Library Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2014 - 1:20 PM  
Cabot 702, The Fletcher School

Present: Daniel Abramson (Chair), Art and Art History; Sam Thomas, Chemistry; Michael Reed, Biology; Matt Panzer, Chemical Engineering; Chris Rogers, Mechanical Engineering; Sophie Pearlman and Janna Karatas, TCU Senate Representatives; Rachael Bonoan, GSC Representative; Ex Officio Members: Laura C. Wood, Director, Tisch Library; Laura Walters, Associate Director for Collections and User Services, Tisch Library

Absent: Malik Mufti; Patrick Forber; Ning Ma; David Ekbladh; Valencia Joyner Koomson

Faculty Guests: Sulmaan Khan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of International History and Chinese Foreign Relations, The Fletcher School; Michael Klein, Ph.D., the William L. Clayton Professor of International Economic Affairs, The Fletcher School; virtual attendance from the Boston Campus: Lynne Ausman, D.Sc., Saqr bin Mohammed Al Qasimi Professor in International Nutrition, Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging; Ralph Aarons, M.D., Ph.D., Faculty Advisor, Harvey Learning Community and Director, Problem-Based Learning Program Office of Educational Affairs; John Castellot, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Integrative Physiology and Pathobiology; Professor, Clinical and Translational Science Institute; Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering; and Director, Graduate Program in Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology; Will Masters, Ph.D., Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and Adjunct Professor, Department of Economics; virtual attendance from the Grafton Campus: Cailin Heinze, VMD, DACVN, Assistant Professor and Clinical Nutritionist, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Other Guests: Betsy Like, Library Manager, Webster Family Library and ULC member; Dan Santamaria, Director and University Archivist, DCA and ULC member; Boris Hasselblatt, Associate Provost, Tufts University and ULC member; Katrina Noyes, Special Projects Administrator, Office of the Provost, Tufts University

1. Welcome, Outline of Meeting Structure, and Attendee Introductions: Daniel Abramson, Chair; Boris Hasselblatt; Laura Wood

   Danny welcomed the members of the Library Committee and guests, explained the structure of the meeting, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The focus of the meeting was to provide assistance with the forthcoming visit from the DeEtta Jones and Associates (DJA) consultants on December 2nd by offering input re: broad visions for libraries and how they are developing. DJA will be looking at the structure and financial model for the libraries to determine what might be most effective for the Tufts Libraries.

   Boris followed with thanks to the group for their time commitment and for sacrificing other commitments to join the meeting. Laura also expressed her appreciation to attendees, adding that their input regarding priorities and emerging needs as teachers and researchers is critical to DJA’s process. Laura encouraged the group to specify what the libraries need to do more of and, with respect to what is currently being done, what needs to be maintained.

2. The Three Questions: All

   Question 1: Danny began the discussion “with a look prospectively forward” – what are the emerging needs and priorities 5 – 10 years down the line for teaching and research?

   Sam: There is an explosion of information throughout all formats. Helping faculty and students manage the glut of information as well as manage their own content is essential.

   Matt: Journal subscriptions and online journal access is critical.
Michael Klein: Journal access and the library as repository of datasets. The emerging area for datasets is big data. Is the library the repository or is there another place for such a repository? Datasets, particularly big data, are important for teaching and research.

Sulmaan: I don’t want to lose the world-class, on-site, expert research librarians we have. They are the best in the world. (Ellen McDonald was cited.)

Chris: Passing knowledge through teaching of skills and not just words. The Maker Studio pilot in Tisch Library this past summer did just that. Many people came in to create and to build physical models of the ideas in their heads. This approach brings teaching and learning to another level.

Rachael: Journal subscriptions are important. The upgrades to the ILLIAD system are good. I can always get everything I need, and the system is much faster now. Don’t change this!

Michael Reed: I don’t have anything to add that wasn’t already said.

Sophie: (Child Development major) – The resources in the library are important. Please leave physical books as a resource.

Janna: (Poli Sci and Spanish double major) – Updates and additions to technology to help students continue to build skills – could we add Rosetta Stone® or other tools to learn languages, especially those not offered at Tufts? Physical space, and enough of it, are critical. During finals it is hard to find study space, particularly quiet study space. Additional space/reasonable accommodations are needed for students with broad learning and study needs/styles.

Danny: The library as portal for visual information and access to primary materials as well as a place to produce as well as gain knowledge. Quiet spaces for writing, reflection, critical thinking. Also, the library as place for cross-discipline and interdisciplinary facilitation.

Ralph: The library as place for student and faculty learning as well as teaching research skills→ how information is organized, how to navigate through it; how to evaluate the quality of it. The librarians assist with all of this to maximize the use of expansive data. Ralph anticipates that this role/need will increase even more over time.

John: Big data is huge for research, and bioinformatics is very huge for research. The HHSL librarians are the best in the world. Essential to faculty and students → librarians with a degree in one of the sciences as well as library science. This combination improves the quality of the assistance. Preservation and expansion of physical space is necessary at HHSL. Cross-campus collaborations are increasing.

Will: There is an exploding variety of electronic resources. Big data AND small data are important. There is a long tail of grey literature. Particularly cataloging metadata to access materials and information needs to be improved.

Lynne: In Boston – online resources mainly used; books are not checked out. Literature searching assistance and tutorials for using tools like RefWorks, etc. are needed.

Cailin: Need access to journal articles, particularly online. ILLIAD is great and utilizes the human aspect of literature searches. Students need to be encouraged to seek librarian assistance more for searches and literature reviews.

Chris asked Danny if he primarily worked individually or in a group when he was in the library. Danny responded that most of the work he does is individual and that this is the way most people in Humanities do their work.

Danny: There is a paradox occurring now: increased digital use and increased use of the physical space in the libraries.

Michael Reed: There is a need for student training to do research, literature searches, etc. Most students don’t know how to search and librarians cannot meet the expansive need for
The undergrads are not fully aware of the existing resources and formal trainings offered by the librarians. Michael Klein asked Danny if the library needs to be the place in which he does his quiet work. He suggested that these needs might be met elsewhere on campus. Danny replied that the library is not just space/place, but rather a community.

**John:** In Boston, quiet study space is inadequate, and there are no real alternatives elsewhere on campus. There will not be a one size fits all solution to quiet study space or other library issues presented. Reference Librarians and library staff are the first priority. Cuts should not be made to staffing either to add technology or space.

**Danny:** Librarians as teaching partners for faculty – this is increasing by greater and greater degrees.

**Sam:** Research librarians’ roles are expanding exponentially in more specific and technical ways, e.g. - assisting faculty with archiving their work and managing data (which is becoming increasingly important for grants).

**Danny:** Open Access – perhaps libraries will become the site for getting work published.

**Question 2:** Danny asked the group to consider which library services were no longer needed.

**Chris:** Why is print important to you?

**Sophie:** Books often provide information that cannot be found online.

**Rachael:** Processes information in print better than reading it online. [Sulmaan cited research that supports this.]

**Laura Walters:** There are many books that have not been published digitally; these materials can only be obtained in print.

**Danny:** The quality of Art History books is much better in print. Also, as of now, faculty need to publish physical books for tenure and promotion.

**Michael Reed:** The digital format often does not include everything that is included in the print version.

**Question 3:** Danny asked the group: What does a 21st century library look like?

**Danny:** The library is a place to take a book off of a shelf, read it near a window, think, write, do online research, to work alone or in a group.

**Michael Klein:** The library is a place to do statistical analysis in a group as well as to give individual assignments and check the work of those group members.

**Chris:** The library as place (with windows) for people to drive their own learning both on individual and group levels.

**Cailin:** Is happy with the library as is and doesn’t have suggestions for changes.

**Sulmaan:** Lots of famous libraries have unique archives. You cannot find those materials anywhere else in the world. Would like to see this at Tufts. Also does not want in-house resources and librarians moved elsewhere to a central location or staffing to be cut.

Question asked of Boris: Will consultants listen to and utilize the feedback they receive from constituents? Concerns re: the economic climate at the University and how this would impact the outcome of the recommendations were expressed. Boris responded that the consultants’ goal isn’t to recommend either cuts or budget increases. Their goal is to formulate an effective plan for organization and funding structure.

**Michael Klein:** Centralization of librarians, other resources, and materials would be detrimental to teaching and research. Librarians who are subject-area experts are critical for staffing.
Will: Echoed both of those points and talked about 2 additional ideals: 1) greater integration of objects and materials for searching (metadata, grey literature, etc); 2) address publishing issues and publishing monopolies who are extorting funds. The Tufts Libraries as vanguard to compete with and potentially become publishers at a lower cost.

John: Necessary to understand clientele being served and their needs. There is a critical need for more services, a movement forward with what’s happening currently.

Ralph: The librarians are a tremendous resource not only for faculty and students on the Health Sciences campus, but also for clinicians who have graduated. The library of the future could generate revenue by offering services not only to Tufts grads, but also to other clinicians in the community.

Michael Reed: Fight for more licenses for alumni to have greater access to online resources.

Sam: The librarians are extended in so many different ways now. Is data management plan review part of the core mission of the library or should this be the purview of another unit? It is important for librarians to continue to assist faculty in managing and archiving their own content.

Matt: Cannot imagine losing space in the library. The ideal library is having a balance for both individual and group work.

Michael Klein: Sees the library as service rather than space. His office is his library.

Rachael: Physical space is important. Needs another place to go to do work other than office. Doesn’t want to change anything about the library.

Michael Reed: Wants materials to browse on the shelves after he has found what he needs: the value of discovery.

Sophie: Library as alternative space.

Janna: Library as alternative space → academic spaces that are open for longer periods of time, esp. for quiet study; a 24 hour accessible study space. Atmosphere and ambience of the spaces are important factors. Spaces that provide accommodations for students with different needs.

Rachael: The library workshops are great. Wants more than intro workshops. Suggested bringing in grad students to lead additional workshops – e.g. – UEP students teaching how to use GIS datasets.

Boris synthesized the critical components of the comments:
1) Maintain the culture of each campus’ library.
2) Maintain staff and resources at each campus.
3) The libraries’ human resources are essential for faculty and students alike.
4) Both the libraries’ physical and virtual spaces are important. People need to be able to access materials, resources, and services across a continuum.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM. The next Library Committee Meeting will be on January 21, 2015 from noon – 1:20 PM in the Austin Conference Room in Tisch Library.