

Council on the Libraries
Annual Report 2006 – 2007

Meetings

The Council on the Libraries met eight times in the academic year. Meetings took place on October 5, 2006; November 2, 2006; December 4, 2006; January 9, 2007; February 1, 2007; March 6, 2007; April 5, 2007; and June 7, 2007.

Membership

(*Attended three or more meetings)

Faculty:

Mishuana Goeman, Assistant Professor of English, Native American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies (W-S07 only)
Robert Graves*, John H. Krehbiel Sr. Professor for Emerging Technologies, Co-Director, M.E.M Program, Thayer School of Engineering
Mikhail Gronas, Assistant Professor of Russian (off W-S07)
William Hickey, Constantine and Joyce Hampers Professor of Pathology, Senior Associate Dean, Dartmouth Medical School
Gary Johnson*, Professor of Earth Sciences
Hussein Kadhim, Assistant Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures (S07 only)
Mary Munter*, Professor of Management Communication, Amos Tuck School of Business
Xun Shi*, Assistant Professor of Geography
Walter Simons*, Associate Professor of History and Women's and Gender Studies, and Chair of the Council.
Roxanna Verona*, Associate Professor of French and Italian, Comparative Literature, and Women's and Gender Studies (off in S07)
David Webb*, Professor of Mathematics

Undergraduate Student Representatives:

Alice Farnham*, Dartmouth' 07
Alisa Koonce*, Dartmouth '08

Graduate Student Representative:

Erik Tou (until November 06)
Sara Walker* (starting December 06)

Ex Officio Members:

Teoby Gomez*, Assistant Dean of the College
Jeffrey Horrell*, Dean of Libraries and Librarian of the College
Ellen Waite-Franzen*, Vice President of Information Technology
Barry Scherr*, Provost

Invited Guests:

Barbare DeFelice, Director, Digital Resources Program
John Crane*, Deputy Librarian of the College
Eileen Fenton, Executive Director, Portico
John James, Associate Librarian of the College (until Fall 06)
Wess Jolley, College Records Manager
Elizabeth Kirk*, Associate Librarian for Information Resources
Cynthia Pawlek*, Associate Librarian of the College
David Seaman*, Associate Librarian for Information Management
Jennifer Taxman*, Head of Access Services

Staff to the Council:

Julie Blain, Assistant to the Administrative Group

Activities

This report offers a brief overview of the Council's activities. For detailed minutes of the meetings, see www.dartmouth.edu/~library/col/schedule.shtml.

The Council's October meeting set the agenda for the year and agreed on meeting dates. The subjects addressed at the meetings included the following.

1. Digital Archiving

In recent years, the College has made several efforts to assess and project the needs for digital archiving at the institution, and to acquire and maintain the right technology for adequate digital record management. The Digital Document and Records Management Task Force, established in 2004, surveyed current practices by record keepers and interviewed key departments, researchers, and faculty. It concluded its work by formulating a number of official recommendations listed in the Council's 2005-06 report. Subsequently, the College undertook a joint project with Duke University to develop an institution-wide strategy for access to digital assets deemed valuable for a set period of time. Underwritten by an Officers Planning Grant of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the project in a report, "Digital Asset Management: Elements of an Institutional Program" made available in November 2006 and introduced to the Council by Jeffrey Horrell in its December 2006 meeting; see www.dartmouth.edu/~library/col/docs/0607/DukeDartmouth.pdf. It stressed the need to address the issue of digital records management as a College imperative, posing enormous challenges-- organizational, technological, financial, *and* cultural, since departments are often unprepared and faculty are used to keeping their own data individually. Many faculty members are uncomfortable with the concept of placing their intellectual property in shared repositories of data. The technology, however, is available: the College has already acquired Documentum, a program for digital archiving. The project recommended setting up a program committee, the Digital Asset Management Steering Committee, with campus-wide

representatives to design a long-term model for managing digital assets, both administrative and academic. Library directors, vice presidents for information technology, and vice provosts from Brown, Duke, Michigan, MIT, Yale, and Dartmouth met to discuss the report and provide feedback. Other institutions were invited to respond to the report and to the model developed by Dartmouth and Duke.

At the Council's November meeting, Wess Jolley, College Records Manager, reviewed the College's own actions to store and access records in material and digital form. Records Management Services recently moved to a new facility at 220 Etna Road, but digital storage is obviously a necessity. Wess chairs the Records Retention Committee, which in the near future will be given a broader charge as records Retention Advisory Committee and respond to the Digital Asset Management Steering Committee.

2. Scholarly Communication

In this area, too, the College and the Council have been very active. Scholarly communication refers to the distribution of research data, in particular by non-traditional means, i.e. publications and other media that are different from the standard commercial or academic journals. As the latter's subscription costs have risen exponentially, college libraries, including Dartmouth's, need to explore alternatives; in addition, all kinds of limitations imposed by traditional publishers prevent academic authors from sharing their own publications as they ideally would like, for instance in their own teaching or on websites. Various College teams have designed or are working on templates that define the needs and options of scholarly communication in the biological sciences, in the humanities, and in the form of series and monographs for class room teaching. Bob Graves, along with Elizabeth Kirk and Barbara DeFelice, developed an environmental scan that will be used to prepare an outreach program on these issues at Dartmouth. They attended the second Association of Research Libraries and Association of College and Research Libraries Institute on Scholarly Communication in Durham, NC, in early December. As Eliz reported during the January meeting, this was an important opportunity to evaluate Dartmouth's initiatives within the larger, national context and to think about the next steps to take. The role of the faculty seems to be key, along with governmental institutions and scholarly societies. Action may be driven by decisions of the faculty senate and by institutional support of certain forms of publishing (online journals, open access journals, website publishing of appendices of books and the like). Institutions may decide to support the rights of authors through form amendments to publishing contracts. In any case, we need to inform the faculty of the issues, define our position as an institution, and distribute decisions through the various divisions of the College. Members of the Council drew attention to the predicament of smaller publishers and scholarly societies, whose financial security is tied to a limited number of publications, and to the need to inform graduate students of the issues as well.

Following that meeting, the Library (Eliz Kirk, Barbara DeFelice) drafted, at the Council's request, an "author's rights addendum" for use by Dartmouth faculty and others as an option instead of giving exclusive rights to their publishers. It has now been brought before the Provost's Academic Council, which provided useful feedback. It was also approved by the Council of Sponsored Projects and will be presented to other Councils in the fall term, while librarians will help to inform the faculty. The current version of the "Authors Amendment" is available at www.dartmouth.edu/~libcoll/Dartmouth.Authors.Amendment.pdf.

3. Library Resources

Portico

Our February meeting was devoted to a presentation by Eileen Fenton, Executive Director of Portico, the not-for-profit electronic archiving service developed in response to publishers' and libraries' need for a reliable, cost-effective means to preserve electronic scholarly journals. Portico was initiated by JSTOR and has been developed with initial support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ithaka, and the Library of Congress. Portico's mission is to preserve scholarly literature published in electronic form and ensure that these materials remain accessible to future scholars and to the Dartmouth community. Approximately three hundred libraries, along with twenty-nine publishers, have partnered with Portico. Dartmouth is a founding participant in Portico.

Over 6,000 journals have committed to contribute their content with nearly 350,000 articles accepted into the archive during 2006. "Print archives" of JSTOR titles being developed at the University of California, Harvard, and the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago.

Jeff pointed out that Portico is only one aspect of the Library's strategy for preserving digital content. There will need to be multiple aspects and Portico fits into an overall institutional approach to managing this format.

CRL

The College became a member of the Center for Research Libraries, which allows access to CRL's extensive collections of foreign dissertations, newspapers, and other publications that can be borrowed for up to 90 days. See www.crl.edu.

Website

Following the activities of the Library Web Steering Group (see last year's report), a prototype of the Library's redesigned website has been tested for launch in the fall. It offers a quick search area on the first page, brings a number of important service links to the top level, and displays more prominently access links to experts. The new "360" search engine, allowing simultaneous searches in about 360 databases, was tested in its Beta-phase; the latter became the default version starting in June 2007.

Study Space, Storage Library.

Jennifer Taxman briefed the Council of the present use of scholars' studies at Baker Library. These are in high demand with undergraduate students (especially seniors working on honors theses), current and emeriti faculty members, and visiting scholars. The Council discussed the possibility of asking scholars to share study space, formal procedures to assign the studies each term, and ways to make the carrels better known to new and visiting faculty.

Jennifer also reviewed the current guidelines governing the transfer of materials from campus libraries to the Storage library, as well as the consultation of Storage materials either at the Storage facility or on campus. There are currently about 400,000 items in storage. She noted that according to recent projections, campus libraries will be "full" in about three years (space is an even more pressing issue at Paddock and Kresge). A lively discussion ensued in the Council about the measures to be taken: although current projects to digitize materials and cooperation with other research libraries may help to alleviate problems of space, we obviously need a campus-wide conversation to plan ahead, which the Library will initiate.

4. Library's External Review

In preparation of the Library's External Review requested by the Provost, the Library undertook a series of focus group discussions aimed at better understanding the current and future research and teaching supports provided to the faculty. In its April meeting, the Council had an opportunity to discuss members' experiences and desires, providing important feedback to the Library's Self Study committee, headed by Cynthia Pawlek. Similar meetings with faculty members were held in April and May while undergraduate students expressed their opinion in an April survey. Focus group meetings for Medical School, Tuck, and Thayer students followed later in the spring term. David reported on interviews with Phillips Andover seniors about their expectations of library service, which highly privilege speed (on the web, of course).

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Simons
Department of History
Chair of the Council 06-07