

Notes for University Library Council (ULC) Meeting
Thursday, 9 April, 2020
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Attendees met online

Present: Progyan Basu, Brian Butler (Chair), Linda Coleman, James Farquhar, Barbara Haggh-Huglo, Judi Kidd (note taker), Joseph Koivisto, Adriene Lim, Dan Mack, Marcio Oliveira, Nadine Sahyoun, Gary White

Apologies: Laura Dugan, Deena Shariq

1. Approval of the 5th March ULC meeting notes

The notes were approved.

2. COVID-19 situation update (how it is affecting the UMD Libraries and what UMDLibraries are doing in response to it)

Adriene described the fast-moving events before Governor Hogan issued his Stay at Home order on 30 March. Plans were made to reduce opening hours to the public, maintain print services such as Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and prepare for online teaching. Once the Stay at Home order was issued by the Governor, the libraries have continued to provide services online where possible, but no longer could rely upon a skeletal level of staffing to provide print-based services for course reserves and ILL.

Librarians continue to place orders for digital resources for current courses. Dan commented that these items would probably have been placed regardless of the current situation. We are not considering these purchases to be separate, budgetarily, and they may be off-set by cost savings due to our building closures. A website has been created to provide support for faculty and students. We are considering a pilot of virtual study halls in response to those students who are finding it difficult to focus and study alone. This demonstrates how much our services are appreciated by our students.

Several ULC members noted their appreciation of online library services such as having chapters scanned and emailed prior to the buildings being closed, and having access to many online journals.

Div IT and the libraries have partnered to scale up access to specialized software: students may now log in to a virtual desktop environment which matches software available in the learning commons. Software from the Assistive Technology Lab such as screen readers is also available, and specialist CAD [Computer-aided Design] software has allowed teaching to

continue in the architecture school. Additionally Div IT and the libraries made 160 laptops available for long-term loan to students at this time. All these initiatives have been well received by students.

Discussion moved on to communication. Adriene described the library's efforts to promote our services, for example, an email will be sent out to those students who have previously used our computers offering them help accessing resources. Marcio summarized his involvement in several media interviews and praised the spirit of collaboration between Div IT and the libraries; a letter to students signed by Adriene and Jeff Hollingsworth [VP of IT and Chief Information Officer] emphasizes this collaboration.

The current situation is an opportunity to demonstrate what the libraries are doing: services continue to be provided despite the buildings being closed. Div IT provides weekly usage statistics and is able to add specific library data such as Zoom usage. On a side note, a virtual study hall is being piloted in response to those students who find it difficult to study alone.

Adriene addressed the financial impact of COVID 19: the libraries are making plans to respond to any forthcoming budget cuts by planning for various scenarios. Dan's team in Collection Strategies & Services are making high level plans including looking at cancellations which may need up to 90 days advance notice. Gary's team in Research & Academic Services are also making plans.

3. UMD PACT update

The first meeting of this new sub-group of ULC was held on Thursday 2 April. It will meet every two weeks. They are gathering and sharing information on the issues. A new website has been created to host PACT information. Adriene will contact the leaders of both the University of California and MIT libraries and invite them to attend a future meeting. ULC members are welcome to attend.

Discussion on ways to obtain information on UMD faculty publications. Broad discussion on open research: council members are invited to send examples of successful/active open access journals to Adriene and Brian.

4. DVD ripping/custom streaming service issues

The Libraries is consulting with General Counsel on copyright compliance/fair use issues related to digitizing and streaming of videos for courses. We are waiting for a resolution, but will provide an update to ULC when possible.

The next ULC meeting is Thursday 7 May