

Library Committee

1997-98 Annual Report

June 15, 1998

The bulk of the Library Committee's time this year was spent dealing with four issues:

1. Inserting faculty input into the Blue Ribbon Committee report and process, and preparing the LIBR response to the final report.
2. Collaborating closely on the budget proposal submitted for the Library for 1998-99.
3. Attempting to ensure appropriate faculty input on systemwide and California digital library issues.
4. Informing ourselves and the campus about local library issues involving Moffitt, Doe, and the branches.

Completed Business

Budget

The Committee on the Library (LIBR) met several times with Mike Rancer, Library Director of Financial Planning and Administration, who was helpful in informing LIBR of budget issues, providing statistics such as ARL data, and soliciting advice and suggestions regarding the Library's budget proposal. Extensive discussion took place about which collections figure to endorse. LIBR supported the overall final budget proposal, and recognized that any increase granted will lead to a discussion of principles for distribution. LIBR sent a letter to Chancellor Berdahl endorsing the Library's budget proposal.

One issue LIBR focused on is the need for new revenue sources. Suggestions from LIBR included increased endowments; fees for services from the Alumni Association and University Extension; revenue from printers and copiers; and high-priced serial cancellation. In response to the budgetary crisis, Rancer established a Library Enterprise Unit, whose ideas, some controversial, include selling advertising on the Library's web site, a contract with Cody's Books, a fee-based library card, and a cafe in Moffitt Library. Another controversial idea is to use non-19900 funds to pay librarians, as is being suggested for faculty. LIBR and the Library understand that these sources would not solve any major budget problems, and a campus commitment is still required.

In meetings with Library and Senate leaders, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Carol Christ agreed to remove seismic costs currently allocated to the Library, but stated that the increases requested by LIBR, the Blue Ribbon Committee on the Library (BRC), and the Library (approximately \$4 million) were more than could possibly be given without making serious cuts in other departments. At his inaugural address in April, Chancellor Robert Berdahl announced his commitment to the Library: a \$5.5 million augmentation to the base budget over the next three years, \$0.9 million of which is designated for operations. At the May meeting of the Berkeley Division, Chair Marianne Constable made a presentation on the state of the Library. She explained that the increase is appreciated, but the new funding, in conjunction with the one

remaining year of bridge funding, would result in only a 10% increase for collections the first year, and a flat budget for the following year. She also noted that LIBR did not want to designate a specific amount for operations but instead to leave it open for the new University Librarian (UL) to negotiate. LIBR will again invite the Chancellor to attend a meeting in the Fall.

Blue Ribbon Committee

The BRC was formed in Spring 1997 by EVCP Christ to provide advice and suggestions on collections and access, services, resource and budget, technology, and scholarly publishing and copyrights. The BRC was chaired by Humanities Dean Anthony Newcomb. Professor Marc Rieffel of LIBR served on the BRC and acted as a liaison to LIBR. Initially LIBR questioned its relationship with the BRC and discussed possible duplication of effort. Over the course of the year LIBR met jointly with the BRC once, and Chair Constable met extensively with Dean Newcomb to review drafts and discuss issues to ensure the two committees were in general agreement. It was decided that the collections budget would be of primary importance. The BRC final report (<http://www.chance.berkeley.edu/evcp/ExecSum.html>) was issued in April 1998, and following the collaboration in writing the final drafts, LIBR favors its general direction. LIBR submitted its own comments on the report (http://Amber.Berkeley.EDU:4205/news/committee/libr_brc_resp.html) to EVCP Christ and others. One of the BRC's suggestions, an advisory group composed of faculty, librarians, and administrators, is contested because of its potential effect on the Librarian's ability to manage and coordinate his own units with the campus.

External Advisors

In conjunction with the BRC report, the campus administration invited a group of external reviewers to assess the state of the Library: Billy Frye, Chancellor, Emory University; Elaine Sloan, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, Columbia University; and Betty Bengston, Director, University Libraries, University of Washington. They visited Berkeley in February 1998 and met with LIBR and other groups. They submitted a report in March, in which they state problems and challenges they saw and suggestions for corrective actions. Suggestions include a Library Advisory Board (LAB) similar to a suggestion by the BRC, to be composed of librarians, administrators, and faculty, to advise the UL. LIBR members raised questions about the relationship between LIBR and a new LAB; a communication structure would have to be devised to ensure quality of work and nonduplication. It has been reported that Chancellor Berdahl will set up an LAB; LIBR will request that the new UL be involved in its establishment, more Senate consultation take place, a three-year initial try-out period, and Librarians' Association of UC-Berkeley (LAUC-B) representation.

UCOL

Chair Constable represented Berkeley on the Universitywide Committee on the Library (UCOL). In the fall she called attention to the fact that she was the only representative from the Humanities, which ranked the Library its number one concern in a UC-wide report on research conditions. UCOL met only once during the year and Professor Tom Leonard, LIBR member, attended as Berkeley's representative. He presented LIBR's comments on the final LPAI Task Force report.

LPAI

LIBR must reiterate to UCOL that UCB's support of Library Planning and Action Initiative (LPAI) Resolutions A-E depended on the passage of F, which protects print collections. The LPAI final report was issued in March 1998 and includes plans for the CDL and a Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Committee (SLSIC), an advisory committee to Lucier. At the May 8 UCOL meeting, Prof Leonard gave LIBR's comments on the report and reported back to LIBR that the notion that Resolution F be a top priority was seen as "radical" by UCOL.

Continuing Business

California Digital Library

In the Fall, LIBR met with Richard Lucier, Executive Director of the California Digital Library (CDL) and University Librarian of the CDL, to talk about CDL's strategy: to build a shared digital collection and to cooperate with other California educational institutions, such as private universities and the CSU system. He has requested a \$4 million annual budget, but there is no budget model for funding inflation nor for increases in content. It is hoped the CDL will prove its usefulness and then draw funding.

As advised by LPAI, a Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Committee (SLSIC) will be set up to advise Lucier. It will be chaired by EVCP Christ and replace the Library Council.

The first CDL collection will focus on Science, Technology, and Industry (STIC). Lucier is trying to use UC's purchasing power to negotiate contracts for electronic journals which lower acquisitions prices and control rates of increase. Electronic journals are more expensive than print because of higher subscription prices and the infrastructure required to run them. A contract in the works with Elsevier Science is precedent setting in that it will give all UC campuses access to all Elsevier journals, with a price inflation guarantee. Though the price is high, Elsevier journals are heavily used and may be worth the price. LIBR is concerned that such a contract will reduce the pressure on Elsevier to lower its prices. It was noted that different disciplines desire a different balance between digital and print collections. Lucier said he will negotiate to keep print collections for at least a transitional period.

UCB-Digital

Archiving electronic journals is sure to be a challenge. Barbara Kornstein of the Library presented to LIBR a contract urgently negotiated with Lexis-Nexis through a consortium called Solinet. The one-year contract is expensive, but numerous testimonials were presented that show Lexis-Nexis is an indispensable resource to many doing research. This year's offer may be reasonable but the price can be expected to rise each year. Many similar contract decisions will come before the Library in the coming years.

Computing

The Chair of the Committee on Computing and Communications (COMP) is a member of LIBR but this year's chair was unable to provide that liaison. It is hoped that next year's COMP chair

will participate in LIBR as computing issues become more important. Librarian Charles Faulhaber, Bancroft Library director and member of the Campus Commission on Computing, was invited to attend LIBR meetings to provide updates. The Commission is currently finalizing its draft report, due in July, which contains 15 recommendations. LIBR and the Undergraduate Task Force (UGTF) will comment on the final report.

Faculty Information

LAUC-B Representative Andrea Severson set up a Faculty Library Services web page (<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/faculty.html>) which is linked to the Library's main page. Faculty can request books and journals and contact their selectors easily.

Moffitt / UGTF

Moffitt Undergraduate Library is in the midst of major changes. Its layout is being reorganized and its collection is being reduced dramatically (from 160,000 volumes to 80-100,000). Moffitt had a moratorium on book buying when its selector retired; a new selector has now been appointed. Problems are numerous: the prevalence of computers rather than books, inadequate furniture and lighting for studying, and the use of Moffitt as surge space for seismically challenged libraries. To address the many complicated issues facing Moffitt, an Undergraduate Task Force (UGTF) has been established, co-chaired by Professor Mark Griffith of LIBR and Ellen Meltzer, Head of the Teaching Library, and including LIBR members Professor Laura Demsetz and Student Representative Gina King. The UGTF has sent out separate surveys to undergraduates and to faculty and GSIs to get input on what services are most important. A report is expected soon.

In the spring, a new cafe was announced, to be completed in January 2000, which will occupy the 3rd floor southwest corner of Moffitt. The microcenter which currently occupies that space will move. The cafe is part of the largest gift in history to the Library, which includes \$1.5 million for collections and \$0.5 million for the Bancroft Library.

Doe

Associate University Librarian James Spohrer, Librarian/Area Studies Head Allan Urbanic, Professor George Starr, and Professor George Breslauer presented to LIBR plans for changes to the 2nd floor of Doe involving the Humanities Reference and Research Collection (HRRC) and the International and Area Studies (IAS) reading room. These reference areas were designed in response to the need for reliable access to core materials. The HRRC had not yet been budgeted at the time of their visit. Concerns include duplication of serials and books, and the fact that only one librarian will be posted on the 2nd floor.

The Doe Core became an important topic this spring as its potential surge space is being courted by several factions. The Art History, the Visual Arts, and Classics Library has been proposed to be housed in the ground floor of the Core. A cost estimate was prepared by Micha Hoy of Planning, Design, and Construction. The estimate is large because of building code requirements. LIBR took a tour of the Core and may suggest a feasibility study be conducted to see whether it can be converted to more usable space.

Branches / Seismic Planning

The Chemistry Library in Hildebrand and the Physics Library in LeConte have been rated seismically poor and very poor by the SAFER report. They will have to be moved during retrofitting. Planning groups should consult with Beth Weil, the Biosciences and Natural Resources librarian, who recently went through a consolidation. Additionally, the Environmental Design Library in Wurster will be surging to the 5th floor of Moffitt and will require a technological upgrade. The physical science libraries are not planning to ask for Moffitt surge. Professors Kustu and Rieffel were designated to keep in contact with the Deans planning the moves and will be kept informed about proceedings over the summer. The Education/Psychology Library in Tolman will also have to be moved.

New UL

University Librarian Peter Lyman announced that he is resigning from the position as of July 1, 1998, to return to School of Information Management and Systems (SIMS) faculty. A Search Committee, chaired by Professor Beth Burnside, includes LIBR members Constable, Leonard, and Rieffel. Several candidates are under consideration; interviews are scheduled for July. LIBR agreed that candidates need to talk to other representative faculty and students in addition to the Search Committee. Interested LIBR members may meet with the candidates as well. Penny Abell, former UL at Yale University and UC-San Diego, was appointed Interim UL beginning July 1 for 3-6 months. She will work with the Search Committee and begin working on preparation for the future.

LAUC-B Conference

With LIBR's support, the Senate will co-sponsor a conference on Scholarly Publishing held by the Librarians Association of the University of California-Berkeley (LAUC-B) in November. Chancellor Berdahl, among others, will speak, and the Senate's sponsorship is hoped to increase appeal to faculty.