-Located Service
Desk Task Force. The work of these task forces is related and interdepartmental, and is part of the Libraries’ effort to have a culture of more flexibility and willingness.

Library Collections Discussions
- The UMass system libraries launched a new journal study, based on the one done by the University of Montreal, to better understand which journals are key to specific disciplines as well as to individual faculty and graduate student research. The study is being done in anticipation of reviewing several major journal “package” subscriptions, starting with Elsevier’s ScienceDirect package later in 2017.

Library Programs
- A viewing of “Licensing Big Data,” a webcast presented by the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), was held in the Du Bois Library on November 16.
- The Libraries’ sustainability event, *A Climate for Change: Research, Reflection, and Action Around Climate Change*, was held on April 1.

Finance and Staffing
- Kim Fill, Assistant Director of Development and Donor Relations, presented on the UMass Rising campaign. The Libraries’ goal was $45,476,000 and the Libraries’ achievement was $45,977,921.
- The Libraries’ plan for a potential 2.5% budget reduction for FY18 is to equally split the cut between the personnel and acquisitions budgets. The personnel budget cut would be managed through pending retirements in the next fiscal year. The acquisitions budget cut would be covered by reducing a number of lower-use journal subscriptions and article indexes. Although each budget cut represents a loss in overall purchasing power, the Libraries are confident that the impact on research resources will be fairly minimal. During the budget planning process, the Libraries proposed the following projects and goals for the future:
  - Create a Graduate Commons (partnering with the Graduate School and the Provost’s Office)
  - Learning Commons Refresh—Phase One (which would include the implementation of an integrated service desk and peer-based service model)
  - Improve access to research and digital scholarship services (expanding the scope of the research librarians’ liaison program and improving integration of virtual and in-person services)
  - Strategic investment request for a Digital Scholarship Specialist (a one-year term position to support various digital scholarship software and to help pilot new services, adding in more technology and software-specific support for work with the digital scholarship center)
- The Libraries moved forward with searches to fill the positions of the Head of Research Services and the Head of Library Technology Services.