

Council on the Libraries
Minutes of Meeting held on February 6, 2014 (12:00-1:30 pm)

Location: Dana Biomedical Library (Rm. 334)

Members Present: Matt Broughton, Jeff Horrell, Eliz Kirk, Mark McPeek, James LaBelle, Klaus Mladek, Glenda Shoop, David Seaman, Jennifer Taxman, Ellen Waite-Franzen

1. Meeting opened with introductions and review of the minutes of January 16, 2014.
2. Laura Cousineau, Director of the Biomedical Libraries, gave the Council an overview of the Dana Library's program and services. The Dana Library underwent the same dramatic changes as all science libraries in recent years; while a few print books are still purchased according to faculty profile and individual requests (the majority of the collection is stored in the Dartmouth Library Depository), an overwhelming number of journals, textbooks and articles are now accessed online. The recent renovation of Dana Library at 37 Dewey Field Road focused on the creation of individual and collaborative workspaces and open meeting areas, rather than storage for print materials. Recent technological shifts have resulted in publishers that have almost attained a monopoly in the research market. These publishers provide free access to textbooks for students, while increasing prices for the institutions by bundling and packaging journal publications.

The opposing trend is free, open-access publications, which have the advantage of continuously updated clinical knowledge. Throughout the year, Dana Library offers office hours, library orientations, clerkships, monthly workshops, quality improvement programs and individual tutorials for library services such as DartDoc, Borrow Direct, etc. Library outreach includes continuous collaboration with students at the The Dartmouth Center, presence in committees and advisory groups. Dana would like to strengthen its outreach to faculty by considering a "Faculty Technology Sandbox," which would expand educational technology support in the classroom and research. This concept is one of many in the North Campus Academic Center planning. After the presentation, discussion centered on how major publishers behave in this highly competitive online market and with regard to Open Access publishing.

3. Josh Kim, new Director of Digital Learning Initiatives at DCAL, discussed new and emerging opportunities for the Library and DCAL to continue their long partnership around learning initiatives and to strengthen the reputation of Dartmouth as the premier place for the successful conjunction of teaching and learning. Its models of intimate learning, tight-knit communities and collaborations define Dartmouth's unique position. Students at Dartmouth are involved directly and individually, rather than addressed as a mass or as mere silos of learning. The Library has a central role in making digital learning technologies a pivotal resource for creating an intimate "community of learners". The challenge of large classes in the sciences and humanities (often classes with 50 and more students) generated a lengthy discussion among librarians, faculty and Kim that

focused on practical, hands-on tools to make learning in larger groups more effective. How could the library team help in this group effort of learning? Do we have to think through the “flipped classroom” alongside the “flipped librarian,” in short: How could learning, research and technology be integrated more thoroughly? In what way could Canvas and the trend towards MOOCs foster the creation of teaching modules that offer more intimate teaching environments? If teaching is a team effort that needs to draw on library resources and involve individual librarians (and DCAL) more, what concrete steps could be taken to address the problem of large classes? The future of academic computing at Dartmouth centers in large part on how new technologies can create communities of learners that break out of the traditional classroom, while preserving its benefits. The Council agreed to revisit this issue more thoroughly in future meetings.

4. Eliz Kirk, Associate Librarian for Information Resources, gave a presentation on collaborative efforts with Brown University Library toward the shared retention of library materials and legacy collections. The immense holdings of Dartmouth, Brown and BorrowDirect (which alone has over 50 million volumes) are very unevenly used. While library users prefer online materials and extensively utilize “collective collections” (BorrowDirect monographs for example), older “legacy” collections, mostly stored in the depositories, very rarely circulate. Since library collections continue to grow, selective reduction of the overlap of low use titles with another library is a workable tactic. The careful analysis of low-use materials, the designation of indispensable artifacts and books and collaboration with other libraries could moderate the growth of library collections while maintaining access to everything users need. A significant number of overlap titles and books can be “deduplicated” through shared retention agreements with other libraries, resulting in a more effective use of space. The Council agreed that such shared retention initiatives might also be a welcome opportunity to assess our holdings and expand access (electronically, network, online, in the cloud) if it is undertaken with scrutiny and care. Particularly the passage from “active-use” stacks to low-use library depositories seems to be a critical juncture whereby books can easily drop out of sight and circulation.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 6 from 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Treasure Room, Baker Library).