

## COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES: ANNUAL REPORT, 2004-05

The Council on Libraries (CoL) met seven times between October 2004 and June 2005. CoL membership conformed with that prescribed on p. 4 of the *OFDC*, with additional meeting attendees as appropriate to the agenda. In addition, John Crane (now Deputy Librarian, was Acting Dean of Libraries for the first part of the year), Cyndy Pawlek (Associate Librarian of the College), John James (Associate Librarian of the College) and Larry Levine (Director of Computing) regularly participated in meetings as invited guests. In this report, we provide a brief overview of our activities at those meetings. For those who are interested in learning more about our discussions, detailed minutes for most of these meetings are available through our website: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/col/index.shtml>.

The COL kicked off the Fall term with the announcement that Jeff Horrell would become Dartmouth's new Dean of Libraries and Librarian of the College in February 2005.

Throughout Fall and Winter, the COL discussed ways to adjust the membership of the Council to better meet the needs of both library users and library staff. Dartmouth's COL is smaller than comparable councils at several other institutions, and more members would contribute a broader base of input and also for dissemination of information. Moreover, the Dartmouth Plan creates discontinuity in attendance, making it difficult for individual members to learn about and contribute to important library issues. In November, we voted to recommend the following changes to the appropriate oversight committees:

- Add a third member from each of the three Arts & Sciences divisions to both cover for faculty who may be away for a term and to provide more points of contact with a large and diverse faculty.
- Add a second member from the Medical School, given its size and range of concerns from clinical to basic science.
- Add at least one additional graduate student to better represent the diversity of the graduate student population, from MALS to the professional schools to Arts & Sciences Ph.D students.

We also discussed working harder to have the Student Assembly fill the second undergraduate position with a committed individual. Finally, in February, we voted to appoint an Associate Chair at the start of each year who will participate in planning agendas for the year's meetings and then succeed the current Chair at the start of the next year. This should help with continuity from term-to-term and year-to-year.

To give the COL a better appreciation for the breadth of activities underway in the Dartmouth Libraries, several meetings began with a brief update from the head of a campus library or library department about his or her program's mission, new programs, and future plans. In November, Jay Satterfield, the new Special Collections Librarian, discussed his three-part plan to integrate the Special Collections more fully into campus life, particularly via the undergraduate curriculum. In February, Cecilia Tittmore, Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services, described how the traditional role for library cataloging departments is expanding rapidly into new activities, including "metadata", which is highly structured, usually standards-based, data about data. In March, Jim Fries, Head of Feldberg Business & Engineering Library, briefly introduced CoL members to the many activities underway at Feldberg.

The Fall and Winter meetings also featured a detailed overview of findings from LIBQUAL+, the survey of library users conducted in Spring 2004; reports from the Jones Media Center and

the Education and Outreach Programs (especially RWIT, the center for Research, Writing and Information Technology); and an introduction to projects associated with the Digital Library.

A highlight of Winter term was a far-ranging discussion with Jeff Horrell regarding his vision for the Dartmouth Libraries. Horrell expressed his appreciation for the dedication, energy, and enthusiasm of Library staff and the services provided by the Libraries. He mentioned the need to begin discussions about a number of issues, including long-term archiving and availability of digital information; planning for physical space needs; and developing a more active program to deal with issues revolving around scholarly communications. Horrell also noted some confusion about what the Digital Library is and how the Dartmouth Libraries are conveyed online.

In Spring, the COL returned to the Library's nascent role of shepherding "Scholarly Communication" (SC) to the campus. SC refers to the publication and sharing of research findings, and especially those methods that are different from standard commercial and society journals. The expense of subscribing to the latter continues to grow much faster than the Library's budget. Also, cumbersome regulations are imposed on scholars and authors on how digital versions can be duplicated, say for classes, and shared with colleagues. With information technology these alternate, more local forms of publication are now feasible and being explored at sister institutions and at Dartmouth, both 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. For example, Dartmouth library staff are working with faculty in linguistics to digitize oral recordings to possibly be the basis of a future SC journal in linguistics. The 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 departments to inform faculty about the pertinent SC issues and seek their advice.

Also discussed during Spring were 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 catalog page. This *must* be replaced with "Dartmouth College Library" and be balanced by rearranging the upper menu bar and moving "eResources" into a prominent, early position. Several individuals spoke of navigational changes that could help a user reach an electronic journal in their field more quickly. 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. For example, a subsequent lively meeting between Kresge library staff and three selected faculty from the Earth Sciences Department was very efficient in pinpointing changes to be incorporated into that area of the library's webpage. Beyond these changes in the summer and fall of 2005, the library staff is committed to dynamically reassess its webpage presence and keep it abreast of continuous technological innovations.

Respectfully submitted,  
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