Council on Libraries  
Minutes for meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2012  
Treasure Room, Baker Library  

Members present: Robert Graves (chair), Jeffrey Horrell, James LaBelle, Inge-Lise Ameer, Mark McPeek, Ellen Waite-Franzen  

Library Staff: Eliz Kirk, David Seaman, Jennifer Taxman  

Library Guest: Barbara DeFelice  

After introductions, Jeff Horrell described the membership of the Council, which includes undergraduate and graduate students, and introduced the agenda topics.  

Bob Graves noted that a major focus of the Council’s agenda for this year is open access, a topic with which the Council on Libraries has engaged over the past few years. From these and other discussions, Dartmouth has offered increased levels of support for a variety of options to increase the level of access to scholarship. A second theme for the Council’s agenda is library facilities and future plans.  

Jeff presented the Annual Report of the Council on Libraries to the Committee on Committees, which includes a review of open access, space issues, and library and computing projects. The Chairs, President and Provost had questions about the proposed agenda topics.  

Agenda topic: New Publishing Program  

Eliz Kirk presented the background, Dartmouth involvement, and rationale for open access as a business model for the domains included in the new journal publishing program Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene. The Dartmouth Library is collaborating with the publishing service BioONE on the infrastructure for the project, which will help the Library build capacity for supporting new publishing programs. Other leading academic institutions are collaborating on the editorial and domain scope aspects of the program.  

David Seaman described the positions we will hire here at Dartmouth, and the publishing platform Ambra, which is an open source product developed by PLoS, the Aries editorial manager and Dryad, which will be used to host data sets linked to the articles. We have to customize the platform but not build it from scratch. We hope to use Ambra for other journals published here at Dartmouth.  

Mark McPeek has experience using Aries and is very familiar with Dryad.  

Eliz described the business model in more detail. BioONE is funding the initial few years, and article processing fees will be the income stream in the long run.  

The Council members discussed the levels of research grant funding for publication support that are currently available, which are not keeping up with the amount of publications coming from the grants. They shared their experiences from their work as editors, authors and members of publication committees.  

Inge-Lisa Ameer asked about plans for internships for undergraduates to work on aspects of this publishing program and would like to find opportunities for students within the program; working, for
example, within career services. The Council members are enthusiastic about this idea, and the Library will promote these opportunities as well.

Mark spoke about Dryad, which was started under NSF funding. All journals in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior Sciences require deposit in Dryad. You can search Dryad and link back to the paper, which is important because not all publishers support provision of the related data for the long term. He noted that there are policy and practice issues regarding ownership of data, such as how long the dataset can be embargoed because some authors do not feel ready to post their data when they publish the related article.

Jim LaBelle asked about Dartmouth’s long term commitment to archive Elementa, which will be done via BioONE’s participation in PORTICO for long term archiving and provision of content when the publisher’s site is not available.

Mark asked how the office work was being handled in terms of manuscript management and review, and noted that it takes about 30 minutes to get a paper into Aries before the reviewers can start working on it. The Elementa project has Production Editor to handle this and other work with moving materials through the Aries system.

Jim asked how BioONE’s publishing is supported. It is currently primarily supported by subscriptions, but, along with many other publishers, BioONE thinks that business models that support broader dissemination of research will be more viable and effective in the long run than paid subscriptions.

Agenda Topic: Open Access

Jeff presented the background to this topic, which emerged from concerns about rising serial prices, but is critical to access to scholarship and to furthering the impact of Dartmouth research. Notable events of the past year include Dartmouth signing the Berlin Declaration for Open Access in the Humanities and Sciences.

Barbara DeFelice gave brief notes on Dartmouth’s support for “gold” Open Access publishing, through a program called COPE, Compact for Open Access Publishing Equity, which is funded by the Library and Provost. There have been 9 articles funded by COPE in the last two years, and over 120 open access articles published by Dartmouth faculty and graduate students in that time period, from a search in Web of Knowledge.

Jeff noted that other Ivys and institutions have an open access policy; it really is a faculty initiative.

Jim does not think people would object to a supportive statement but is concerned about compelling people to take the open access route in publishing due to the fees. The COPE program offers support but not direction on where to publish and the faculty open access policy covers “green” open access, which is independent of the nature of the journal in which the article was published.

Mark expressed concern about conflating a business model with approaches to make content openly available. The business model does not have to constrain availability. He is concerned that article fee as a funding model is being used by many publishers in ways that may not be good for how science is done overall. Elsevier has a lot of open access journals now for example. It is important to distinguish the journals based on quality of the editorial work and review, not the business model.
The group discussed the need to support scholarly and scientific societies, and the different ways this is done through publication programs and dues. Grants may not cover all the papers that result from that grant, and some funding agencies cap the amount that can be used to cover publication fees.

The group supports the idea that Dartmouth hosts papers published by Dartmouth authors, as it is better for long term access than hosting on individual web pages. The group feels that Dartmouth should be doing this, as it is a way to attain the goal of broad access without needing to always use article fees.

Eliz reviewed the language in the draft resolution and policy, and the group discussed it in detail, offered suggestions for changes, asked for more information, and proposed that this be revisited at the next meeting.

Ellen proposed that the resolution clearly state that this helps promote Dartmouth’s image as a contributor of cutting edge research to the world and really extends the reputation of Dartmouth.

Group members discussed how to make this the resolution and the implementation successful, and think we must have an infrastructure for this and a plan for how to implement it. We need the faculty support for the concept of course. The infrastructure could support broader access to types of material not specified in the Open Access Policy itself, and we are involved in planning for the requirements for such an infrastructure. There are excellent and well tested models in place. Faculty in other Ivy League institutions have passed open access resolutions and policies and then the institution has built the infrastructure. We can describe the key components of the infrastructure even if we do not have them all in place.

**Agenda topic: Future agenda items and next meeting**

Bob proposed that the topic for November be the Open Access Resolution and Policy, with additional background and information from the experiences of other institutions.

The next meeting will be Wednesday November 7th, noon-1:30.

Bob asked the Council for other topics and also proposed holding this next meeting at another facility, such as 56 Etna Road and Feldberg. This would require a two hour meeting due to transportation. The group is enthusiastic about this idea.

Eliz handed out the Open Access book by Peter Suber.

Barbara noted events such as a faculty panel on publishing and a webinar on copyright issues in publishing during Open Access Week 10/22-10/26.