

2006-07 UCL Annual Report

Academic Council
Office of the Provost
300 Main Building
CAMPUS

RE: **University Committee on Libraries, Annual Report, 2006-07**

Charge of the University Committee on Libraries (UCL)

Conscious of its central role in the Notre Dame learning community, the library invites conversation with faculty, administrators and students to help the library chart a course that enables it to effectively fulfill its mission and responsibilities to the University community. The regular deliberations of the University Committee on Libraries (UCL) reflect that role. Details of these deliberations appear on its UCL web site <<http://www.library.nd.edu/ucl/>>.

As stipulated by Academic Article IV:3(f), "The University Committee on Libraries (UCL) reviews policies and practices relating to library resources and services and provides oversight of the development of the libraries. It constitutes a principal interface between the campus units responsible for providing information resources and services, and it also serves as a communications link between the libraries and the University community. It comprises ex officio administrative members, elected faculty members representing each of the major academic units, and both graduate and undergraduate student members."

Library Task Force Report

At the request of the former Provost, Nathan Hatch, a Task Force on the University of Notre Dame Libraries was convened in the spring of 2004 in response to growing concerns over funding challenges facing the University Libraries. Three subcommittees were formed: Arts and Humanities; Science, Business, Engineering, Social Sciences; and Law. The Task Force met during spring of 2004 and again in the fall of 2005. The draft '*Library Task Force Report*' outlined current library services and resources for different subject areas. Among the more important conclusions, the draft report emphasized significant differences and library related requirements for different subject areas, yielding recommendations that reflect different 'ownership' versus 'access' needs for different disciplines. Summarizing, 'ownership' tends to be more important for humanities disciplines, while access (particularly desktop access) tends to be more important for engineering, science, business and social sciences. The report also presented research on technology trends and related bench-marking of peer institutions as well as important observations on the increasing digitization of library resources.

The UCL is pleased that the Provost has acted on task force report recommendations to fund retrospective purchasing in the humanities and expanded desktop access to core literature in the sciences, engineering, business, and social sciences. This was accomplished with proceeds from the 2006 Fiesta Bowl and through additional unrestricted funds for the library materials budget.

The UCL encourages continuing attention to the task force report. In particular, the UCL supports implementation of the task force recommendation to "Achieve and sustain a top ten percent ranking among the nations's academic research libraries for material acquisition per T & R faculty member," as summarized on pages 19-20 of the draft report. The UCL also recognizes the need for more programmatic library funding to support new research initiatives and supports the task force recommendation that "Some linkage between funding for science, engineering and social collections and the level of external funding attracted by Notre Dame researchers should

be considered,”– i.e., the desirability of closer linkages between research proceeds (F&A revenues) and library funding, as summarized on the last page (p. 21) of the draft report.

Continuing Evolution of Library Strategies to Provide Better Access to Library Resources

Recent years have witnessed increasing digitization of library materials and a parallel rise in the expectations of many library patrons for more timely access to library resources. This includes expectations for faster access to materials available only in hard copy format as well as to materials available digitally. The Notre Dame Library has responded to these demands with a variety of strategies, including, among others, subscribing to e-journal packages, experimenting with faster digital document delivery services, enhancing interlibrary loan services, introducing a more stringent Library Recall Policy, and offering digital copying services. The UCL encourages continuing proactive library strategies, as well as careful monitoring and assessment of results, in order to extend and refine these strategies, all within the realities of available library resources.

Promoting Library Services and Policies

The library regularly introduces and promotes new and refined library services and policies. To find appropriate areas for improving performance and adding or refining specific services and policies, the library gathers and analyzes collection and usage data such as circulation, digital article downloads, interlibrary loan requests, and data concerning other important functions. Library patrons over the past couple of years have witnessed significant expansion of library promotions. New and revised library services are also described and regularly promoted across campus with the library’s widely distributed publication, *Access* <<http://www.library.nd.edu/advancement/Access.shtml>>. The UCL encourages the library to continue expanding its promotions to all library patrons.

Stretching Constrained Library Resources

Constrained and slow growing academic library budgets continue to be further impacted by the twin pressures of rapidly escalating costs of materials, staff, and operations and the seemingly never-ending proliferation of monographs, journals, and other scholarly media. As a result, academic libraries across the globe are seeking ways to expand and stretch existing, limited resources. The Notre Dame library is no exception. Wide ranging cooperative agreements are rapidly emerging among academic libraries in order to make more cost-effective use of limited financial resources as well as to share expertise of library faculty and staff. While the Notre Dame library has been participating in a number of these cooperative agreements for some time, today such activities are becoming an ever more integral part of the library’s compendium of strategies for addressing critical library issues related to space, material costs, expertise, and access. The UCL regards the assessment of alternative consortial opportunities as an ongoing challenge, and one that it plans to encourage, monitor, and help address in the future.

Rev. Paul J. Foik Award for 2006

The Rev. Paul J. Foik Award is given annually at the President’s faculty dinner in May to a library faculty member who has contributed significantly to library service in the Notre Dame community or to the library profession through personal scholarship or involvement in professional associations. The May ‘07 Foik Award went to (*Jennifer will add after the Foik recipient is announced*).

Continuing Topics for Discussion

- **Library and OIT Cooperation.** The library and the Office of Information Technology continue to cooperate in many areas. For example, current plans call for moving the library computer cluster from the second floor to the first floor. The move is part of an on-going effort between OIT and the library to better assist the needs of students and faculty. From the OIT's point of view, this is part of a larger plan to substantially improve computer services and computer spaces available to students and faculty. The OIT plan for further, enhanced collaboration with the library will be a topic considered in 2007-08 UCL Meetings.
- **Copyright Issues.** Copyright use and related issues received a great deal of attention in the library in 2006-07, and the library has held workshops for faculty on copyright questions. More in depth UCL discussions will be held during 2007-08 regarding issues such as managing copyrights and publisher vs. individual author rights.

Other topics and related questions the UCL may consider during the 2007-08 academic year include the following.

- **Consortia.** What role should Notre Dame libraries play in the various state, national and international consortia, with initial focus on exploring consortia that can help the library to address its space constraints?
- **Faculty Outreach.** How can the library continue to enhance the promotion of library materials, programs and user services to various internal and external user constituencies throughout the University?
- **Access Issues.** What strategies can the library use to enhance Notre Dame scholars' ready access to global resources in different disciplines – including expeditious provision of content and preferred formats for various subject areas and academic programs? This also includes balancing ownership versus access strategies in the context of enhanced document delivery and interlibrary loan services, e-journal packages, a more responsive recall policy, and other ongoing initiatives.
- **Adjusting to Budgetary Pressures.** How should the library adjust to financial pressures from external (e.g., inflation/costs and proliferation of materials – especially in digital format) and internal (budget/resources available) sources? These discussions will also include consideration of choices regarding where and how to cut back/compromise spending in a manner that minimizes the negative impact on the productivity of Notre Dame scholars and research programs.
- **Emerging Technologies.** What are the potential impacts and related potential strategies the library should be considering as a result of emerging technologies such as:
 - Next Generation Information Systems for finding, storing, creating, accessing and retrieving knowledge resources owned or made accessible by the library;
 - Course Management Software and a more formal interface with library technologies (in conjunction with UCAT);
 - Notre Dame Institutional Digital Repositories (e.g., images, art, Kroc working papers, undergraduate research, etc.); and
 - Digital Copy Capabilities.

Concluding Observations

In this time of dynamic technology, continually escalating library costs, and related resource constraints, the UCL continues to be impressed with the pro-active responses of our University Libraries' administrators, faculty and staff to its wide-ranging challenges and opportunities. We encourage all campus stakeholders to recognize, support and contribute to the

University Libraries' ongoing energetic and creative efforts to enhance scholarship at Notre Dame.

University Committee on Libraries 2006/07

John Weber, Chair, Marketing

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