COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES: ANNUAL REPORT, 2005-06

The Council on Libraries (CoL) met eight times between October 2005 and June 2006 – 10/20/05, 11/17/05, 12/8/05, 1/12/06, 2/2/06, 3/16/06 (cancelled), 4/6/06 (Joint with Council on Computing), 5/4/06, and 6/1/06.

CoL membership included:

Faculty

Robert Graves* (Professor of Engineering. Thayer School. Council on Libraries Chair). Ehud Benor* (Associate Professor of Religion). Kathryn Cottingham* (Associate Professor of Biological Sciences), Richard D'Aveni (Professor of Strategic Management, Tuck School), Harold Frost* (Associate Professor of Engineering, Thayer School), Mikhail Gronas* (Assistant Professor, Russian), Bill Hickey* (Constantine and Joyce Hampers Professor of Pathology, Senior Associate Dean, Dartmouth Medical School). William Kelley (Assistant Professor, Psychology and Brain Sciences, replaces Xun Shi F05-W06), Jeff Ruoff (Assistant Professor of Film and Television, off Spring 06). John Scott* (Professor of Economics). Xun Shi* (Assistant Professor of Geography, off F05 and W06)

Undergraduate Student Representatives

Cayelan Carey* (Dartmouth '06), Alice Farnham (Dartmouth '07)

Graduate Student Representative

Erik Tou

Ex Officio Members

Malcolm Brown* (Director of Academic Computing), Teoby Gomez* (Office of the Dean of the College), Jeffrey L. Horrell* (Dean of the Libraries & Librarian of the College). Barry Scherr* (Provost)

Invited Guests

John Crane* (Deputy Librarian of the College), John James* (Associate Librarian of the College), Cyndy Pawlek* (Associate Librarian of the College)

Staff to the Council

Julie Blain (Assistant to the Administrative Group)

* Attended 3 or more Council meetings.

This report provides a brief overview of our activities at those meetings. For those who are interested in learning more about our discussions, detailed minutes for most of these meetings are available through our website:

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/col/schedule.shtml

The COL's first meeting in October set the general agenda for the academic year. Major themes addressed through the year included:

Scholarly communication issues and the implications

The Council engaged in a continuing discussion of the issues of Scholarly Communication. Scholarly communication refers to the publication and sharing of research findings, and especially those methods that are different from standard commercial and society journals. The expense of subscribing to the latter continues to grow much faster than the Library's budget. Also, cumbersome regulations are imposed on scholars and authors on how digital versions can be duplicated, say for classes, and shared with colleagues. Bill Garrity and Jim Fries presented the economic picture of serials and their costs and also a profile of a junior faculty member in the science area and an indication of how some of these issues affect the faculty member's decisions. The Council expressed interest in using this type of presentation as a means to visit various campus faculties and staff groups to help each to better understand the issues and perceived risks being confronted in this topic of scholarly communication.

Agreement was reached on developing a robust prototype to take to the Biological Sciences Department as a first effort. Feedback on the effort is expected and will help adjust future presentations. Kathy Cottingham and Bill Garrity developed this prototype. The general premise of the template is that the support for research by science faculty is usually from public sources. When attempting to publish a paper on the research, faculty are asked by publishers to pay page charges and then the college library is required to pay to access the paper. The issues addressed in the template include finances associated with page costs and journal subscriptions, as well as the trends in costs. The impacts of where one publishes scholarly papers on both reputation and career advancement for faculty. Consideration of copyright ownership, mandatory deposits of papers at grant-required sites, and means to influence the direction of this problem's solution. This template and presentation will likely be on the agenda of a Biological Sciences faculty meeting in the Fall Term. A second template for the arts and humanities is being developed by John James and Kate Conley for introduction and review in the fall.

A second robust prototype is under development with a focus on the arts and humanities and more attention to monographs in its content. Kate Conley and John James will have a first version ready in Fall, 2006.

A third prototype presentation focused on access to serials and monographs for students and classroom teaching is also envisioned.

Jeff Horrell noted a recent policy developed by MIT, regarding ownership of copyright, to be sent to publishers. He also indicated that he was participating in further discussions with other Ivies Plus institutions on the issue and developing possible policy recommendations for future consideration.

(see minutes of 11/17/05 and 6/1/06).

Library web re-design activities

Bill Garrity chaired the Steering Group consisting of Susan Fliss, Mary LaMarca, Fran Oscadal, and Joshua Shaw. The concerns of content, audiences, capabilities, and ways to begin the design and implementation were discussed. The group's thinking was to develop a flexible design that could be refreshed frequently and guided by themes of simplicity and users having multiple paths to navigate the site. Ideas also included more links evident on the top page and a prominent search box.

The group focused on how to determine the functionalities and the means to implement them. There is a project notes site and suggestions from the campus community are invited. Involvement of post docs and technicians may be helpful as well as other administrative staff in addition to those already involved. Council members' comments included 1). the rate or pace of change may affect courses in advanced stages of planning or in progress so care is needed to manage this, 2). navigation and the capacity to customize the user page such as portal concepts might be considered, 3). the biomedical community might be a more frequent user of other sites such as at NIH so such search capacities as exist there might be studied, 4). scoring the links returned from a search to aid rapid selection might be desirable, 5). using functions and layouts that are relatively common to users of other search engines may reduce the learning curve issues and enhance usage, and 6). it would be easier to evaluate and ideate from a prototype and Council members may be helpful in the future in this capacity.

"Report of the Dartmouth College Library Web Steering Group" (May 26, 2006) details the group's recommendations including such elements as ease of use, search problem orientation, flat design, multiple search paths, integration with other campus web services, use of a content management system, along with suggestions for on-going system leadership and direction.
(see minutes of 3/16/06 and 6/1/06).

Intellectual property issues (e.g. copyright) and inserted materials into Blackboard software supporting classes. Deferred to 2006 – 2007.

Digital archiving

"Report of the Digital Document and Records Management Task Force" (February, 2006) by Malcolm Brown, Peter Carini, Patricia Erwin, Diane Ingalls, Wess jolley, Stan Pyc, David Ricker, and Pete Tannini. This task Force was convened in 2004 to understand the current campus environment, to identify needs, and to articulate identifiable trends. Its goal is to produce a report containing a set of institutional requirements, review of practices from other institutions and a set of recommendations on next steps.

Malcolm Brown and Wess Jolley outlined the efforts the College has made to move forward institutionally toward properly managing the growing content of digital records that Dartmouth is producing. Two primary research efforts were conducted; phase one was a survey of current practices, needs and attitudes, targeted toward Dartmouth's 200+ department record keepers. The second was a series of in-depth interviews with key campus departments and

academic researchers who had been identified as having critical needs. The survey revealed overall campus attitudes and capabilities in regard to digital record keeping, while the survey allowed the team to go into more depth with departments who are facing rapid change.

On the basis of the team's investigation the following official recommendations were formulated:

1. Dartmouth should articulate an institutional strategy to guide our transitions to a primarily digital record keeping environment.
2. Dartmouth should initiate a discussion of digital records management at the senior administrative level.
3. Where appropriate, Dartmouth should pursue an "all digital" approach as a core component of its digital strategy.
4. Dartmouth should assemble a team to formulate institutional strategy and identify first steps to its implementation.
5. Assessment of the need for academic repositories and digital asset management tools for curricular content should be an explicit part of the college's record management strategy.

Towards "Articulating an Institutional Digital Asset Management Strategy", Jeff Horrell described a joint project developed between Dartmouth and Duke University colleagues resulting in a planning grant from the Mellon Foundation. The project goal is to develop an overall strategy for preserving and maintaining access to digital assets the institution deems valuable to retain for specified periods of time or the long term. The Mellon Foundation believes that this effort will have potential value to other institutions as few have engaged in similar planning. This first effort is needed to understand the scope of Dartmouth's challenge in this regard before trying to address the policy and technical solutions. The digital infrastructure needs to be user-friendly, cost neutral and dependable. Continued planning and definition of steps in building the infrastructure to support Dartmouth's intellectual and administrative capital will continue in the future.
(see minutes of 4/6/06).

Student use and access to Library resources

Susan Fliss, Director of the Library's Education and Outreach Program, presented information on some of the initiatives of that Program. Susan discussed how Librarians support faculty and students in new approaches for learning and expression through these following initiatives:

Writing Program – support for the Writing 2, 3, 5, 7 courses with respect to a library research component and the identification and evaluation of types of information sources. Susan engaged the Council members in a brief exercise with examples drawn from a variety of sources to illustrate the points being stressed in aspects of these courses.

Curricular Computing – the Council viewed a video produced by a Native American student in the Writing 2-3 course on the Native American games from her local community and the ways in which she viewed activities representing

parts of everyday life in the community. Discussion on the use of this multimedia approach as it instructs research, report, and narrative skills was viewed as part of an added taped interview with the student. This assignment required collaboration among the faculty, librarian, information technologist and staff from Jones Media Center. In another video, the faculty member, Stephanie Boone, described the role of the librarian, Laura Braunstein, in helping students understand the importance of understanding the research process, specifically, formulating questions and finding and evaluating information.

DCAL Workshop – Susan presented information on workshops presented to faculty on teaching research and discussed emphasis on the use of observation, interpretation of what is observed and the related secondary sources of information, and then re-observation as one approach.

Other outreach efforts were noted including short workshops done under Residential Life auspices on "Research for Procrastinators".
(see minutes of CoL Meeting on 12/8/06).

In addition, the CoL received ongoing information on the operations, plans, and directions of library units.

Jones Media Center

Mike Beahan, Director of the Jones Media Center, provided updates on its activities and led a tour of the facility. Mike's presentation covered the digital media internship, podcasting, and streaming video projects as well as e-copy support and weekly workshops. Demonstrations of various curriculum support materials were also a part of Mike's presentation in showing how the Jones Media Center works with faculty in their course material preparation and delivery as well as supporting student access to the materials. (see minutes of 1/12//06)

Preservation Services

Barb Sagraves presented aspects of the Preservation Services group activities including a brief review of its history, its role in developing policies and procedures on preservation of documents (e.g. circulations, books, and rare books as well as maps), and its Readex Project. The Readex Project provided external funding to support staff and expenses incurred here at Dartmouth in a collaborative effort to scan the 13,000 volumes of the U.S. Congressional Serial set of documents. Readex uses an off-site automated scanner for these documents and the Preservation Services group prepares and repairs volumes prior to scanning as well as applies bar codes and then manages the sign out and return of volumes from Readex. The presentation was then followed by a tour of the Preservation Services Department by Collections Conservator, Deborah Howe. (see minutes of 5/4/06)

Federated Searching

John James reported on the contracting with Webfeet to provide the capability for a user to search numerous sources and databases from a single access point. This capability is to initially access 50 separate databases may be expanded to up to 350 databases if the first effort is judged successful. (see minutes of 1/12/06)

Library Position Searches

Jeff Horrell provided updates on three positions in the Library system for which search committees are active in searches: Associate Librarian for Information

Resources, Associate Librarian for Information Management, and Digital Resources Coordinator.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Graves, Thayer and Tuck
Chair, 7/05-6/06