

Council on the Libraries

Annual Report 2007 – 2008

Meetings

The Council on the Libraries met eight times in the academic year. Meetings took place on October 4, 2007; November 1, 2007; January 3, 2008; February 7, 2008; March 6, 2008; April 3, 2008; May 1, 2008; and June 5, 2008.

Membership

(*Attended three or more meetings)

Faculty:

Douglas Bolger*, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Biological Sciences (F07-W08 only)

Michael Dietrich, Associate Professor of Biology and Women's and Gender Studies (F07, S08 only)

Kirk Endicott*, Professor of Anthropology and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Robert Graves*, John H. Krehbiel Sr. Professor for Emerging Technologies, Co-Director, M.E.M Program, Thayer School of Engineering, Adjunct Professor of Business Administration, Amos Tuck School of Business

Mikhail Gronas, Assistant Professor of Russian

William Hickey, Constantine and Joyce Hampers Professor of Pathology, Senior Associate Dean, Dartmouth Medical School

Hussein Kadhim*, Assistant Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures (F07, S08 only)

Mary Munter, Professor of Management Communication, Amos Tuck School of Business

Walter Simons*, Associate Professor of History and Women's and Gender Studies, and Chair of the Council.

Roxanna Verona, Associate Professor of French and Italian, Comparative Literature, and Women's and Gender Studies (W08 only)

David Webb*, Professor of Mathematics

Undergraduate Student Representatives:

Alisa Koonce, Dartmouth '08

Graduate Student Representative:

Sara Walker*

Ex Officio Members:

Malcolm Brown, Director of Academic Computing

Teoby Gomez, Assistant Dean of the College (F07only)

Jeffrey Horrell*, Dean of Libraries and Librarian of the College

Barry Scherr*, Provost of the College

Ellen Waite-Franzen*, Vice President of Information Technology
Kent Yrchik-Shoemaker*, Assistant Dean of the College (W-S08 only)

Invited Guests:

Wess Jolley, College Records Manager
Elizabeth Kirk*, Associate Librarian for Information Resources
Mary LaMarca, Library Communications and Web Manager
Cynthia Pawlek*, Deputy Librarian and Associate Librarian for User Services
Jay Satterfield, Librarian, Special Collections
David Seaman*, Associate Librarian for Information Management
Jennifer Taxman, Head of Access Services

Staff to the Council:

Julie Blain, Assistant to the Dean of Libraries

Activities

This report offers a brief overview of the Council's activities. For detailed minutes of the meetings, see < www.dartmouth.edu/~library/col/ >.

The Council's October meeting set the agenda for the year and agreed on meeting dates. The subjects addressed at the meetings included the following.

1. The Library's External Review

The Council provided feedback for the Library Self-Study report prepared for the External Review in the spring of 2007. Council members met with the Review Committee on October 29, 2007, and discussed its report during the March 2008 meeting. The Council noted with satisfaction that the report highlighted the important role played by the library's staff, who drew praise from all parties questioned, not in the least because it communicates well with all sections of the Dartmouth community. Some of the problems recognized by the review, such as the library's relatively limited resources, for instance, or the need for a new or expanded storage facility, were of course anticipated. There was a general agreement that while new, large expenses pose obvious challenges for a small institution like Dartmouth, they can be managed if they are temporary; a chronic deficit would be a greater concern. In any case, more efforts in fund-raising will be necessary. Given the changes the institution has undergone in the past decades and will continue to experience as its educational programs evolve, there seems to be a need for better coordination of institutional academic planning and library management, an issue raised also by an earlier McKinsey report. New questions on the (old problem of) space arise: how can we best support new types of interaction between students/patrons and collections within the library? Although the Council realizes that response to the Review will be spread over many years, it expressed a desire to closely study implementation of the recommendations.

2. Scholarly Communication

Elizabeth Kirk continues to brief the Council on developments in this area, which occur at a rapid pace. Since 7 April, 2008, the NIH imposes on all authors receiving funding the obligation to provide a copy of their work to the NIH for publication on Pubmed within a year. On February 12, 2008, Harvard's Arts and Sciences faculty approved a motion to "compel" faculty to deposit their research in an open access repository managed by the library to be made freely available to anyone via the Internet, though individual faculty members were allowed to opt out. Faculty would be directed to retain their copyrights, as opposed to assigning them exclusively to publishers as part of their publishing contracts, so that their research could be made available. Faculty could still publish their articles in any journal that would not abridge Harvard's institutional repository rights. Although the precise impact of the decision remains to be seen, it demonstrates the enormous changes that have revolutionized publishing in the sciences for a decade or so and will naturally affect scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities as well. Dartmouth authors should consider using an "Author's Amendment" when signing publishing contracts. It is available at < www.dartmouth.edu/~library/schcomm/docs/DC-pub-agree-amend.pdf >. Through this amendment, the author reserves the right to use his/her work in classroom teaching, post it on a course webpage or publish the final version on an academic or research group website; in other words, the amendment does not give exclusive publishing rights to the publisher. Eliz has been assisting Dartmouth authors in their dealings with publishers on this matter. In a few cases, the publisher rejected the amendment as it is, but with her assistance, Dartmouth authors have been able to negotiate better rights.

The Council agreed that the Author's Amendment deserves wider publicity on campus. In their visits to individual departments, Jeffrey Horrell and Eliz are informing faculty on these issues, as do the appropriate library liaisons. For updates and overview of resources, see < www.dartmouth.edu/~library/schcomm/ >

3. Digital Publishing

Several projects are under way to build a digital infrastructure for teaching, record keeping, and research at the college. Some are particularly focused on digitizing resources in our collections and making them available online. The following are on-going or planned:

- Dissertations (1300 PhD, 3000 Master's Theses)
- U.S. Congressional Serial Set for 1817-1980. See library catalogue at <libcat.dartmouth.edu:2082/record=b3103565>.
- Encyclopedia Arctica (Stefansson Collection)
- Stefansson Collection of Arctic Photographs
- Regiomontanus Astronomy Manuscript project
- Dartmouth Film Collection.

Faculty are invited to identify materials they would like to use for teaching and potentially have preservation concerns.

See also < www.dartmouth.edu/~library/home/about/digpub.html >.

4. Library Resources; Outreach

General

In April 2008, various users of the library participated in the Lib QUAL+ survey, prepared by the Association of Research Libraries and intended as a regular evaluation (roughly every three years) of the library's condition and performance in comparison to peer institutions. Results will be shared with the Council in the fall.

Website, Systems

The Council enjoyed the advance introductions it received to the library's redesigned website and changes to the catalogue during the fall of 2007 and winter of 2008 terms, allowing it to make small contributions when the new site was brought to production. A panel of six individuals (three internal, three external including faculty and students) has examined the practical implications of an integrated library system, as part of the Next Generation library systems planning.

Special Collections

In June 2008, Jay Satterfield, librarian of Special Collections, reported on use and state of materials kept at Rauner. Dartmouth's Special Collections are extraordinary for an institution of its size: in addition to the College's archives, they contain about 100,000 books, 0.5 million photographs, and 6 million manuscript pages, illustrating the history of writing since the 20th c. BC and the history of printing since the 1470s. Given that the primary goal is of course to assist teaching, the holdings are maintained and expanded with accessibility for students and classroom use in mind. In 2003-04, eight classes visited Special Collections. In the past year, seventy-nine classes did so, from twenty-five different departments. However, the collections do not only serve undergraduate and graduate programs; they are also important for local and regional scholars working on New Hampshire/New England culture and history, and a few collections, notably those on polar research, the Robert Frost and Daniel Webster collections, as well as the White Mountains collection, are used in international scholarship. With space limited and the cost of preserving material in optimal condition always a concern, the Library must be selective in purchasing new items or accepting donations. The main criteria are currently: potential classroom use of the item or collection, its intrinsic significance, quality of documentation, and relevance within the context of the existing holdings.

Off Campus Facilities

On May 1, 2008, the Council visited the Storage Library and Records Management Center, where they were welcomed and guided by Jennifer Taxman (Head of Access Services) and Wess Jolley (College Records Manager), respectively. For the always pressing issue of space, see section 3 of last year's report and the discussion of the External Review, above, section 1.

Upper Valley Libraries

Members of the Upper Valley community have open access to the Dartmouth Library. In the past year, the administrative staffs of the Howe Library and Dartmouth Library have met

twice. Both organizations use the same systems vendor (Innovative Interfaces, Inc.) and discussions of how each library could “point” its online catalog resources to each other are planned. Dartmouth and the Howe are considering joint planning for an exhibit to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of Hanover in 2011. High school students pursuing advanced research may use our libraries and receive one-month borrowing privileges through their respective schools.

The Dartmouth Library, the Howe, and the Lebanon and Norwich public libraries will be co-sponsoring a lecture/presentation by David Macaulay, author and illustrator, on May 2, 2009 in Alumni Hall at Dartmouth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Simons
Department of History
Chair of the Council 07-08