

## **Library Advisory Council Meeting**

November 4, 2002

Present: Mark Sunderman, Lori Phillips, Robert Corcoran, James Lovvorn, Debora Person, Leslie Rush, Sarah Strauss, D. C. Thompson, Mary Hart, Derek C. Montague, Shane Broughton, Rachel Ratliff

Visitors: Bill Van Arsdale, Maggie Farrell, Melanie DeVore, Karen Lange, Dennis Guion

Brief Introductions were given and Council Chair Mark Sunderman called the meeting to order at 3:10.

### Subcommittee Update

The Subcommittee has met once so far to discuss the several possibilities to answer the Serial inflation problem. No conclusion has been reached yet except for the realization that there are no easy answers. Several possibilities were discussed among the council members:

- Whether or not the libraries are getting their fair share of the money from indirect costs was much discussed. The subcommittee is still trying to set up a meeting with Bill Gern. The consensus was not to ask Bill for more money, but to question where the other 75% of this money is going.
- Increased fundraising was mentioned as well.
- Cooperating more closely with other libraries was discussed – something that UW libraries does quite a bit already.
- The various package deals were mentioned. The possible motives of the publishers and the dangers of being locked into many of the available deals were also discussed.
- Many faculty members throughout the country are trying to start initiatives for other avenues of publishing than the major journals that have the high inflation rate, but this can easily penalize the junior faculty and decrease recognition for the university.
- The trend seems to be towards a document delivery based service. But it was reminded that establishing a truly efficient document delivery service would mean money that would have to come from somewhere, most likely the struggling serials budget.

None of these solutions were entirely satisfactory at the present, but the need to invest in the research materials was expressed. Mary Hart emphasized the importance of rallying the faculty and doing something rather than passively complaining about the difficulties.

### Moving Forward II

Mark Sunderman read the two main passages in the Moving Forward II document that come the closest to representing the library and its problems. It was generally agreed that the document does not adequately reflect the seriousness of the issue. Nor does it appropriately place the responsibility for a solution on the university as a whole. The

general drift of the current passage, greatly improved from the last draft, implies that the library is at fault for not making correct choices in the use of allocated funds.

After much discussion about the need to emphasize the library's difficulty to the faculty, it was decided that Robert Corcoran would write a 4-5 sentence statement for the reply to the Moving Forward II document and email it to the committee for their correction and approval. The final statement will be approved in the next meeting. The main drift of the statement is to be that by investing in the research materials and tools needed, it will increase revenue from research grants and projects, benefiting all.

#### Projects and database purchase updates

Maggie and Bill named a few ideas currently available to the University for the benefit of the council. It is hoped that by making the council aware of these deals they could help direct the library on where funds could be best invested.

- **Web of Science.** One deal right now is to obtain Web of Science. The Library currently pays roughly \$31,000 for the science citation index on CD Rom. For an additional \$62,000, we can get online simultaneous access for 5 users. To get this for the other disciplines as well, would cost an additional \$75,000 instead of the \$62,000. The argument made for getting this is that it would increase the likelihood of receiving grants because of the help it provides in writing proposals. Most of the major libraries and universities have this now. However, the money would be hard to come by and would have to be carved out of the already tight serial budget.
- **Ebscor Libraries.** Other deals available through EBSCOR libraries are the Springer collection where the library could get electronic access to the Springer publications by maintaining present subscriptions and paying an 8% more. Again, there is no money for the 8% more.
- Native has a discount deal and CISTI has offered a slight reduction in price for science article document delivery.

Basically, there are a lot of deals out there, but they cost money that the library doesn't have. If we were to play number games, deals are the way to go because you get access to a larger number of journals for a smaller price. Most of the other libraries, however, already have a larger budget that allows them more flexibility in picking these up.

#### Other issues

The A&S College requested a list of materials in the library core to help them in evaluating if any of these materials affect them and should be moved under the departments' control. Bill had already intended making a similar list available on the web.

Council Chair Mark Sunderman adjourned the meeting at 5:10.  
The next meeting will be held at the same time on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.