

The last COL meeting of the year was held on Thursday, May 12, 2005, in the Treasure Room. Present were Harold Frost, Paula Sprague, Deborah King, Robert Graves, Teoby Gomez, Barry Scherr, Cindy Pawlek, John James, Vernita Irvin , Cayelan Carey, Jeffrey Horrell and James Aronson.

This meeting had two purposes: 1. to finish the year's discussion of the library's future role in the area of "Scholarly Communication" (SC) and 2. to examine the Library's web page and any need to modify it. The COL returned to the Library's nascent role of shepherding (SC) to the campus. SC is the trend in the publication and sharing of research findings that is an alternate to the standard commercial and societal journals of today. The expense of subscribing to the latter is growing much faster than the library's budget. Also, cumbersome regulations are being imposed on scholars and authors on how the digital versions can be duplicated, say for classes, and shared with colleagues. With information technology these new, alternate, more local forms of publication are now feasible and being experimented on at sister institutions and at Dartmouth at the level of individuals or individual departments. Dartmouth's attempts at forming new SC journals have occurred in the Mathematics and Physics Departments. Additionally, SC includes specialty niches not available in standard publications. E.g., Dartmouth library staff is working with faculty in the field of linguistics to digitize oral recordings to possibly be the basis of a future SC journal in linguistics. COL agreed that the library should continue to be the Center for assessing Dartmouth's directions in SC and its coordination with sister institutions. In the next year or two it was

envisioned that those library staff members with considerable experience in SC arrange road trips to the departments to inform faculty about the pertinent SC issues and seek their advice. A major concern with commercial publishing of eJournals is who will have the responsibility of archiving the digital literature, sustainably and “forever” (publishers go out of business!). Concern was even expressed about science articles which have supplementary information (such as the actual data!) published separately from the article. The unanswered question is how long in the even near future can a reader be assured of drawing down this often critical information, such as data tables.

There are considerable ways the Dartmouth Library WebPage can be improved commensurate with the Library’s considerable diversity and responsibility. The Library is much more than “The Digital Library”. The COL strongly disagreed with the placement of “The Digital Library at Dartmouth” at the forefront of every Dartmouth library web page including the first catalogue page. This must be replaced with “Dartmouth College Library”. This change should then be balanced by rearranging the upper menu bar and moving “eResources” into a prominent, early position. Several individuals spoke of navigational issues that could improve and help a user getting quickly to an electronic journal in their field. It was agreed that those issues could best be advanced by having the appropriate librarians meet with a representative group of the most interested faculty on a department by department basis (to this end a subsequent lively meeting between Kresge library staff and three selected faculty representatives from the Earth Sciences Department was very efficient in pinpointing changes to be incorporated

into that area of the library's Web Page). Beyond these changes in the summer and fall of 2005, COL agreed with the library staff's commitment to dynamically reassess its Web Page presence and keep it abreast of continuous technological innovations.