

2011-2012 Library Council

1. Membership...

Library Council meets 4 times this academic year

Members/representatives from every college, Libraries staff, American Heritage Center, students both undergraduate and graduate, and one non-UW member

2. Branch Library, Department, and Service Overviews

Brinkerhoff Geology Library

Research & Instruction

Scholarly Communication

Reference uses of technology

Collection Development meetings with UW departments

3. Topical Discussions

UW Legislative Request including collection increase

Search Interfaces and initiatives to improve discovery

iPad Lending Program

Use of social media

Collection and Staffing Plan

Collection Budget for FY12

New Resources funded by FY12 Legislative/Tuition Funding

Budget Reduction Principles

4. Budget Reduction Principles

The 2012 Legislature may implement state agency reductions that may impact the UW Libraries' collection budget. In 2009, there were collection budget reductions but funding was fully restored within two years through a combination of budget shifting and tuition increases. Although the reductions were severe, the Libraries were able to develop strategies that would minimally impact long term collection development. The Libraries preserved journal subscriptions and worked with a book vendor to track purchases that would have been made to retroactively purchase monographs when the budget was restored. These strategies minimized the budget reduction and maintained the strong collection growth momentum meeting the instructional and research needs of the UW students and faculty.

The 2012 possible budget reductions will be determined in the spring providing Library Council with the opportunity to discuss the 2009 strategies and to provide guidance to the Libraries should there be another collection reduction or delay in collection funding. While it is hoped that these principles are not necessary, they are instructive for the Libraries to ensure long term collection goals are not hindered by temporary budget challenges.

Non curriculum collections will be canceled, i.e., the popular reading collection

The popular reading collection supports recreational reading although it promotes reading, it is not linked to a curriculum initiatives. There are alternative options for reading materials including the literature collections, classical literature available in the McMurry Reading Room, and the Albany County Public Library. In addition, interlibrary loan services are available to borrow materials not owned by UW. A long term development initiative is underway to create an endowment to move funding for this collection from state funds to private funds. Eliminating this collection will have minimal impact on students.

Reduction of multimedia collections

The audio visual (DVD/VHS) collection supports a variety of collection goals including teaching and recreation. This popular collection has grown dramatically and is in high demand by students and faculty. The Libraries would reduce new purchases to items with a demonstrated instructional need and the continuation of existing series should it be difficult to retroactively purchase series modules.

Maintain series/journals/databases

Journals are typically linked to multiyear contracts based on the calendar years requiring significant work to terminate a license and only partial year savings. Online journals require considerable work to provide access including data loading, cataloging, uploading holdings to three databases, linking journals with index databases, and developing proxy access for off campus access that is critical for distance students. Due to workload impacts, it not trivial to eliminate an online journal backtracking through the processes and then reinstalling the journals in 1-2 years. Gaps in journal collections are difficult to restore and impact future research. The Libraries will undertake strategies to maintain current serials such as extending multiyear contracts but will not add new journals. Ongoing regular evaluation of journal holdings with faculty will continue to ensure journal collections support current curriculum and research priorities.

Drastically reduce book/monograph purchases

While reduction of monograph purchases would significantly impact the humanities, this reduction would have a temporary impact that is largely recoverable. This is not a long term strategy but it proved effective during the 2009 reductions. The Libraries would establish an account for faculty who demonstrate an immediate curriculum need for a book and would focus purchases on small presses that tend to have limited print runs. Depending on the term and depth of reduction, the Libraries might implement a price point as another evaluative strategy. The Libraries would work with YBP, UW's primary book vendor, to track purchases that would have been made without a reduction and when funds are restored, will retroactively purchase those items. Interlibrary loan services would be available to request missing titles from other libraries creating a delay but ensuring access is preserved.

Increased Interlibrary Loan and Prospector Services

A possible collection reduction will transfer some purchasing costs to borrowing costs. Interlibrary loan services are effective for meeting curriculum and research

needs for the short term and these services would be promoted so that students and faculty understand alternatives to meeting their information needs.

Focus on Communication

Communication regarding collection changes and alternative services is essential so that faculty understand why such changes are required. Especially for a temporary reduction, clear communication is necessary so that faculty realize this is a short term problem with alternative options. The recent growth in collections will be maintained and long term goals of creating a research collection is a priority for the Libraries and the University.

5. Final meeting agenda

IT Consolidation process

LibQual survey—looking at the quality of services provided

USP Information Literacy requirement, to be complimentary with USP discussions

Election of new chair

6. Questions?

Was that conversation re. the donor base; Dean Farrell explained the working relationship with the deans has been positive recently, and that the Libraries are happy with efforts in this area.