

Council on the Libraries  
Thursday, January 8, 2009

Present: Jeff Horrell, Gary Johnson, Hussein Kadhim, Eliz Kirk, Casey Murray, Cyndy Pawlek, Barry Scherr, David Seaman, Kent Yrchik-Shoemaker, Christopher Snyder, Ellen Waite-Franzen, David Webb

Absent: Sean Currey, Bob Graves, William Hickey, Jennifer Luong, Mary Munter, Walter Simons

Walter Simons, chair, was ill and Jeff Horrell chaired the meeting. The minutes of the December 4, 2008 meeting will be reviewed and approved at the February meeting.

1. William Scott, Professor of Classics, Emeritus, is collaborating with the University Press of New England (UPNE) and the Dartmouth College Library in publishing his sequel monograph on Homeric similes. Eliz Kirk gave an overview of the background and planning for it. Bill was interested in making this new text widely available and knew his earlier scholarly publisher would charge a considerable amount for a fairly limited audience. Bill contacted the Library and began an exploration creating an online (open access) monograph with the option of a print on demand service. Mike Burton, Director of UPNE, joined the conversation and the three parties are working to offer this work by Fall 2009. The press accepted the publication and has taken the usual editorial steps. The Library has prepared for mounting the publication and making it accessible via electronic search engines. One hundred print titles will be produced for review copies and for initial sales. Bill's earlier publisher has agreed to let the Library mount the earlier companion title so both works of the "conversation" will be available. There are clearly costs associated with this model, but the experiment should give us a better understanding of readership, print on demand interest, etc. We're grateful to Bill for this collaboration. A public press release should be made soon.
2. Eliz Kirk described the results of the LibQual (national survey developed under the auspices of the Association of Research Libraries) survey conducted in the spring of 2008. The response rate of the completed survey was low and not statistically reliable; however, there were some useful findings. Undergraduates and others' perceptions are higher compared with the 2004 survey. There were concerns by faculty about strengthening the collections. Students are concerned about study space and upgrades to the facilities.
3. Jeff Horrell gave an overview of the draft 2009-10 Library Goals. The goals, and particularly the objectives, have measurable outcomes and timeframes associated with them. The Library's budget situation may affect the progress of the projects outlined. Many of the projects and issues will be discussed in Council meetings in the future.
4. Jeff announced the eResources Fair in progress on Thursday, January 8 with a number of electronic resource vendors participating, as well as the Library showcasing its services and applications.
5. Eliz Kirk announced the appointment of Nien Lin Xie as the East Asian Librarian, effective January 1, 2009. Nien Lin will serve as bibliographer for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages, and participate in outreach to related departments and departments. Nien Lin has been a member of the Library's staff since 1984 and is warmly welcomed into her new role.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.