

**APPROVED**

**1999-2000 Annual Report of the Committee on Library**

In fulfilling the charge set by the Berkeley Division bylaws, here are the main accomplishments of the Committee on Library (LIBR) during 1999-2000. The academic year ends with the departure of the University Librarian (UL), an event of over-riding concern. It is important to put this loss in the context of hard work on the renewal of library services on campus.

**I. Organization and Affiliation**

- LIBR members joined three key working groups with staff and students. These have not been pro forma bodies. Members probed for first principles, gathered data, and met as many as a dozen times to search for a consensus. Deliberations and conclusions ended up on the University Library web site for wider comment. The URL's below are a snap-shot of these inquiries in June 2000.
  1. Task Force on Information and Reference Services in Doe and Moffitt  
<http://library.berkeley.edu/Admin/refinfofinrpt.html>
  2. User Survey Task Force.  
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/AboutLibrary/Staff/cunews/lust.html>
  3. Workgroup on Access to Collections  
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/AboutLibrary/Staff/ASM/accesmin.html>

The Reference group recommended the creation of the Doe/Moffitt Reference and Research Service. This would be located on an interim basis in the Subject Hall on the second floor of Doe. The User Survey task force developed a questionnaire for faculty and graduate students to measure service quality in the Library. It will be distributed in Fall 2000. The Access to Collections group has a broader mandate and has taken longer to form. The full committee has taken some action in this policy area, as detailed below.

- LIBR members attended other Senate and administrative committees including CAPRA and its physical planning and budge subcommittees. Members explained the concerns of the University Library and reported back on the work of CAPRA.

## **II. Issues and Reports**

### **A. Reports and Proposals**

- Recommended to the University Librarian the creation of quiet zones in the library free from the sounds of discussion and laptop computers. This idea is being tried.
- Report on the Digital Library. LIBR discussed and generally endorsed it. [www.lib.berkeley.edu/Admin/DLAC\\_Report\\_Final.html](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/Admin/DLAC_Report_Final.html)
- The proposal for the Berkeley Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology. The Committee did not take a favorable view of the proposal. Comments were forwarded to Division Chair Robert Spear in February.
- Increased enrollment and its impact on the Library. LIBR concluded that the growth of new programs, especially at the graduate level, taxes Library resources more than those for new undergraduate users.
- Shelving in the Gardner Stacks. This is a source of chronic and well-founded complaint, especially from people in the Humanities. But a quick fix might cause other problems. LIBR has left this in the hands of the Workgroup on Access to Collections. The University Librarian has pledged to inform stack users that the Library is moving as rapidly as possible.
- Long term collections strategy. At the UL's suggestion, LIBR met with the new Associate University Librarian with this responsibility.
- Library rankings from the Chronicle for Higher Education (Sept. 17, 1999). University Librarian Jerry Lowell explained that this is quantification that hides as much as it reveals. The rankings, LIBR concluded, are a poor basis for action.

### **B. Space Planning**

- Future of the Doe Core including the possibilities for the Art-History Library, surge space, and the proposed Doe/Moffitt Reference and Research Service Center. All of the stake-holders are contributing to the planning on these matters.
- Additional surge space and Library operations. The fifth floor of Moffitt, in particular, has become a sacrifice area for the good of specialized libraries. This has compounded the problems of addressing the needs of undergraduates.
- Report on the Physical Science Library. LIBR found this promising idea to be so long-range that we could not attempt a careful evaluation.
- Future of the Public Health Library and the construction of SB-1 on the Oxford tract. The new building seems a solution to none of the Library's

problems. The nearby and soon-to-be displaced collection in Public Health is not slated to go here.

- Utilizing space in Moffitt for classrooms. The UL reported that the corner spaces created by recent construction have been loaned out for instructional use with the understanding that they will be returned in a few years with physical enhancements that will make them more valuable to the Library.
- The future of seismic retrofitting of the Bancroft Library. The University's most valuable collection is now housed in the structure most likely to collapse in an earthquake. The considerable funding to remedy this problem is not in sight.
- The New Century Plan. This year's opening of the Free Speech Movement Cafe in Moffitt is attracting people to the center of campus outside their classes. This experience, in addition to Doe's splendid physical setting, may play a useful role in the unfolding of the New Century Plan.

### **C. Budget**

- LIBR met with Mike Rancer, Library Director of Financial Planning and Administration, and UL Lowell to discuss the Library's 2000-2001 budget request. The final installment of the Chancellor's funding for collections will be paid in 2000-2001. Without an additional infusion of campus funds to cover the cost of inflation or a change in long-term collections strategy, the campus's research holdings will deteriorate. The operations budget has been increased by 5%. But this may not be enough to insure that research materials will be processed in a timely way. LIBR will remain vigilant on support level and efficiencies here.

The Committee has noted the Chancellor's commitment to the Library in both his public and internal discussions of campus priorities. LIBR commends this leadership. The Committee will be working with the Chancellor to monetize that good will next year.

### **III. Leadership**

- LIBR members participated in interviews for the Associate University Librarian for Collections, completing a year of searches for the other AUL's that have filled out the top leadership of the University Library.
- Jerry Lowell's announcement of his resignation came via e-mail on May 4, 2000 to the Library community. His decision, grounded in personal concerns, was as much of a surprise to LIBR as it was to his Doe colleagues and to the Administration. We are satisfied that California Hall did everything possible to retain this gifted administrator. The Committee has profited

greatly from his active participation in our meetings in his two years of service.

The LIBR chair has consulted with the Academic Senate leadership and the Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost about the transition and search for a new University Librarian.

**Future Action Items:**

- Search for new University Librarian.
- Long term collections strategy. This includes communicating with the administration about the Library's continuing need for funding in this area after 2000-2001.
- Keeping abreast of plans for the development of the Doe Core.
- Continuing participation on Library Task Forces and role in proposed Committee on Library Public Service Access Systems. This initiative follows from the work of the Digital Library Task Force of 1999-2000 which LIBR helped lead.
- Uses of the library for seismic surge and the Bancroft Library's special earthquake problems.

The chair of LIBR during 1999-2000 was Professor Thomas Leonard, author of this report.