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Council on the Libraries
Minutes of Meeting held on January 16, 2014 (12:00-1:30 pm)

Location: Treasure Room, Baker Library (Rm. 111)

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Members Present: Matt Broughton, Jeff Horrell, Doug Irwin, Steve Kahl, James LaBelle, Klaus Mladek, Glenda Shoop, David Seaman, Jennifer Taxman, Ellen Waite-Franzen

1. Meeting opened with introductions and review of the minutes of December 5, 2013.

2. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussing the current transition from Blackboard to Canvas. Barbara Knauff (Director of Educational Technologies, ITS), Nikki Boots (Instructional Designer), Laura Barrett (Director of Library Education & Outreach) and Karen A. MacPhee (Kresge Library Supervisor) reported to the CoL on the successful and seamless introduction of Canvas to students and instructors during the last two quarters. Seventy instructors from most departments on campus and almost 2,000 students have participated or are currently participating in the first pilot classes utilizing the new Learning Management System. DCAL and the professional schools (Thayer, Tuck and Geisel) have either moved to Canvas or are in the process of switching over. A total of 700 instructors will be tutored and transitioned by 2015 when Blackboard will no longer be in active use.

Students and instructors alike received Canvas well, at times enthusiastically. Student users particularly liked the efficient, sophisticated and modern design. The constant updating and simple and intuitive use of Canvas makes classroom communication between students and faculty easy and always current. Every notification can be personalized and disseminated across all mobile devices and social networks, including Facebook and Twitter.

Particularly important for the library are features that link to E-Reserves, Libserv, research guides and other library resources. During the period of transition, the Instructional Design and Education Technology teams welcomed the opportunity to discuss with each faculty member individually their modes of using technology in the classroom. In the discussion with the members of the Council, the four presenters also addressed the concerns that emerge with the gradual disappearance of Blackboard such as: how long contents in Blackboard will be stored and accessible; how contents in Canvas, as cloud-based technology, can be permanently stored and made available; and the role of the librarian in Canvas. It was generally agreed designating a librarian to many classes taught in Canvas might prove particularly useful for the transitioning process and beyond.

3. Jeff Horrell gave us an update on developing consensus on the Open Access Resolution across campus. The Thayer School approved the resolution in March, 2013. The department heads of Geisel received a presentation last July. The Tuck School recently had a discussion (without vote) about what it would mean to adopt the resolution, for publishing contracts (particularly with regard to books), for copyrights and the publishing industry, for the tenure process, peer review and what types of journals would count toward promotion. Such questions remain part of an ongoing discussion about Open Access within departments, schools and divisions. A meeting with the deans of Arts and Sciences is scheduled next week to discuss next steps for bringing this to a broader conversation in Arts and Sciences.

4. David Seaman informed the Council of the successful launch of Dartmouth's new open-source journal *Elementa* (*http://www.elementascience.org/*) last December that is now fully in place and widely received across the globe, including being announced by Andrew Revkin of the *NY Times* and generating new stories in the *Huffington Post* and the *Scientific American* website. Both the editorial and publication platforms, run by the Dartmouth Library, have operated smoothly since the launch. Its fifteen articles (and more in production), primarily concerned with sustainability and climate change, were downloaded 16,000 times from all formats (HTML, PDF, XML, and ebook) in 107 countries, mostly from users in the USA, Peru, Mexico, Pakistan and Europe. *Elementa* has a Facebook and Twitter presence and has been used on all electronic devices (iPad, iPhone, android phones and kindles). David Seaman envisions that, within a few months, *Elementa* will be updated every two to three days while new publications can be added swiftly since the process from article peer-review and editing to production much more quickly—only a few months—than it ever could in print. Publications will center on specific topic clusters that vary and cover a large range of disciplines. In this way, *Elementa* can become an increasingly important resource for faculty and student research on campus that has the additional benefit of having drawn outside funding, thereby reducing financial risks to a minimum.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 6 from 12:00-1:30pm in Dana Biomedical Library (37 Dewey Field Road).