

## **University Library Committee Annual Report 2004-2005**

### **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)

### **Summary of Recommendations and Actions**

One of the primary issues during 2004-2005 revolved around scholarly communications and the development of a resolution that was submitted to the Faculty Senate (passed in March 2005). Other matters included the collection budget, space and storage facilities, library outreach, and the role of the libraries in the campus community.

Summary of issues addressed by the ULC during this academic year:

#### **1) Acquisitions Budget**

The ULC continues to be concerned about the lack of state support for the UW Library's acquisitions budget. The Regents' proposed increase of \$7 million for UW System library acquisitions and electronic resources was not included in the 2005-2007 biennium. The UW-Madison now ranks in the bottom quartile of the CIC/Big Ten universities in expenditures for library collections. Decline in the quality of library collections will adversely affect UW-Madison's ability to compete for the best students and faculty.

The UW-Madison campus administration provided an additional \$400,000 for acquisitions in 2004-2005. The ULC recognizes the efforts of the campus administration to protect the library budget from cuts and provide additional funding to the extent that the current budget climate permits.

#### **2) Scholarly Communication and journal prices**

Within the context of the continual erosion of the buying power of the library acquisitions budget the ULC is working with the Library to evaluate alternatives to commercial publishing systems as a means of accessing and disseminating research and scholarship.

#### **3) Library Outreach**

Members of the ULC have been involved in outreach to campus departments to increase the visibility and support of the Library. In particular the director of the Athletic Department has indicated a willingness to support the Library through advertisements and fund-raising activities and to assist in developing a large endowment.

#### **4) Library as Place**

The role of the campus libraries continues to evolve in direct response to student and faculty needs. The concept of an Information Commons as a learning/social environment continues to develop with an expansion of the Steenbock Information Commons, and the new Innovation Center Library. The ULC plays a key role in facilitating the discussions on campus regarding the changing role of campus libraries.

## 5) **Space and Storage**

The ULC has participated in discussions regarding space issues and supported the submission of an issue statement to the Campus Planning Committee for a high density conservation facility.

Other developments:

### 1. **Textbook Taskforce**

Library staff participated in a campus-wide taskforce established to evaluate issues relating to the high cost of textbooks. The ULC will continue to provide input to this important issue.

### 2. **Rapid Article Delivery**

During the past year the rapid article delivery service has been expanded. The primary intent is to improve the productivity of campus researchers by providing rapid article delivery for high-cost, low-demand journals that have been cancelled.

### 3. **Wisconsin Historical Society**

The ULC supports the Library's ongoing collaboration with the WHS to provide a long-term strategy for the North American history collection.

## **Scholarly Communication and High Journal Costs**

High increases in journal costs (subscription prices increased more than 10% in 2005) and recent declines in the value of the dollar against the euro and British pound have decreased the buying power of the library's budget by as much as 20% for materials priced in those currencies. ULC has consistently supported steady increases in the library's acquisitions budget, but has come to recognize that current materials costs and rising prices are no longer sustainable.

In an effort to make faculty and academic researchers more mindful about how and where they choose to publish, the ULC proposed the following resolution that was passed by the Faculty Senate in March 2005. While the resolution does not mandate faculty behavior in any way, it says that faculty should consider alternative options for publishing such as "affordable not-for-profit journals," open-access publishing and "self-archiving" on personal Web sites and other online repositories.

### **Final Faculty Senate Resolution in Support of Accessible Scholarly and Scientific Publication Submitted by the University Library Committee Passed by the Faculty Senate in March, 2005 Faculty Document 1839**

Whereas, the commercialization of academic publishing threatens to undermine the research enterprise and the dissemination of knowledge to society, and

Whereas, as journal costs spiral out of reach, many scholars, researchers, students, and Wisconsin citizens are being cut off from vital knowledge resources, and

Whereas, as the university becomes less able to afford access to commercial journals and databases, the University of Wisconsin-Madison must, therefore, become less dependent on commercial information systems as the means of accessing and disseminating research and scholarship, and

Whereas, consequently, faculty and academic staff researchers—particularly those publishing in science, technology, engineering and medicine—must take action to ensure that their works are accessible to advance research and learning, and specifically should consider publishing their research articles in:

- Affordable not-for-profit journals published by professional societies and associations;
- Peer-reviewed “open access” journals and databases; and/or
- “Self-archiving” their works in information repositories supported by research institutions and professional societies.

Therefore be it resolved that the University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Senate supports and encourages the efforts of the campus libraries to control the cost of journals while maintaining high-quality research collections, and urges both the library and faculty to support alternatives to commercial ownership and management of scholarly and scientific publication.

In addition to the resolution the ULC discussed issues of open access including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy on enhancing public access to archived publications resulting from NIH-funded research. The general policy is to provide free online access to full-text, peer-reviewed journal articles arising from taxpayer-funded research. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) asks every scientist who receives an NIH research grant, and who publishes the results in a peer-reviewed journal, to deposit a digital copy of the article in PubMed Central (PMC), the online digital library maintained by the NIH.

### **Space and Storage**

One of the major concerns that the ULC and the Library considered over the past year was space and storage. During the past year the Library consolidated the health sciences libraries into the new Ebling Health Sciences Library. Since that consolidation the campus libraries have had access to the basement of what used to be the Middleton Health Sciences Library for overflow and low-use materials. However, the space in Middleton will be full in the next two to three years. In addition, the master plan of the campus planning committee indicates that the space will be part of a new multi-building development. Approximately 27,000 linear feet of material will have to be moved and stored in another facility. The use of the Middleton facility has proven to be helpful however it remains only a short-term solution to an increasing problem posed by growing collections and the increasing demand for library research and teaching space.

Additionally, compact shelving was installed in Special Collections and in the Art and Music Libraries. This additional shelving capacity ensures that there is adequate space for collection growth for the next two to five years. Over the longer term, however, the security and preservation needs of the great research collections of the UW-Madison Library can only be met by the construction of a high-density conservation facility.

In March 2005, the Library submitted an issue statement to the Campus Planning Committee for support of a high density, off-campus shelving facility. This will serve the Madison campus by providing a facility for important but low-use materials that will include inventory control, better security for rare and medium-rare materials, and an efficient retrieval system. UW-Madison currently has over 7,000,000 volumes housed on campus. Wisconsin is the only ARL Library that has been attempting to store all library collections on campus. It has become clear that no major university library can afford to keep all research collections on the main campus and from a practical point of view it is unnecessary. High-density shelving facilities have proven over all to be more cost-effective, more secure, and a better preservation environment for collections that often increase in research value with the passage of time.

ULC discussions supported the submission of the issue statement and will continue to provide input into the changing role of the campus libraries and the increasing demand for collection access.

The Library is also in preliminary planning stages for the development of a preservation and conservation facility. This is a major project that will take years to fully realize; however, initial planning has begun.

### **Collections**

Steenbock Library began a transition from print-plus electronic journals to electronic-only format for their journals thus eliminating the print for 78 Elsevier titles and 20 Springer titles. Increasing costs to acquire materials and renew subscriptions, especially in the sciences and technical and medical fields, are outstripping fiscal strategies. The Library has engaged in cancellations and tried to mitigate the increasing costs by expanding article delivery and piloting a high-speed article delivery service, converting to electronic journals, and promoting UW System licensing. However, it is clear that the Library has reached a point where further cuts to publications will compromise the core research needs of the university. Discussions have been initiated with faculty and deans of the university to discuss research needs and scholarly communication issues.

Presentations by chemistry faculty members to the committee highlighted the potential crisis in libraries stemming from the continuing loss of titles due to journal cancellations. Claims were made that the crisis can be sensed from use, the impact on the training of graduate students, and the reactions of distinguished scholars and potential recruits when they don't see core titles they expect to see. Possible solutions were presented that included: more state assistance, user fees, garnishee research grants, and student computer fees.

### **Services expansion**

#### *Rapid Article Delivery*

To improve the productivity of campus researchers, user requests for articles in 500 Elsevier and Wiley canceled journals are now flagged for special rush treatment by library staff. Articles

are bought online from publishers' websites rather than using traditional interloan channels. The primary intent is to provide rapid article delivery for high cost, low demand journals. Average turnaround time for this service is a half-day and user feedback has been exceptionally positive. There will be an overall analysis of costs and demand for specific journals. If the Library still had subscriptions for these titles, the 2005 cost would have been more than \$1.2M.

#### *Wisconsin Alumni Association*

The Library collaborated with the Wisconsin Alumni Association to develop a Web page that provides alumni with access to library services and resources. With a paid membership alumni now have access to an email reference service, fee-based database online searching, and many free digital resources (focusing on institutional history) developed by the Library. The Web page has proven to be very successful in generating additional memberships for the Alumni Association.

#### *Innovation Center Library*

A new library was opened in the University Research Park Innovation Center. Based on the information commons idea this library provides university affiliates with access to library resources.

### **Other Issues and Developments**

#### *Private fundraising for collections and services*

The Parents Enrichment Fund (the UW Foundation campaign focusing on raising funds for library services to students) continues to provide substantial resources for improving library study facilities and expanding library services to undergraduates. Contributions to the Parents Fund garnered close to \$400,000 in donations earmarked for the campus libraries. Last year the Parents Enrichment Fund supported such projects as the development of an information commons at Steenbock Library and new study spaces in Memorial Library.

#### *Textbook Task Force*

Library staff participated in a shared governance committee on the high cost of textbooks and providing alternatives and options for faculty and students. The committee compiled a brochure directed to students that has been distributed campus-wide in libraries, dorms, and departmental offices. The brochures will also be distributed to incoming freshman during SOAR. During the next year the committee will also produce a communication for faculty to provide information and suggestions for working with publishers, bookstores, and students on this issue. The task force will also work on a faculty resolution that will be put forth to the Faculty Senate during the 2005/06 academic year recommending faculty actions that could support lower costs for textbooks purchased by students.

During 2004/05 the Library allocated funds for the purchase of copies of high-cost textbooks that were placed on reserve in College library. The Library will continue with that initiative and will also provide information on publishing and open access that will be made available through the Library Web site. The committee will be looking for input from ULC as they make recommendations for further action.

*Wisconsin Historical Society*

In furthering the collaboration with the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Library has now fully integrated interlibrary loan services.

**Priorities for 2005/06**

Some of the issues that will be addressed during 2005/06 include:

Storage and Space

Scholarly Communication

Assessment of Library Services and Collections

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP****Elected Faculty (voting members)**

James Baughman (Journalism & Mass Comm.), Chair

William Bleam (Soils Dept.)

Evelyn Howell (Landscape Architecture)

Michelle Nelson (Journalism & Mass Comm.)

Anne Lundin (SLIS)

Kenneth Potter (Civil & Environmental Engineering)

Teryl Roper (Horticulture)

Marc Silberman (German)

**Ex Officio (nonvoting members)**

Phillip Braithwaite (Budget Planning and Analysis)

Jocelyn Milner (Academic Planning & Analysis)

**Librarians (nonvoting members)**

Steve Barkan (LCC Liaison) (Law Library)

Jim Buckett, (Steenbock Library)

Ken Frazier (Director, General Library System)

Elsa Althen (Biology Library)

**Appointed Academic Staff (voting members)**

Susan Breckenridge (UW Press)

Susan H. Hellstrom (Engineering)

**Students (voting members)**

Hilary Edwards

Sophia Estante

Nina Ziebarth-Pavlovich