

Minutes of the Library Council Meeting  
November 9th, 2015  
W.R. Coe Library  
Room 218

Members present: Andrea Burrows, Shaun Wulff, Alexandra Kelly, Bob Sprague, Melissa Hunter, David Macaulay, Cindy Moore, Paul Drake, Debora Person

Library staff and guests: Debbie McCarthy, Cass Kvenild, Phillip White, Mike Obenchain, Sandy Barstow, Kate Conerton, Mike Obenchain, Lori Terrill, Larry Schmidt, Lori Phillips, Peyton Lunzer and Anne Marie Lane.

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Library Council Chair Andrea Burrows.

#### AGENDA ITEMS

##### Issues Audit (Cass Kvenild, Interim Associate Dean):

At the October 9 meeting of Library Council, members expressed an interest in understanding the organization and functionality of the Libraries' webpages more clearly. Cass Kvenild provided an update to Council members about how the webpages are constructed and modified. The Libraries webpages is an information/research portal, and is constructed with student users in mind. Mike Obenchain, who designs the webpage, does so with the input of Kate Conerton, who heads the web team, and with feedback from usability tests, which includes screenshots of students completing tasks to see where students struggle. Recent screenshots have shown that students struggle to navigate tabs, an issue that is mitigated by the webpage's current layout with two search boxes. Students also struggle to navigate the databases. Mike shared three potential drawings for the next iteration of the website and solicited input from the Council on ways to organize the over 800 databases to make them more "user friendly" to experienced and non-experienced database users. Bob Sprague asked if Google Scholar could be incorporated into webpage search engines. Bob also asked why a link to Prospector could not be featured more prominently on search pages. Mike explained that Prospector is not available to Outreach students.

Cass, Mike, and Kate then divided the Council into two groups. The first group completed a utility survey prioritizing Library webpage tasks. The list is attached. The second group sorted words into categories to generate ideas of organizational categories that would "make sense" to webpage users. Their instructions were to "think like a student." Words included "Index," "Utilities," "Forms," and "Lib Guides." Participants discussed the utility of certain words, categories, and links to students versus faculty and staff.

Action items related to this discussion include investigation by Mike and the webteam of the Google Scholar idea and xxx (need to see the document to complete the thought)

Liaison Librarians (Cheryl Goldenstein, Chair, Research and Instruction):

Cheryl explained the role of liaison librarians, who serve as links to specific departments in the university. Liaison librarians strive to stay up-to-date with publications in their field, and work to be involved in their departments by joining committees and participating in projects, including digitalization. Cheryl shared a handout with the names and specializations of the UW Liaison Librarians and introduced Phil White, the liaison for social sciences, to the Council. She noted that since the task of selecting texts had been relegated to Collection Development, Liaison Librarians have been better able to provide information literary instruction and support.

New Service Desk Model (Cheryl Goldenstein):

Cheryl also provided an update on the new service desk model. The former Research Help Desk has been discontinued and the space will be repurposed. All assistance functions now take place from a single help desk. This allows for some level of assistance all of the hours Coe Library is open. There is a behind-the-scenes referral services that assures student and other users can consult with a liaison librarian if needed.

Jackson Research Center Library (Larry Schmidt, Head, Brinkerhoff Geology Library)

Larry provided an update on the Jackson Research Center Library (quote Lori Phillips, “the best view of any branch library!”) which runs under a contract with the National Park Service. This is one of two branch libraries that are part of a larger university contract; the other is with the Albany County School District. Current goals at the Jackson Research Center include obtaining high speed Internet and broadening the resources beyond science texts (for example, reports on the implications of the introduction of wolves to Yellowstone, etc.). A recent survey concerning the print collection (1,800 texts) revealed that 65% considered the collection “excellent,” but only 25% “thought physical books were important.” Larry also noted that the Annual Research Reports are available online.

Update from Interim Dean (Lori Phillips, Interim Dean, Libraries)

Lori discussed the ongoing Dean search for the Libraries. The search committee for the Dean of Libraries will meet December 11th; meanwhile, packets are coming in and being reviewed. Lori provided an update on the university hiring freeze and elaborated its effects on the Libraries: three staff positions and three faculty positions have been frozen, although the Libraries have received permission to conduct searches for two of the faculty positions. Lori asked that Council members watch for a Doodle poll to find the “perfect time” for the Council to meet in spring semester.

Andrea Burrows, Library Council Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:40. The next meeting will be February 8th, 2016 (location TBD).

Minutes submitted by Peyton Lunzer