

## Annual Report of the Committee on the Library

### Issues and Actions

#### Services

- Professor Hannah Ginsborg joined Professor Mark Griffith on the Undergraduate Task Force (UGTF), replacing Professor Laura Demsetz. They followed up with UGTF Co-Chair Ellen Meltzer to categorize recommendations as to their ease of implementation and controversial character. The Committee on the Library (LIBR) discussed all recommendations; a list of LIBR's endorsements is attached. University Librarian (UL) Gerald Lowell said he fully supports the recommendations and is researching budget implications.
- Demsetz met with the Public Services Task Force (PSTF) on compiling "day in the life" profiles of typical Library users. The PSTF planned panel discussions and town hall meetings.
- LIBR discussed the disbanding of the Moffitt serials collection. The Moffitt serials are the most damaged serials collection, and most titles are duplicated elsewhere and available on-line. The serials would first be used to fill in gaps in the Main collection and then sold. Only 12 titles, deemed public library fare, would disappear completely. The Library took input from the Blue Ribbon Committee and the UGTF as well as from LIBR before deciding to remove the serials for Environmental Design Library surge. LIBR voiced concerns that electronic formats do not emulate the printed page or contain pictures, charts, and advertisements, and that future gaps in collections will appear. LIBR asked that the Library not yet dispose of the serials. Lowell said that he would like to invigorate Moffitt as an undergraduate focus, but the redesign of Moffitt's core collection is awaiting the new Moffitt/Doe Associate University Librarian (AUL), and it is not yet known whether the collection will include serials.
- Moffitt's serials deaccessioning raised the issue of determining what the Library's collection and allocation principles are. LIBR requested that the Library articulate those principles to generate an informative discussion. Lowell is drafting a policy.
- Lowell asked for LIBR's opinion of linking the Library website to UC Berkeley's licensed ASUC store. He said that he is generally opposed to links to commercial websites but would consider this option. LIBR opposed the link.

#### Space Planning

- LIBR met with Professor Loren Partridge, chair of the Art History, the Visual Arts, and Classics Task Force, and approved moving ahead with the general proposal to consolidate N-class (fine arts) and some other books in the Doe Core basement, with specifics to be discussed in the future. LIBR emphasized that resource allocations should be given a rigorous planning base and expressed the desire to participate in space configuration planning.
- The Northeast Quadrant report referred to the possible consolidation of the Physical Science Libraries. A Physical Science Libraries Planning Committee was constituted, including Professor Marc Rieffel of LIBR, but not specifically with the intent of endorsing

consolidation. The Planning Committee released its report in June; it will be reviewed by LIBR in the Fall.

- LIBR sent a memo to the Divisional Council (DIVCO) asking proponents of the Haas proposal to remember Library issues in its planning.
- LIBR Chair Marianne Constable and UL Lowell met with the consultants brought in by the campus to put together the strategic facilities master plan. The consultants seemed surprised by the campus's bureaucracy and the variation in libraries and disciplines.

### Scholarly Publishing

- Rieffel drafted a possible Senate resolution on media for scholarly publishing: "when there are grounds for believing that the processes of peer review and quality assurance are the same, then there should be no prejudice as to the prestige of the medium and equal value should be attached in recognizing digital and print journals in merit considerations." The Committee on Computing and Communications (COMP) sent a memo stating the above opinions to the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR). Those committees and LIBR will endorse the proposal to DIVCO. Such a resolution would alert the entire scholarly community to the changing landscape of scholarly communication, and wide publicity of Berkeley's policy might lead to greater acceptance at other institutions.
- Rieffel suggested a proposal that the University move cautiously toward requiring that scholarly material produced by Berkeley faculty be placed on freely accessible web servers. The next step is to get from experts specific suggestions about how to proceed.

### Budget

- LIBR met with Mike Rancer, Library Director of Financial Planning and Administration, and UL Lowell to discuss the Library's 1999-2000 budget request. This year's request is a three-year examination of the Library's needs and how it proposes to meet them, and will show what the first year after the Chancellor's funding ends will be like. LIBR voiced its concerns that there are not enough collections specialists and that the relation between new initiatives such as the CDL and costs for campus operations is unclear. The Library also received input on the request from the Student Employment Task Force and the UGTF report. The final proposal identified a few important requests rather than listing everything desired. The requests in priority order are:

1. Mortgaging plan for Librarian Hires
2. One-time funds for the Student Employment Initiative Program
3. One-time funds to perform User Survey and Availability Study
4. One-time funds for additional public access Library workstations
5. One-time funds to develop digitization and digital preservation operations

This is the first year the proposal listed endowments, showing all funds available for allocation (not just 19900). LIBR was generally pleased with the proposal and wrote to EVCP Christ supporting the request, but also noting LIBR's sense of the need for greater staffing. LIBR endorsed the budget which includes the mortgaging plan this year, but asked for reevaluation next year.

- Collections Advisory Group (CAG) Chair Beth Weil and Mike Rancer explained how the Library makes appropriations to departments and presented expenditure plans for the total

collections budget and for new money this year. They discussed with members how to spend one-time money and whether certain items (such as binding) should be included in the collections or operations budget. The budget request includes provision for a user survey and availability study, which will answer questions about “frustrated usage.”

#### Systemwide

- The Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF) Phase 3 development is to be delayed a minimum of 14 months to allow Berkeley to raise \$14 million in matching funds for FEMA grants for seismic upgrades. LIBR was concerned that the delay would be extended indefinitely. Chair Constable raised the issue of sending a letter from the Berkeley Senate to UCOP and to Berkeley administration affirming the necessity of integrating planning for long-term storage for print collections into space planning.
- LIBR met with Richard Lucier, California Digital Library (CDL) Executive Director. He informed LIBR that he has been asked by UC Provost Judson King to lead a study with the ULs to determine the System’s storage needs and to estimate when a new RLF will be needed. He said that if the data shows that the NRLF must get back on track, it will be put back on track.
- The Universitywide Committee on the Library (UCOL) will broach the subject of the relationship between UCOL and the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (SLASIAC) with SLASIAC Chair Christ. UCOL will also discuss the NRLF issue.

#### Administrative

- In the Fall, Interim University Librarian Penny Abell met regularly with LIBR. LIBR members participated in interviews for University Librarian candidate Gerald Lowell, former UL at UC San Diego. After his appointment, Lowell met regularly with LIBR and with Chair Constable.
- LIBR discussed the Computing Report, especially debating the proposed new position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Technology. Lowell reported that the idea received minimal support so will not be pursued. Associate Vice Chancellor-Information Systems and Technology John McCredie and UL Lowell will draft a new position description recommending units that should be under that position, and recommend appropriate reporting lines to EVCP Christ.
- Current AUL terms expire June 1, 1999, and Lowell is anxious to put in place a top-level support team. LIBR reviewed AUL management structures and possible AUL portfolio configurations. With the support of LIBR, Lowell chose configurations based on the Doe/Moffitt, Director of Public Services, and Director of Collection Development structure. There will also be six councils, three function-based (public services, collections, technical services) and three content-based (humanities, social science, science).
- LIBR invited Chancellor Berdahl to attend a meeting, in response to his suggestion to the Senate Chair and Vice Chair of a town hall meeting for Library users to ask questions and register complaints. He was unable to attend, but LIBR will continue to seek his input on Library issues.

**Future Action Items**

- LIBR members will participate in the screening and interviews for the three Associate University Librarian positions.
- The Physical Science Libraries report will be discussed. The Music Library, East Asian Library, Visual Arts Library, and new Doe and Moffitt capital projects will also be issues.
- Finding ways to make improvements in the “mundane” items that make the Library work for its patrons, such as finding information, reference service, and integrated access will be on LIBR’s agenda.
- Faculty-Library liaisons need to be strengthened, possibly through receptions, town hall meetings, focus groups, and/or newsletters.
- LIBR will continue to look at how collections money should be spent and whether mortgaging of staff positions will be an adequate long-term strategy.
- Issues addressed by the Digital Library Steering Committee and integrating access will be important.
- Getting the UL into the academic planning loop is a major concern.