

Council on the Libraries
Treasure Room, Baker Library, Thursday, February 5, 2009

Present: Laura Barrett, Veronika Fuechtner, Robert Graves, Jeff Horrell, Eliz Kirk, Cyndy Pawlek, Barry Scherr, David Seaman, Kent Yrchik-Shoemaker, Christopher Snyder, Ellen Waite-Franzen, Sara Walker, David Webb, Walter Simons

Excused: Gary Johnson, Hussein Kadhim.

The meeting opened at 12:08pm.

1. Introductions of attendees.
2. Minutes of the December 2008 and January 2009 meet approved.
3. Next Generation Library Systems (David Seaman, Associate Librarian for Information Management)
In our continued quest for new library systems that allow fast searches through a variety of databases, Dartmouth is presently participating in a beta test of Summon, a new “unified discovery system”. David noted that the most obvious problem with the current combined searches is the lack of ability to rank the results in a relevant and efficient fashion; the present test is in part intended to develop solutions to this problem. We don’t know yet how much this system would cost, but the first results are encouraging and the number of diverse materials covered is enormous.
4. The Fiscal Environment for 2010 (Jeffrey Horrell, Dean of Libraries and Librarian of the College)
Like other academic and administrative units of the College, the Library has prepared contingency plans for budget reductions by 5, 10, or 15% for the coming fiscal year. Jeff explained the general principles that have guided this process. While all areas have been examined for adjustments, the goal is to protect the integrity of the collections. This means that access may temporarily be reduced but not content, and that ways to reopen and rebuild in the future will be preserved. Trimming is to occur in memberships of national organizations; lunches and other amenities (e.g. for the Council’s meetings!), travel and staff training. Some reduction of staff positions seems inevitable. Decisions will be announced after the coming Trustees meeting.
5. Library Videos (Laura Barrett, Director, Education and Outreach)
Laura explained that her office aims at creating and fostering a culture of learning while integrating the Library in the life of the students through activities spread over the entire system, in part in collaboration with the Writing program. Given the technological environment in which today’s students grow up, this naturally includes short video productions made with the students. She presented two recent productions: the first made for first-year orientation (“Discover the Dartmouth College Library”); the second on the Open House event (“Library Confidential”).

The Robert Darnton article, "Google and the Future of Books", is found at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/22281> .

ARL and ALA commissioned Jonathan Band to write a piece on the settlement. It's entitled "A Guide for the Perplexed: Libraries and the Google Library Project Settlement" and may be accessed at <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/google-settlement-13nov08.pdf> .

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.