UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Faculty Council on University Libraries met at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, November 22, 2004, in The Petersen Room of Allen Library. Chair Seelye Martin presided over the meeting.

PRESENT: Professors Seelye Martin (chair), Kerr, Lavely, George Martin, Sales, Schepp, Sutton and Wilkinson;  
Ex officio members Allen, Ogburn, Sercombe and Wilson;  
Regular guest Charles Chamberlin, Deputy Director of Libraries;  

ABSENT: Professors Bulgac and Goodkin;  
Ex officio members Fuller and Gadgil.

Synopsis

1. Approval of the minutes of October 18, 2004.
2. Institutional Repositories, DSpace, and DPubs – Joyce Ogburn, Ann Lally and Eileen Llona.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of October 18, 2004 were approved as written.

Institutional Repositories, DSpace, and DPubs – Joyce Ogburn, Ann Lally and Eileen Llona

Ogburn told the council that University Libraries is using the DSpace software developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as the infrastructure for submitting and managing digital content. The initial pilot project was funded by the Mellon Foundation. (DSpace is a ‘front end’ to the institution’s digital assets, allowing for easy entry and retrieval of information.) Ogburn said other software and systems are under investigation for experimentation and implementation.

As Ogburn noted in the article she distributed to the council, entitled “Scholarly Communication, 2002,” this project is important because “together these steps will take the services and mission of the Libraries to a new level. As scholarship changes, the Libraries must change to keep pace and find new ways to support the vast and exciting possibilities that digital technology enables. In some ways the requirements for supporting digital scholarship mirror those of the world of print. However, there are significant new challenges as well, particularly in preservation. It is imperative that the Libraries participate in the conversations on campus about new forms of research and teaching, and continue to be a strong voice for rebalancing the current system of scholarly communication, dominated by commercial interests, that endangers the ‘complex matrix’ which is the life blood of universities.”

Lally noted that, with the publicity surrounding the development of the DSpace Institutional Repository software and its subsequent release as open source software in March of 2002, institutional repository services have been thrust into the forefront of academic library issues. They have now been adopted globally. Lally said the repository can be a “subject-based repository that serves a particular discipline, and the scholarly publishing within that discipline.” She said the Libraries has “a growing subject-based repository. We also have pre-prints.”

Llona said a survey of UW librarians revealed that time is one constraint that has kept many librarians from submitting to institutional repositories. Lack of understanding is another: knowing what would be the
proper “fit” for the repository. She said DSpace is meant to provide access to and be a preservation of digital materials created at the institution. Other services can contribute, however. It was noted that it will take some time for this kind of experimentation to develop; patience must be exercised.

Lally said there are several communities in DSpace. “It is set up in a community structure, and each community has its own collections. Any collection can be structured hierarchically.”

Llona mentioned the University’s early Buddhist manuscript project, saying that “the owner of the manuscript images came to us to ask us to store these images. They wanted their specific community to have access to the images. We took their meta-data and put it into the proper DSpace format. We did what is called a batch upload. It has a persistent URL, and is like a ‘backend place’ that graduate students and others can access. Graduate students are extremely pleased with this project. And the scholars working on the project, who are located around the world, have been very pleased with the setup.” Lally said, “We have also worked with Near Eastern Languages to provide a persistent URL with respect to a significant Ottoman poem, which is associated with a published book. This ensures permanent access to the poem.”

Lally said, “We’re supporting communities in various ways: e.g., with digitized theses in Women’s Studies. In the case of Applied Mathematics, we’re creating a file of their Bibtex database, and will upload some of their articles. A Biology faculty member is uploading some articles for the department of Biology.” Lally emphasized that “anyone can look at these articles.” Ogburn said, “Most all of these DSpaces will be open.”

Wilson told the council that Elsevier has changed its policy and will now allow authors to put their articles in such places as DSpace. Ogburn noted that this kind of tool could be used for many types of programs, especially programs, including electronic theses and dissertations.

As for DPubs (the Digital Publishing System) and its program that allows for publishing journals out of universities instead of their being published commercially, University Libraries is working together with Cornell University on this project, under the sponsorship of the Mellon Foundation. It was noted that at present it is missing the peer review component. Ogburn said, “We’re working with the press on how to use this tool. It might be used in conjunction with DSpace. People say: We want to start a journal. DPubs can help accomplish this. DPub also can be used for books. The University, for example, could co-publish with Cornell on a particular project. We hope we can offer both of these services to scholars: DSpace and DPubs.”

**Health Sciences Library update – Neil Rambo**

Rambo informed the council that the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science conferred a Blue Ribbon Consumer Health Information Service award on the UW Health Sciences Libraries for its innovative outreach services to indigenous and immigrant communities. The Ethnomed (ethnomed.org) and Tribal Connections (tribalconnections.org) projects were highlighted. Funding for these outreach projects was provided by the National Library of Medicine and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The award was presented by Jan Walsh, Washington State Librarian, and Colleen Huebner, Commissioner of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and a faculty member in the UW Department of Health Services. Wilson said there was a “wonderful celebration” in honor of the awards.

**Health Sciences Libraries Renovation Update**

Rambo said that two years ago, Health Sciences administration designated the Health Sciences Libraries to undergo a renovation to address security risks arising from the library being open longer hours than the T-Wing in which it is housed. A new entrance is being created off the third floor of the T-Wing, accessing the area of the courtyard next to the School of Nursing. The east half of the third floor of the library is closed during the renovation. Asbestos abatement, restroom reconfiguration, and re-carpeting are included in the renovation work, and the circulation/reference service point will be moved from the second to the third floor. The construction will be completed by January 2005, at the beginning of Winter Quarter. The new entrance will be opened when the new service point is functioning. This will then be the only entrance...
to the library. In the meantime, the book collection has been shifted to the second floor. There have been a few complaints from students about the lack of quiet study space, but for the most part the conditions in the library during the renovation have been accepted; and the effort to accommodate all users of the library have been appreciated by students and faculty alike.

**Capital Budget – Charles Chamberlin**

Chamberlin spoke briefly of the Libraries’ request – in the University’s Capital Budget – that has gone to the 2005-2007 state legislature for consideration in the upcoming legislative session.

With respect to facilities planning, Chamberlin said the overall goal remains the consolidation of space: to have more libraries consolidated into fewer spaces. Ironically, the proposed Fine Arts Library, when constructed, will itself be a major consolidation, as three present libraries (Music, Art and Drama) will become one library serving three separate disciplines.

Chamberlin said it has been confirmed that the Libraries will continue to maintain the Sand Point offsite storage facility. The site is anticipated to serve the Libraries through 2015 at the least. Renovation of the facility (at a projected cost of $4.8 million) is available under the “minor renovation” project category, and would commence in July 2005. The facility would open in 2006 and be expanded in 2007. Some 400,000 volumes will have to be moved to the facility, though exactly which volumes remains to be determined.

“We will look at digitizing and scanning material to send back to the main campus,” Chamberlin pointed out. “We will continue to retrieve volumes twice a day from Sand Point. We will not be expanding our facilities on-campus, except for the Fine Arts Library.” Asked about the possibility of “browsing” at Sand Point, Chamberlin said, “People will not be able to browse.” He noted that books will be kept in accession order number, not in catalog order number. This will allow new books to be placed at the end of shelves, directly after the volumes brought most recently to the facility. Collections from Oak Tree will be moved to Sand Point, when the facility is ready.

**Open Access Movement and National Institutes of Health Initiative – Betsy Wilson**

Wilson distributed a memorandum noting that “Congress Reaffirms Support for NIH Proposal to Enhance Public Access to Research Information”. The conference report language “restates the NIH proposed policy of making research articles based on NIH funding available to the public free of charge. These articles would be publicly available via PubMed Central within six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.” The language also requests that NIH provide an annual cost accounting for implementing this policy as well as work with publishers of scientific journals to maintain the “integrity of the peer review system”.

Wilson said the UW provost has submitted a statement of support (also approved by the Faculty Council on Research) in support of the “spirit and intention” of the language of the initiative. She noted that there are peer review and other issues to be resolved. She said congress has reaffirmed its support of the NIH proposal. Wilkinson said he has had E-mails from three separate societies opposed to the NIH proposal. “They don’t think PubMed can keep up with it,” said Wilkinson. And he said that “many scholarly research associations do not feel that there needs to be a separate government repository.”

Wilson said, “For NIH, it is a way to say: This is a place where tax payers can go.” But we can’t wait six months.” Martin said, “Graduate students need articles from one week ago, let alone from six months ago.” Wilson asked, “Is there a place for DSpace? It’s very complex.” Wilkinson said, “Open access sounds great, but someone has to pay for open access.” Mayer added: “We need a good business plan. We have big problems with this industry. We have to go towards open access.” Ogburn noted that “people are experimenting with different models.”

**Next meeting**
The next FCUL meeting will take place in Winter Quarter 2005. Schedule forms are currently being evaluated. Once the meeting dates are known they will be forwarded to the council.

Brian Taylor
Recorder