

Library Committee of the Faculty Council 2007-2008 Annual Report

The committee met six times in the 2007-08 academic year. Drs. Frank Caro and Lusa Lo were the co-chairs of the committee. The committee consisted of the following faculty members: Anne Jones, Peter Fejer, Ramon Borges, Julie Winch (on sabbatical in Spring 2008), Taylor Stoehr (on sabbatical in Spring 2008), and Susan Tomilson (took Taylor's place in Spring 2008). A representative from the College of Nursing is still needed. The following University librarian staff members also attended several or all the committee meetings: Daniel Ortiz, Stephen Haas, George Hart, and Janet Stewart.

The following main topics were discussed at the Library Committee meetings:

1. Storage Project

- The library has begun and completed the process of eliminating some of the library materials for saving physical space in the library. A hard copy of these eliminated materials was saved by one library member in the Boston Library Consortium.

2. Faculty Liaison Project

- Daniel Ortiz reported that there was a need for a new integrated and holistic approach to maintain communication with faculty members in order to facilitate the demands for new material. The Healey library is reorganizing and revitalizing its liaison program with faculty members. At least one librarian will be assigned to serve as the liaison for each college. In the case of a larger college, such as the College of Liberal Arts, 2 or 3 liaisons will be assigned. This project will begin in the academic year of 2008-2009.

3. Book Selection Program

- A book selection program was piloted this year. The library believed that it would be more efficient if the faculty members were the ones in charge of library book selections. Eight departments were asked to pilot the new system: Gerontology, Psychology, Computer Science and Environmental Science, Political Science, English, Anthropology, English, and Sociology. Among these departments, only Gerontology declined to participate in the program. The library staff member, Stephen Haas, reported that the results of this program have been mixed. Response from the Anthropology department was the strongest – spent its entire book budget with books nominated by the Department. The English department generated book requests for one-third of its budget with librarians making decisions independently on the other two thirds. Sociology, Political Science, Computing Science, and EOS did not make any book recommendations.

4. 2007 LibQual Data

- The Library Committee has spent a great deal of time analyzing the 2007 LibQual survey data. The 2007 survey results indicated that both graduate students and faculty members were very concerned about the information control within the library, such as the accessibility of library electronic resources. Some of the open responses indicated that library users would like the library to have extended hours, more computers, quiet places for students to study, and comfortable and well-lit furnished areas. The library is currently attempted to address some of these concerns, such as providing group study areas on the 8th floor, and more computers and print stations were added.
- In regards to library electronic resources, the librarians reported that they have increased the number of journals from 3,000 to 35,000 titles and added 40,000 electronic books. The library is also currently redesigning its website, so that library users can locate resources easily. The new website is expected to be launched in August 2008. Furthermore, the library has begun the use of new “federated” search technology that involves multiple databases simultaneously. The number of journals that can be searched will increase from 35,000 to over 50,000 titles. Access to full text journals will also be increased by 120 through a contractual relationship with JSTOR. Finally, the library has joined the Fenway Libraries Online (FLO). This participation enables the library to offer new services; at the same time, participation in FLO will reduce costs and save staff time.

5. Review of Journal Selection

- A new program to review journal selection with departments has begun. The Biology department is the first department who participates in this program. The librarians invited faculty members to identify new journals that should be added and current journals that could be dropped. This process can lead to expanded expenditures of at least \$25,000 per year. The library plans to invite 2 to 3 departments per year to participate in the program.

6. Proposed plans for the academic year of 2008-09

- The Committee members offered the following suggestions to the library and were well received by Daniel Ortiz and other librarians who attended the meetings:
 - i. Book Selection Program: It would be helpful for the librarians to find out from the Anthropology Department the reasons they responded well to the program. The librarians can utilize the collected information and shared it with the other departments who will be participating in the book selection program for the year of 2008-09.

- ii. LibQual survey follow up: Although the library has undergone many changes throughout the past few years, the 2007 LibQual data clearly suggested that many library users were still unaware of the available library resources. The committee suggests that there is a need for the library to conduct follow-up sessions, such as focus group discussions, so that they can determine how they can better serve the library users.
- iii. Communication: Increase communication between the library and faculty members is crucial. The library committee members suggested the library to provide them and/or Department Chairs some key changes the library has made once every few months. Members and Chairs can then utilize a few minutes at their department meetings and inform their fellow faculty members.

*Prepared and submitted by
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