

University Library Committee
Annual Report
2008-2009

I. Committee Charge

The University Library Committee (ULC) reviews, consults and advises on, plans for, and receives reports and recommendations on the performance of library services, automation, budget, administrative structure, and allocation of resources. Responsibility for keeping the faculty informed of major issues and for creating opportunities for the faculty to discuss priorities also falls to the committee. (see *Faculty Policies and Procedures* 6.46.B)

II. Summary of Recommendations and Actions

Primary issues focused on by the ULC during 2008-2009 included:

A) Budget

Budget discussions in the first half of the year were primarily centered on the development of a biennial budget request to license online journals and databases across the UW System, for the purpose of creating a “digital commons.” Discussions in the latter half of the year focused on budget cuts as a result of statewide budget shortfalls.

B) Collection Development

The Libraries entered into a comprehensive license with Elsevier for a bundled journal plan that includes nearly all of the Elsevier titles. The ULC supports this plan to obtain a larger number of journals at a price that controls costs over a five-year period. ULC continues to support the activities associated with the Google project. Google has digitized more than 160,000 items from the Libraries and provides greater public access to resources.

C) Library Collaborations and Partnerships

The ULC supports the increased collaborations and partnerships that the Libraries initiated during the past year. Providing new resource discovery tools for non-bibliographic resources (i.e. natural science museums) continues to be a strategic priority for the Libraries.

D) Campus Libraries and Library Spaces

ULC continues to support the need for an off-site preservation facility. Over the course of the year there were presentations by library directors to provide the ULC with updates on strategic priorities and goals within individual libraries.

III. Detail of Current/Past Year's Activities and Issues

A. Budget

1. Digital Commons Budget Request

Funds for electronic resources are crucial to address the growing information needs across campuses. The Libraries submitted a biennial budget request for \$6 million to expand access to electronic content for the UW System faculty, students, and staff. The "Digital Commons" was part of a strategic effort to develop an electronic information center that would eliminate use restrictions and provide system-wide access to electronic journals, databases, and other digital resources. This would have also increased availability of electronic resources currently held by the UW-Madison Libraries to faculty and students across the UW System.

The ULC unanimously supported this budget request. It was also supported by The Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries directors and the Provosts and Chancellors of the UW System schools. This was not funded in the recent biennial budget however the Libraries will resubmit the proposal at a later date.

2. Budget Reductions

Budget reductions were discussed in detail. The Libraries have been working with the Office of Quality Improvement to develop a strategic plan for coping with current and future budget reductions. The primary goal is to maintain the Libraries' commitment to excellence while streamlining services and resources to meet budget cuts. The Libraries will be looking at reductions in collections, staff, supplies, and equipment. The ULC supports efforts by the Libraries to increase efficiencies and innovation. They have indicated that they would like to participate in discussions regarding the reallocation of services and staff. They also want to participate in future discussions on development and fund raising.

B. Collections

1. Google

The ULC hosted a representative of Google for a presentation and discussion. The Libraries' partnership with Google continues to be strong and to focus on greater access to resources. Frances Haugen, a Google representative, discussed the goals of Google book search focusing on comprehensiveness, accessibility, and diversity in subject & language. The application of Google book search in education includes the ability to easily obtain cites from primary source documents, easily link to resources and primary source materials, and the ability to more easily compile course materials.

2. Comprehensive License for Electronic Resources

During the past several years the Libraries have made deep cuts in high-cost journals—many of these from Elsevier. Out of concern about the loss of readership, Elsevier began offering a comprehensive bundled license that included a majority of their electronic journal titles including back files. They also agreed to a 5% per year price cap, which allows the UW Libraries to substantially control journal costs over a five year period.

C. Library Collaborations and Partnerships

1. Textbooks

There was a discussion about the high cost of textbooks and the Libraries participation on a campus-wide committee to address this issue. The ULC supports campus efforts to provide alternatives and options to students. Several members indicated a willingness to participate in possible partnerships with the Libraries to experiment with new ways of delivering textbook/course content. There is agreement that it would be good to aim for outcomes that will be better for students as well as instructors.

2. Scholarly Communication and Publishing

The ULC continues to be interested in scholarly communication and publishing issues. There was a discussion about Open Access Day (October, 2008) sponsored by ARL SPARC, Public Library of Science, and Students for Free Culture. Some members agreed to contribute testimonials for a local version of the video "Voices of Open Access" that used faculty and student voices to discuss why open access matters.

There were also committee members who agreed to participate in faculty discussion groups to assess the current state of publishing on campus. The faculty discussion groups will help shape the direction of the Libraries' scholarly publishing resources and services. A report on the discussion groups will be presented to the ULC in the fall 2009.

3. Theses and Dissertations

The Libraries are also working with the Graduate School and the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee regarding access to and preservation of theses and dissertations. The ULC discussed these issues as the Libraries move to look at preservation of print dissertations, electronic submission systems and policies for preservation. There was potential interest in participating in a committee being led by Martin Cadwallader, Dean of the Graduate School to review these issues.

4. Resource Discovery Tools

The Libraries are continuing to develop innovative ways to access and preserve non-bibliographic materials and resources on campus and integrate them into the bibliographic records of the Libraries. The partnership with the natural history museums in addition to work being done with the Wisconsin Historical Society will be an important step in allowing faculty to integrate these materials into their teaching content. The ULC is interested in hearing about these efforts as they progress.

5. Humanities

The Libraries have been particularly interested in supporting the Arts and Humanities on campus. One such collaboration is with Professor of English, Jon McKenzie, who has been working with Libraries and DoIt on the Mellon-funded Project Bamboo. Project Bamboo is a multi-institutional project that is considering how to advance and enhance research in the arts and humanities. McKenzie convened a focus group of graduate students and faculty, who were asked what support should be provided for research in digital humanities. He is conducting a ten-session faculty development seminar in the new StudioLab that has been created in College Library. The ULC supports the Libraries as they focus on ways to support the arts and humanities and are willing to participate in these discussions and will conduct one of their meetings in the StudioLab next fall.

D. Campus Libraries & Library Spaces

1. Preservation Facility

The Libraries again submitted a request for \$10 million to develop the preservation facility in conjunction with the Wisconsin Historical Society. This was not included in the approved biennial budget. As a result the Libraries may need to look at renting or leasing space on or off-campus for shelving space. Many campus libraries are at or have exceeded capacity and the need for shelving is acute. The ULC continues to voice their support for an off-site preservation facility.

2. 4th Floor Renovation

The Libraries are renovating part of Memorial Library's 4th floor to provide additional programming space for faculty, library Friends, and other campus constituencies. This new space is configured for programming and social interaction and will enable close collaboration on programming with faculty.

3. Overall Library Spaces

The Libraries are looking at repurposing spaces throughout campus libraries in order to address growing and changing resource and space needs of faculty, staff, and students. There is an emphasis on thinking about what the future libraries should look like and what types of services will be needed in a 21st century library. The ULC will provide important feedback on these issues in discussions about the changing instructional and research needs of faculty and students.

IV. Future Priorities for 2009/10

- A. The off-site preservation facility will remain a priority
- B. The budget, and how the ULC can best help the libraries obtain increased funding
- C. Future collaborations with campus partners for library spaces and electronic and open access initiatives
- D. Scholarly communication and open access needs on campus

V. Summary/Recommendations

The support and involvement of the ULC in ongoing library activities continues to be very important. ULC has been instrumental in conveying to the Faculty Senate and colleagues the importance of such issues as: the diminishing collections budget, the need for a preservation facility, and scholarly communication and open-access publishing. ULC support is also important in creating additional opportunities for collaboration on a variety of activities from publishing to development. We hope to continue to enhance these important relationships with the various campus constituencies, and we are committed to playing an important role in maintaining the UW-Madison Libraries' reputation as a great research library.

V11. Committee Membership (2008/09)

Elected Faculty (voting members)

Timothy Allen (Botany; 2nd of 4 yrs)
Ivy Corfis (Span. & Port.; 2nd of 4 yrs)
Cynthia Jasper (Human Ecology; 1st of 4 yrs)
Joseph Kemnitz (Primate; 3rd of 4 yrs.), chair
Ernesto Livorni (1st of 4 yrs)
Joseph Mason (Geography; 4th of 4 yrs.)
Katherine McMahon (Engineering; 3rd of 4 yrs.)
David Weimer (1st of 4 yrs)

Ex Officio (nonvoting members)

Phillip Braithwaite (Budget Planning and Analysis)
Jocelyn Milner (Academic Planning & Analysis)

Librarians (nonvoting members)

Steve Barkan (Law Library; LCC Liaison)
Ken Frazier (Director, GLS)
Sarah McDaniel (1st of 2 yrs)
Julie Schneider (2nd of 2 yrs.)
Edward Van Gemert (Deputy Dir. GLS)

Appointed Academic Staff (voting members)

Anjali Bhasin (Office of Dean of Students)
Pam Wilson (UW Press)

Students (voting members)

Jacob Gabriel Gossett (grad)
Kimberly Mueller (undergrad)
Alexandra Rogers (undergrad)