Senate Committee on Libraries Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
3:30-5:00
Rare Book Room (McLennan Library)

Present:  Prof. Nathalie Cooke, (Chair); Prof. Emily Carson; Prof. Martin Chénier; Dr. Colleen Cook; Prof. Reghan Hill; Mr. Yonatan Lipsitz; Mr. Brian McMillan; Ms. Gwendolyn Owens; Ms. Natalie Waters; Ms. Joyce Whiting

Regrets:  Mr. Tom Acker; Prof. Joan Bartlett; Prof. Andrea Bernasconi; Mr. Adam Bouchard; Professor H. Patrick Glenn; Prof. Gillian Lane-Mercier; Prof. Kenneth Regan

Guests:  Mr. Louis Houle (Schulich Library)

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved by Natalie Waters and seconded by Joyce Whiting.

2. Welcome from the Chair

Nathalie Cooke welcomed the new members and explained the mandate of the Senate Committee on Libraries. She then introduced Louis Houle, Associate Director, Client Services, Health and Engineering for the Library who, in turn, welcomed everyone to the Schulich Library. This Library is open 24/7 and the collection covers all engineering disciplines, as well as sciences other than the life sciences. Built in 1893, the building which houses the Library is famous because it is where Ernest Rutherford conducted the experiments on radioactivity for which he won the Nobel Prize.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of March 30, 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Colleen Cook and seconded by Joyce Whiting.

4. Dean of Libraries Report
   Presenter: C. Colleen Cook

Dean Cook reported that despite the fact that 40% of the Library staff are MUNACA members and therefore on strike, services largely have been maintained. The Social Sciences and Humanities Library and the Schulich Library are both open 24/7 and 33 Librarians are eligible to replace the striking workers and have stepped up to help. She stated that they have learned a lot about their own operations and are now working on two sets of contingency
plans: one for managing the disruption when the striking employees return and the second a plan for managing services if the strike continues beyond into 2012.

Library senior colleagues meet every morning to plan out strategies for service; meetings are held with area librarians once a week. An email goes out every day with administrative information. All of this has worked because of the great team in the Library; students have expressed their appreciation. Everyone realizes, however, that it is not business as usual and students miss being able to use the smaller libraries.

The Library held a retreat at the Gault Nature Reserve to discuss plans for the future. The emphasis going forward is on collection stewardship and it is recognized that the Library has a great need for space. There is a need for creating a single service point—“one stop, all questions answered”—and this is goal. Looking at the Library from the users’ perspective is seen as key. The Library is also looking at options on how to create a green library that uses fewer resources.

It was noted that the Library now spends $10 million a year on electronic resources.

To make connecting to the Library from outside the physical Library buildings easier, EzProxy has replaced the old, outdated technology of the VPN service. EzProxy will soon be replaced by Shibboleth, a standards based, open source software package for the web that offers single sign-on across or within organizational boundaries.

Because of the weak economy, the Library has been successful in negotiating an advantageous 5-year contract with ProQuest, a company that provides an electronic gateway to a vast number of resources, which will allow the McGill Library to have access to all of ProQuest’s resources, not just a selected group as in the past.

McGill has also joined the HathiTrust, a partnership of more than 60 major research libraries (including the University of Michigan, Indiana University, and Columbia University). This gives McGill Library users access to digital materials from other partner institutions.

The Library is also very involved in renovation projects. The HVAC system has been replaced in McLennan/Redpath and the Law and Life Sciences Libraries are undergoing smaller renovation projects. A large, three year project is underway to renovate the McLennan/Redpath tunnel and the first floor of Redpath. This has involved replacing the outdoor pedestrian walkway between the buildings and will later also include a renovation of the terrace outside Redpath.

Space remains an issue for the Library. The Library was impacted by the flood from the Montreal Reservoir on September 7, 2011; materials that got wet have had to be freeze-dried and the rare materials that were in the basement will be relocated.

An exciting acquisition was recently made for the Osler Library: the third volume in a series of three 18th century medical atlases, which completes our collection. The atlas was a memorial gift. The book is:
JENTY, Charles Nicholas. Demostratio uteri praegnantis mulieris cum foetu ad partum maturi in tabulis sex... ad exemplar Londinense translata D. Casimiro Christophoro Schmidel, in aes incisa et recusa a Iohanne Michaele Seligmanno... [German title:] Abbildung der Gebähr-Mutter aus einer schwangern Frau... Nuremberg, Felssecker for the heirs of Seligmann, 1761 [-1765]

Large folio (713 x 510 mm), pp [ii] 16, with engraved anatomical plate on verso of last text leaf and 6 mezzotint engraved plate.

Large-paper copy of the first German edition (first London 1757) of the rarest obstetrical atlas, and one of the most beautiful. The work is distinguished by 6 outstanding life-size mezzotint plates by Jan van Rymsdyk, the illustrator.

Dr. Cook also distributed the latest brochures from the Library and a copy of the 2010-2011 strategic goals which were included in the Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Libraries. A copy of these goals is included as an appendix to these minutes.

5. Discussion of community feedback on Libraries

The Committee discussed the challenges of making the McGill community aware of all the library resources which are available to them. The Library is constantly trying to find the right channels to convey information. Brian McMillan noted that Music has a graduate course on research which he co-teaches and that he works closely with the professors in the School.

The Committee agreed that there is a need for an undergraduate course in research methods and that it is particularly difficult to reach students who are in the humanities; no course, however, can be imposed on students. In Engineering, it was noted that for graduate school, research is one of the attributes required for acceptance into a graduate program. For entering undergraduates, it was suggested that Student Life should include something about what library resources are available to them.

For graduate students, it was agreed that GPS should take the lead in encouraging students to get to know all the library resources that are at their disposal. Brian McMillan pointed out that graduate students are often confused about copyright regulations and wait until the last minute to ask questions about how copyright affects material (scores, images, etc.) in a thesis. Again GPS should be involved in helping to make sure that students find the information they need before they are in the last phase of completing a dissertation.

6. Other Business/ Discussion

No other business

Martin Chenier moved that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Natalie Waters.

2011-2012 Senate Committee on Libraries Future Meeting dates:
Wednesday, December 14, 2011 3:30- 5:00 Rare Book Room
Monday, February 06, 2012 2:00 PM-4:00 PM. Nahum Gelber Library
Wednesday, April 25, 2012 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
# Appendix: 2010-2011 Library Strategic Goals

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<td><strong>Client Relationship Management</strong></td>
<td><strong>Collection Management</strong></td>
<td><strong>Facilities/ Resources/ Infrastructure Management</strong></td>
<td><strong>Staff Management &amp; Development</strong></td>
<td><strong>Partnership with the Outside</strong></td>
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<td>#1. Understand and respond to the needs of our users.</td>
<td>#4. Support core curriculum outcomes and research through the acquisition, organization, and preservation of outstanding print, multimedia and electronic collections.</td>
<td>#12. Build and maintain an accessible, safe, welcoming, friendly, environment, both physical and virtual, supporting student life, learning, and research as well as the welfare of library staff and the McGill Community as a whole.</td>
<td>#18. Recruit, train, develop and retain library staff members whose priorities are providing excellence in library service delivery.</td>
<td>#22. Collaborate with others on campus, and provide leadership in the creative use of information resources and information communications technology, particularly in the support of student life and learning initiatives, inquiry based learning, interdisciplinary studies and innovative research strategies.</td>
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<td>#2. Assess existing services and respond to rising expectations through high quality, innovative information services and products with a focus on new technologies.</td>
<td>#5. Continue to endorse and advocate for open access across campus, while expanding strategy.</td>
<td>#13. Ensure suitable installation and operation of library equipment, products and services to support both user and library staff needs.</td>
<td>#19. Apply best practices to ensure that staff and resources are appropriately managed.</td>
<td>#23. Develop plans and implement strategies for cost-effective support of the RUIS and hospital libraries linked to McGill.</td>
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<td>#3. Foster information literacy through targeted workshops and training sessions incorporated into programs of study and curriculum.</td>
<td>#6. Increased participation in a virtual research environment including institutional repositories.</td>
<td>#14. Continue to improve signage and security in all branches within the Library system.</td>
<td>#20. Ensure that the Library’s organizational structure reflects its overall goals as outlined in the Library’s Strategic Plan. Execute action items in the plan, making changes as appropriate.</td>
<td>#24. Collaborate with others and provide leadership in Quebec, Canada, and internationally to ensure effective information service delivery and to implement the Library’s goals.</td>
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<td>#7. Continue to identify items for digitization.</td>
<td>#15. Complete renovation of the Nahum Gelber Law Library and the Life Sciences Library.</td>
<td>#21. Apply best practices to guide the organization in advancing staff communication, knowledge sharing and participation.</td>
<td>#25. Continue to actively advocate and solicit financial support for the Library through the Capital Campaign.</td>
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