

University Library Committee
Minutes
October 12, 1998

PRESENT: James Schombert, James Bailey, Lucy Lynch, Gary Meyer, Jeffrey Ostler, Leland Roth, Gordon Sayre, George Shipman (ex officio), Sheila Gray

GUESTS: Deb Carver (Associate University Librarian for Public Services and Collections), Amy Ash (Dept of Political Sciences)

The meeting was called to order by Jim Schombert, chair at 3:00 p.m. Since this was the first meeting of the year and, thus, there were no minutes to approve and no old business.

LIBRARY PROGRAM REVIEW

After introductions the committee opened the floor for comments on the Library Program Review. The first discussion concerned the number of student hires used by the Library. It was noted that the students are ideal workers in certain areas, such as Web work and desk duty, plus there is a real educational benefit for the individuals. The use of student workers balances the noted low number of staff FTE's mentioned by the Review.

Lynch queried what will happen if salaries increase as requested by the Review, will this mean FTE's will decrease? Shipman says this can be done in a scenario where salaries increase, but are offset by new hires at lower, entry level salaries. This also has the benefit of providing more responsibility for entry level staff, a positive aspect to the UO Library System.

Schombert queried on the future status of Math and Map Libraries locations. Shipman responded that it would be ideal to bring Map into Knight; however, the physical demands on a transfer are high, the extreme weight of the collection/cases restricts its location. Shipman favors having branch libraries, but we do not have the space or the staff to support. The Math Library currently occupies 2,400 sq. ft. of space. It needs space closer to 10,000 sq. ft. The Science Library does not have room to accommodate that collection. Shipman stated that the departments directly affected by the possible relocation of these libraries (e.g. Geography) will be involved in the discussions.

Meyer noted that concerns for the Math Library also include a security issue in the sense that there is no electronic security system, many people have keys to the Math Library, and there is the potential for a loss of control on the collection. Various changes were discussed and it was decided to make this and the issue of furniture an agenda item for the next meeting (especially furniture that is better designed from an ergonomic and electronic information technology standpoint and that maximizes the investment that has been made in renovating Knight Library).

Schombert noted that the Review seemed overly concerned about communication with the Library and its users. Shipman mentioned that the network is integrated to each Department on campus. First, each faculty or staff member can communicate directly to the Library Committee. Second, anyone can communicate with his or her respective Department chair, who can then communicate directly with the University Librarian. Lastly, spot surveys have been done in the past to address particular issues (for example, the change in Library hours last term).

ORBIS UPDATE

Shipman reported that the UO has always been the net lender of Orbis. We are now a net borrower by a good margin. Due to the library publicizing Orbis more, there is a higher awareness among students and faculty on campus. Lynch queried on whether OSU is a member of Orbis yet. Shipman responded that their software will be installed by the new year, expectation for full service by next spring. Shipman also noted that Washington state schools are still in contact with Orbis, but that process is slow moving and politically laced. PSU and OHSU are in the process of trying to secure funding to join Orbis. Shipman added that community colleges joining the consortium is becoming an issue. The implications will be discussed at a future ULC meeting.

Shipman raised the issue of study carrels. It was recognized that for certain academic disciplines, the carrels are a valuable resource for graduate students, a place to focus on their scholarship activities versus an office they may have strictly for TA duties. Shipman stated that prior to the renovation and expansion of Knight Library, graduate carrels were provided. The process of checking each of those desks for uncharged material was very labor intensive. Even though the majority of carrels were assigned, they were rarely used. The graduate students were more in need of "office" space. Various changes were discussed and it was decided to make this and the issue of furniture (especially technofriendly furniture) an agenda item for the next meeting.

Sayre noted that getting old Dewey collections on-line was a concern for the Review. Shipman responded that this work is budget constrained, a balance between buying the data straight out or spending the funds on labor. Currently, there are approximately 200,000 titles not on-line.

There will be an Orbis presentation by Deb Carver at the Senate meeting on Wed., Oct 14. This is in response to a request from the Senate President, J. Hurwit. Mostly this will be to present the positive changes in UO as a net lender and the mention of new Orbis members (for example, OSU).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Math Library
2. Study carrels (Gray to send ULC guidelines for faculty study room use; Meyer to send JS description of carrel use idea)
3. Orbis/Community Colleges
4. Furnishings