University Library Council
Annual Report
Academic Year 2020-2021

Chair: Brian Butler, Senior Associate Dean, College of Information Studies

Meeting Schedule:

All meetings were online via Zoom

Friday, October, 9, 2020 from 9 - 10 am
Wednesday, November, 4, 2020 from 4 - 5 pm
Wednesday, December, 2, 2020 from 4 - 5 pm
Monday, February 8, 2021 from 2 - 3 pm
Friday, March 12, 2021 from 10 - 11 am
Monday, April 12, 2021 from 10 - 11 am
Monday, May 10, 2021 from 2 - 3 pm

Council Membership:

Constituency	Name	College
Chair	Brian Butler	INFO
Faculty Member	Progyan Basu	BMGT
Faculty Member	Linda Coleman	ARHU
Faculty Member	John Cumings	ENGR
Faculty Member	Mark Demorra	AGNR
Faculty Member	James Farquhar	CNNS
Faculty Member	John Laub	BSOS
Faculty Member	Stephen Nkansah Amankra	SPHL
Faculty Member	Nadine Sahyoun	AGNR
Faculty Member	Shannon Zellars Strohl	ARHU

Library Faculty Member	Lindsay Inge Carpenter	LIBR
Graduate Student	?	
Undergraduate Student	Sara Wiatrak	JOUR
Ex-Officio - Provost's Rep	John Bertot	SVPAAP
Ex-Officio - Libraries' Rep	Dan Mack	LIBR
Ex-Officio - Senate Chair-Elect	Ellen Williams	CMNS
Ex-Officio - Division of IT Rep	Marcio Oliveira	DIT

Major Activities

The Dean of Libraries, Adriene Lim, regularly updated the ULC on the ongoing effects of the pandemic on Library operations including the campus-wide budget cuts and hiring freeze. Adriene also gave an overview of the Libraries' 3-year strategic plan. Several guests attended ULC meetings to present on a variety of topics. ULC was also updated on the considerable progress made by the Publishing, Access, and Contract Terms group [UMD PACT], a sub-group of the ULC.

> UMD PACT [**Publishing, Access, and Contract Terms**] was convened during the 2019-2020 ULC session. Its aim is to make Maryland's research more visible, accessible, affordable, and equitably accessible. The group is co-sponsored by the ULC Office of the Provost, Faculty Affairs, and the Division of Research.
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> PACT members met with guests representing academia and academic publishing as part of their preliminary fact-finding. On reviewing the data and information gathered, a set of open-access policy recommendations, modeled on those of Harvard, was reviewed by the Provost and the UMD Office of General Counsel. The draft was shared at a campus-wide forum and is currently being shared with stakeholders across campus at unit-level meetings.
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> The Libraries created a dedicated website to help publicize PACT; its resources include suggested readings, definitions, and profiles of UMD academics advocating for open access. The group posted, and invited comments on, a set of UMD Libraries' Licensing Principles to be used in negotiations with vendors and publishers. The principles are in line with most of our peer institutions and consortia.

Adriene provided an overview of the **Libraries' budget** status, including a 5% cut in FY21, noting that use of the Libraries' one-time reserves funding in the amount of $475K will allow the Libraries to defer collections cuts until FY22.

Adriene briefed the group on the **Libraries' 3-year Strategic Plan** and focused on Goal #1 User-Centered Innovation. She noted that while the Libraries are already user-centered, this goal aims to enhance the approach throughout all library programs, services, and interfaces, and to emphasize the need for evaluation/assessment data to inform decision making.

The Libraries have delivered record numbers of **online instruction/teaching courses** and support the largest academic writing program on campus with over 4,000 students taking part in online discussion-based work and activities.

Presentations to ULC

Data services feature heavily in the Libraries' strategic plan, developing the Libraries' services and working across campus in both teaching and research.

- Milan Budhathoki, GIS Librarian. The GIS and Spatial Data Center's mission is to support all GIS users (students/faculty/staff/affiliates) affiliated with the College Park campus. Services are free of charge and include all aspects of geospatial research and teaching. Services provided include the use of mapping software, workshops, and access to datasets. The Big Ten Geoportal is an important and expanding, consortial-based resource.

- David Durden, Data Services Librarian. Services provided include consultations on Data Management Plans, data archiving and publication, and collection development for datasets. Some services are provided in coordination with the Research Commons. He works with many systems and organizations both on- and off-campus such as REDCap and HathiTrust. Examples of increased use of services were given. Future collaborations may include partnering with campus units to pilot new services and working on cross-division projects.

Open Education Resources (OER)
Lindsay Inge Carpenter, Pedagogy Librarian. Lindsay began by defining the term OER and listed their benefits; she addressed some OER myths e.g. faculty may believe they will lose all rights to their intellectual property and she described how UMD Libraries services and resources support faculty instruction.

Libraries' inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility [IDEA] work

Tahirah Akbar-Williams: Education and African American Studies Librarian.
Cindy Frank: Architecture & Visual Resource Librarian, Head of Architecture Library.

Over the past two years the Libraries' Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee has introduced several activities and initiatives to foster a more equitable and inclusive library culture. Cindy and Tahirah [IDEA co-chairs] described initiatives that address social justice, anti-racism, and anti-black racism

- The Diversity Immersion Institute was founded and Co-Directed by Tahirah in 2016 and 2018. It was created as a social justice project to introduce African American male high school students to career possibilities in Librarians and Information Science (LIS) and to expose them to college life. Simultaneously, it provides LIS students (future librarians) an immersive opportunity to work with students and librarians of color and learn concepts of DEI and advocacy.

- In 2021 UMD Libraries created an Employee Resource Group (ERG) for BIPOC employees to address recruitment and retention within the libraries. This group is sponsored by the Dean of Libraries and the Libraries Human Resources (LHR).

- Participating in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) Anti-Racist Learning Community was "created for the purpose of developing the knowledge and relationships necessary to move forward anti-racist practices in University of Maryland classrooms, workspaces, and decision making." There are two groups of library employees who meet once per week to read and discuss issues of DEI and anti-racism.

- In February 2020, for Black History Month, we held a 5 hour read-a-thon to celebrate Black authors.

- For years the Library has awarded 3 monetary awards for excellence in Undergraduate Research. This year we added a fourth award that would recognize undergraduate research specifically related to IDEA.

- We are working with Library HR to incorporate training opportunities into the annual offerings for library employees.

- Last June we encouraged our colleagues to attend the Celebration of the 30 years of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The libraries sponsored the closed captions.

- This year 2021 the libraries are co-sponsors of the UMD Disabilities Summit.

- We organized the StepUp Forum to discuss the murder of George Floyd and anti-black violence in the US and discuss what library faculty and staff could advance anti-racist ideas.

- We secured funding for our cataloguers to attend a one-day workshop on "[Listening to Many Voices: Ethics in Technical Services](#)"

- Started weekly blog posts on our internal staff blog - Bright IDEAs focused on and educating colleagues about the intersection of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and ableism.

- Started an [IDEA Book FUND](#) to increase our ownership of diverse materials. We take requests from the University Community as well as our own Library Staff.

Lae'l Hughes-Watkins: University Archivist

In the summer of 2017, [Project STAND](#) was officially launched. Lae'l founded Project STAND along with nearly 70 colleges and universities. They have created a radical grassroots archival consortium, establishing a centralized digital space highlighting analog and digital collections emphasizing student activism in marginalized communities. Project STAND aims to foster ethical documentation of contemporary and past social justice movements in under-documented student populations. Project STAND advocates for centering student-driven collections by collaborating with student organizers. We also work with educators to provide pedagogical support; creating digital resources; and hosting workshops and forums. We facilitate the building of sustainable relationships with student organizers and their communities leading to inclusive physical and digital spaces of accountability, diversity, and equity.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Reparative Archiving Statement
Lae'l Hughes-Watkins

During a recent review of our University Archives Collection Development Statement, it became clear that we needed to provide language that went beyond diversity but also spoke to equity and inclusion. Our new EDI statement also embraces the tenets outlined by the IDEA's committee, with a particular focus on democratization and transformation. As UMD Libraries, along with other colleges and universities around the country, working to actively create documentation that reflects an anti-racist praxis and focus on advocating for the historically marginalized communities in the aftermath of the protest from the summer of 2020 after the murder of George Floyd, and in honor of so many others, our documentation needed not to reflect, not just a moment but a shift in ideology that needed to be threaded into how we document and preserve the histories of our organization. We wanted our statement to be not just reactive but proactive as well.

Joni Floyd: Curator, Maryland & Historical Collections

1856 Project

- In April 2020, UMD officially joined [Universities Studying Slavery,](#)(USS) an international consortium of [78] academic intuitions that seek to acknowledge and understand their historical connections to slavery and its legacies.

- USS at the UMD is known as the [1856 Project](#). Our mission is to: (1) Investigate the history of the African American experience on the campus and in the surrounding Maryland community; (2) Conduct detailed analysis of documentation identifying the University's historical connections to US slavery and its legacies; and (3) Disseminate our findings to campus stakeholders and to the public with clearly defined reparative outcomes.

- The 1856 Project Outcomes to: (1) **foster teachin**g, **scholarly research, and programmin**g that will advance our mission through conferences, publications, lesson plans, and new undergraduate courses; (2) create a **digital presence** to provide a central hub for content and regular project updates to all stakeholders; and (3) establish a **physical spac**e on campus to remember and make visible Black people's vital contributions to our campus and community.

University of Maryland/Georgetown University Partnership

- The Libraries have been invited by Georgetown University Libraries to collaborate on the first phase of its Digital Migration Museum project. This phase will focus on telling stories from the Filpino American experience in the DMV in the form of an interactive exhibit. As stewards of the Filipino American Community Archives, UM Libraries plans to share its content and also provide reference and instruction assistance to the UM Filipino American history course that will collaborate through curation, scriptwriting, and generating new content (photos, interviews, scholarship). Future phases will invite other immigrant communities to contribute content and projects.