

Minutes University Library Committee

Date: October 4, 2007

Time: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Library Board Room

Chair: Eileen Hitchingham filled in for Bill Newton

Members Present: Eileen Hitchingham, Robert Brown, Ed Wolfe, Philip Young, Ross Edmonds, Fluer Gooden, JongKoo Han, Thomas Hogdahl, Michelle Moseley-Christian

Guests: Paul Metz

Welcome to new members

E. Hitchingham opened the meeting with introductions and welcomed new committee members.

The University Library Committee in the university governance structure

E. Hitchingham discussed the mission and reporting structure of the University Library Committee. The charge of the University Library Committee is to disseminate knowledge and make recommendations concerning policies, services, and development of the University's libraries.

The University Library Committee reports to the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, the Commission on Research, and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies.

The University Library Committee membership consists of the following representatives:

- The Dean of University Libraries (also representing the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies)
- One faculty representative from each of the academic colleges (8) nominated by the faculty in each of the colleges (three-year term)
- One faculty senator nominated by the faculty senate (three-year term)
- Library faculty representative on CUSP (concurrent with CUSP term)
- Library faculty representative on COR (concurrent with COR term)
- One classified staff representative nominated by the Staff Senate (three-year term)
- One representative from the Graduate Student Assembly nominated by the Graduate Student Assembly (one-year term)
- One representative from the Student Government Association nominated by the Student Government Association (one-year term)

Library cancellations (Paul Metz, Director Collections Management)

The University administration has exempted the Libraries from the current university-wide cutbacks of 07/08 funds. While the overall funding allocated for collection resources has increased over what was available in 06/07, rising costs for currently received holdings have exceeded the actual growth in the collections budget. Several University Distinguished Professors have expressed their concern to the President that the Libraries will be cancelling a number of research publications.

Metz reported on Collections activities undertaken to bring library spending in line with funding allocations. The Collections Management unit has made the following decisions to work within the available budget.

Databases and Journals – changes effective in January:

- Cancelled 598 specific subscriptions and standing orders. Lost titles include *UN Publications and Documents*, *Landmarks of Science*, *Acta horticulturae*, *Neuroendocrinology*, and the ISI (Institute for Scientific Information) *Proceedings Index*.
- Changed terms with Taylor & Francis and with Wiley, making access to 430 of their scientific journal titles slower and less certain.

Books – changes effective immediately:

- Re-profiled approval plan so that only about half as many books will come automatically as before. New compilations, textbooks, and general-level academic books from trade publishers and societies were eliminated.
- Reduced discretionary funds available to the subject librarians for the purchase of specialized research materials, instructional media, retrospective items, duplicate copies of high-use books, or most-needed items no longer coming on approval.

Reallocation to support Nature

The VT Libraries previously had free access to Nature and several subsidiary Nature publications through a VIVA (Virtual Library of Virginia) consortia subscription. VIVA determined that the rising costs for Nature could not be handled within the VIVA budget and has cancelled consortia access. Picking up Nature costs at VT has required reallocating almost \$45,000 of Collections funding to continue Nature and its ancillary publications.

Preliminary findings from student survey, spring 2007 (Hitchingham)

For the past four years the Libraries have participated in the Association of Research Libraries' LibQual+ national survey. In Spring 2007 the Library conducted a user survey to measure how well we are meeting user needs. This user survey was adapted from a survey used by the University of Washington. The survey randomly sampled 2000 undergraduates and all graduates students, both on and off campus.

As a result of previous surveys, the Libraries have added group study rooms, created designated quiet zones in the library, improved photocopy services, and increased electronic holdings. Future changes are anticipated based on feedback from this and future surveys. Don Kenney, Bruce Obenhaus, and Luke Vilelle are coordinating the survey.

Hitchingham distributed sampling of some of the data that has been collected thus and there was discussion regarding these results.

(You can look at the survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=565713524816>)

Minutes University Library Committee

Date: November 15, 2007

Time: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Library Board Room

Chair: Bill Newton

Members Present: Joe Loferski, Philip Young, Eileen Hitchingham, Irene Glennon, Michelle Moseley-Christian, Bill Newton, Ross Edmonds, Steven Craig, Noreen Klein (for Robert Brown), Fleur Gooden, Larry Freeman, Thomas Hogdahl

Guests: Tamara Kennelly, Gail McMillan

April 16th Prevail Archive (Tamara Kennelly and Gail McMillan)

The Digital Library and Archives Department at Newman Library documents the history of the university to make sure that its roots in the past are not severed. A major part is deciding which materials regarding the university have permanent historical value. Another important role is making archival materials available for research and reflection by students, researchers, teachers, and the general public.

The University Libraries working with the Virginia Tech community and guided by consultants from the Library of Congress is establishing an archive for April 16, 2007. The archives will provide long-term access and preservation of relevant materials in analog and digital formats.

To begin planning this archive Kennelly consulted with colleagues at other universities who developed archives after tragic events at their institutions including Syracuse University (Lockerbie air disaster in 1988), Bluffton University (bus accident last spring that killed 5 members of the their baseball team), Oklahoma State university who lost team and staff members as well as media members in a plane crash, and Texas A & M (bonfire accident). The team from the Library of Congress came to campus when the tents were still up on the drill field and materials were hanging in Squires so they could get a sense of what we were dealing with.

Dean Hitchingham also called together people from different components of the university who were working with the aftermath of the tragedy in various ways. For example: the web site mounted by Dr. Luke and Dr. Jesiek; and, the digital initiatives of Ed Fox and others. Kennelly emphasized that these are not dueling archives. They are working in a complementary way to these efforts and planning for the long run to work with these groups so that there will be long-term preservation of the materials collected.

Since the summer, the library has been working in coordination with the University Unions and Student Activities to deal with the many condolences received by the university. An area has been set up in the CRC in what is informally called the Prevail archive. The university received an estimated over 87,000 items. This number includes many thousands of cranes (33,000 cranes were received in one lot) and thousands of cards and letters. This is in addition to the items distributed through the Student Union in the days after the shootings. Digital images are being taken of many items, and these initially will be available on the Internet (http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/416_archive/ through a timely but temporary arrangement with Rutgers University.

Kennelly stated that as she has worked with these materials for the past 4 or 5 months, she has found that in addition to being an outpouring of support for the university, the items received are a rich source of material about how we express grief and the effect this tragedy has had on people around the world. There are materials that would be of research interest not only to sociologists but also to students of popular culture.

We've already had an expression of interest from Dr. Paula Cushing, Department Chair & Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Denver Museum of nature & Science about borrowing some items from the archive for an exhibit case showing ways people memorialize the dead. At least one of the venues for the expanded "Perspectives on Death and Dying" exhibit will be on a university campus in Colorado. In addition to planning for the permanent collection, we also are planning to have a traveling collection that might visit different venues.

Kennelly also noted that the Perspective Gallery in Squires is planning an exhibit of the cranes received by the university. This exhibit will be put up in December.

Because of the amount of materials received and space limitations, not all items will become part of the permanent collection. Items selected for the permanent collection will be appropriately organized, preserved, housed in a climate controlled environment, and described in a finding aid that will be made available through the Special Collections web pages as well as through the Virginia Heritage project. Once the collection has been processed, the physical collection will be available through the Special Collections Reading Room on the first floor of Newman Library.

If anyone would like to discuss this archive further or have questions or comments about other materials in the University Archives or in Special Collections, please do not hesitate to contact Tamara Kennelly at 540-231-9214.

Graduate Study Area (Hitchingham)

The first phase of renovating room 416 on the fourth floor into a graduate study area is complete and will be viewed at the end of this meeting. We are currently working with the Graduate School to provide access to the facility through the Hokie passport system. The area now has study tables, some comfortable seating, and lockers. Due to limited funds these furnishings were borrowed from various floors of the library. Obtaining better furnishings could be pursued as a fundraising possibility.

Other (Hitchingham)

Replacing the HVAC system in the library is in the University's 6-year plan. This is a major renovation necessary to prevent future breakouts of mold. The problem is currently being contained and in the interim daily monitoring will continue.

Minutes University Library Committee**Date: January 24, 2008****Time: 4:00-5:00 p.m.****Location: Library Board Room****Chair:** Bill Newton**Members Present:** Nakhia Goulbourne; Robert Brown; Eileen Hitchingham; Michelle Moseley-Christian; Ross Edmonds; Irene Glennon; Joe Loferski; Osama Marzouk (for Fleur Gooden); Bill Newton.**Guests:** Aaron Purcell**Special Collections**

Purcell presented on the state and future of Special Collections at Virginia Tech Libraries. He focused on the broad areas of Collection Development, Instruction, Outreach, and Donor Work and Development. While building up already strong areas such as IAWA, Culinary History, and the American Civil War, Purcell pointed to renewed efforts to help students and faculty interact with the material either in-person or virtually. The value and power of primary resources is overwhelming and it is important to educate all users on usage, relevance, and access. These unique one-of-a-kind collections set us apart from other ARL libraries and establish the University Libraries at Virginia Tech as a center for research. Outreach beyond campus to potential donors and scholars is also underway. The department will be expanding its ranks during the coming months and with that growth new services will emerge. Committee member were invited to visit Special Collections.

Campaign Update (Hitchingham)

Hitchingham gave an update on the progress of the Campaign for Virginia Tech and the comprehensive goal for the University Libraries.

Graduate Study Area (Hitchingham)

Hitchingham announced that the new graduate study area on the fourth floor is now open and in use. All graduate students have been given access through the Hokie passport system to the study area.

Minutes University Library Committee

Date: February 21, 2008

Time: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Library Board Room

Chair: Bill Newton

Members Present: Bill Newton, Eileen Hitchingham, Larry Freeman, Philip Young, Irene Glennon, Michelle Moseley-Christian, Nakhia Goulbourne, Osama Marzouk, Robert Brown

Guests: Bruce Obenhaus

2nd Floor Entry Planning

Plans to reopen the original doors at the 2nd floor entry way of Newman Library are well underway. The plan is to consolidate key service points to the 2nd floor. Circulation, Inter Library Loan, the reference desk, and the photocopy center will move up to the 2nd floor. There will also be ample seating and individual and group study areas.

Update on Prevail Archive

Rutgers University Libraries, through their RUCore project has been providing the Libraries with a temporary platform for archiving materials for the Virginia Tech April 16th 2007 Prevail Archive of the University Library, also referred to as the Prevail Archive. Since our use of their system is a temporary arrangement we need to consider how we will handle these materials in the future. We need to understand where we can position the Prevail Archive materials once they are no longer on the Rutgers system. At the same time we can look at the possibility of using one system to not only serve as a platform for the Prevail materials, but to also bring together many of the digital offerings the Library already has, but which are scattered across a number of platforms.

Faculty Authors' Day

February 28 is the third Annual Virginia Tech Faculty Authors' Recognition day, co-sponsored by the University Libraries, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the VP for Research. The event is set for 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm on the second floor of Newman. After brief remarks to recognize the authors by the Provost, the Vice President for Research, and the Libraries Director of Special Collections, a reception will follow. Many of the publications will be on display in the area. Over 50 faculty from various colleges/Departments, and their guests will be in attendance. Please join us for the event.