Notes for University Library Council (ULC) Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2020

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

STEM Library

Last minutes/notes were not approved - not on agenda

Present: Progyan Basu, John Bertot, Brian Butler (Chair), Jodi Coalter (guest), Linda Coleman, John Cumings, Laura Dugan, James Farquhar, Barbara Haggh-Huglo, Judi Kidd (note taker), Joseph Koivisto, Adriene Lim, Daniel Mack, Deena Shariq, Abigail Svoysky, Gary White, Nevenka Zdravkovska (guest)

Apologies: Nadine Sahyoun

1. **STEM Library and STEM Library Services Presentation** [see attached PPT file]

Nevenka Zdravkovska, head of the STEM Library, was a guest of ULC. She gave an overview of the library. STEM officially started in 2018 following a merger of the Chemistry and EPSL (Engineering and Physical Sciences Library). It is located in Kirwin Hall (Math Building), occupies over 36,000 square feet over four floors, and receives on average 245,000 visitors per year.

STEM Librarians support faculty, students and staff of the following schools/colleges:

- College of Computer, Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
- School of Public Health
- A. James Clark School of Engineering

This accounts for 46% of undergraduate and 42% of graduate UMD enrollments.

The library includes both quiet and group study spaces, a multi-purpose room and a bank of 42 computers. The vast majority of the collection (databases, journals and eBooks) is electronic and available both on and off campus. The print collection is

shelved in STEM, McKeldin, Hornbake and Severn Libraries. Equipment such as laptops, chargers, calculators and electronic toolkits are available to borrow.

The STEM library also hosts STEAM Salons, an informal series of faculty and student speakers in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.

Jodi Coalter (also a guest of ULC) demonstrated the Augmented Reality Sandbox which is located in the STEM Makerspace. It is used to demonstrate the local effects of climate change on communities i.e. how topography affects flooding. A physical box containing sand sits underneath a light; sensors in the sandbox link to a computer which shines light onto the sand to show a topographic map which changes as the sand is moved around. The Sandbox is the result of collaboration between several Library units: Research and Academic Services provided practical help building the box and Digital Services & Technologies provide ongoing coding and technical support. Several students are interested in using the box for research, including one Urban Development graduate student, and one who is interested in working with the code to improve the program.

2. Update on strategic planning exercise (Adriene Lim)

Work on the Libraries' mission and vision statements, and core values continue. The group reviewed the latest iterations of both mission and vision statements. Library staff have been surveyed for their comments on the draft statements. Library feedback has been positive regarding the core values; some proposals on wording were offered.

Vision
- Does the phrase "internationally recognized leaders" neglect local leadership? Are qualifiers necessary?
  - ULC agreed that recognizing local leadership was important
- Is "advance our university community…" broad enough? Should it be global and include open scholarship?
  - Adriene noted that we don't have a high level of endowments to facilitate a global impact; we would be working in partnership with others
- ULC members quiered what was meant by "standard setting"?
  - Lim described the Libraries' setting standards of service and bibliographic standards
- The term "communities" has been discussed in many groups. ULC members continued the debate and offered alternatives such as the States/Maryland? The

Libraries are open to all but our main funding is from student fees - they are our primary users.

The strategic planning process will continue with a Gap Analysis designed to identify gaps between where we are now and what we aspire to. Work continues on finalising mission and vision statements; they will then be shared with more stakeholders.

3. Library Budget Overview (Adriene Lim, Dan Mack)

Dan presented an overview of the Libraries' collection budget [see attached PPT file].

Campus funding for FY20 is nearly $9.5 million and has been flat for many years. Other funding sources include the Library Tech fee, gifts and endowments and other UMD units such as the Smith School of Business. Gifts and endowments account for 1% of the total budget; this is significantly behind peer institutions. As a result fundraising for the Libraries is a high priority.

The percentage of one time purchases, such as print copies of book, has decreased from 41% in 2005 to a projected 4% in 2020. This contrasts with 79% continuing resources, such as databases and e-books, in 2005 to 96% projected in 2020. Over the period from 1986 to 2016, inflation of monographs was 82% while inflation of serials was 321%.

We are working with our partners in the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) to address some of these issues, particularly in sharing access to collections. Other partnerships include local, state-wide, regional and national groups.

Adriene invited ULC members to join the UMD PACT task force to investigate UMD's scholarly publishing practices. This group is sponsored jointly by the ULC, the Office of the Provost, Faculty Affairs, and the Division of Research.

Further discussion followed on the impact of joining the Big Ten: many people see it as purely sport focussed but the Libraries need to publicize collective collections and their many benefits.

4. Discussion of Experiential Learning and Interdisciplinary Collaboration needs (Brian Butler)

This item was shortened due to timing.

What does Experiential Learning look like in your area?

- Music improvisation, music field work e.g. DC jazz clubs, providing concerts in underused venues or by less well known composers. Using the Library of Congress for primary sources of work
- English
    - engagement with the community through Prince George's County and the immigrant community e.g. collection of narratives. Service learning in schools.
    - Professional writing programs. Proposal writing.
- Biology students in lab classes conducting experiments with a professor
- Projects, Capstone theses, presentations in classrooms
- Graduate level in the Business School - bringing a work based problem into the classroom and working collectively to find a solution
- Datasets analysis
- Student only seminars - faculty leave the room

These items were not covered at this meeting:

What prevents it from being more common/higher impact?

What support is needed to provide more experiential learning opportunities for students in your area?

What does interdisciplinary collaboration (research or education) mean in your area?

What prevents it from being more common/higher impact?

What support is needed to promote interdisciplinary collaboration in your area?

5. **Suggestions for future meeting location(s) and agenda items**

The next meeting will include a tour in McKeldin Library - 5 March 2020

April and May meeting venues are still to be decided.

Note
Adding this link https://doi.org/10.1063/PT.3.4399 from Physics Today: *Open access for and against* by Charles Day.