



Senate Committee on Libraries Minutes

Monday, October 22, 2012

10:30 – 12: 00 PM

Blackader-Lauterman Seminar Room, 3rd Floor, Redpath Library Building

Present: Prof. Nathalie Cooke, (Chair); Ms. Stephanie Bachelet; Prof. Emily Carson; Ms. Cora-Lee Conway; Dr. C. Colleen Cook; Ms. Sara Holder; Ms. Elizabeth Gibson; Prof. Gillian Lane-Mercier; Ms. Erin Minnett; Ms. Gwendolyn Owens; Prof. Kenneth Ragan; Ms. Natalie Waters;

Regrets: Prof. Guillermina Almazan, Prof. Andrea Bernasconi; Prof. Martin Chénier; Prof. H. Patrick Glenn; Prof. Nigel Roulet; Ms. Isabel Vivas

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved by Kenneth Ragan and seconded by C. Colleen Cook.

2. Introduction from the Chair

The Chair welcomed new members: Elizabeth Gibson representing the Humanities and Social Services Library, Stephanie Bachelet from SSMU, and Cora-Lee Conway from PGSS. Other new members who could not come today are: Professor Nigel Roulet, Kira Gossack-Keenan from SSMU, and Isabel Vivas representing students in Continuing Education. She also welcomed returning members. Two guests from the Libraries were introduced to the meeting: Joseph Hafner, Senior Director, Collection Services and Louise Robertson, Chair of the Borrower's Advisory Committee.

The Chair reminded the Committee of its purpose:

- 1. to recommend to Senate, as appropriate, broad policies concerning the Library in support of the University's strategic plans and academic priorities.*

2. to review and advise on planning documents and reports as they relate to the Library and advise Senate and others, as appropriate, on library and information service developments which are of academic significance to the University.

3. to review resource allocation policies as they relate to the Library's strategic plan.

4. to facilitate and advise on communication between the University community and the Library.

5. to meet at least twice per semester during the academic year and submit an annual report to Senate.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of April 25, 2012

The minutes were approved by Kenneth Ragan and seconded by C. Colleen Cook.

4. Dean of Libraries Report

Presenters: C. Colleen Cook, Joseph Hafner, and Louise Robertson

Louise Robertson explained that changes have been made to the length of time for borrowing a book. Undergraduates will now have the right to borrow a book for 6 weeks (rather than 2 weeks); graduate students will have the right to borrow a book for 4 months (rather than 6 weeks); and the loan period for Faculty and Staff is now one year (rather than one term). Lecturers get Faculty borrowing privileges while graduate students who teach continue to have the same loan period as all other graduate students. One can place holds on up to twenty items, have a book brought from one library for pick up at another, and now return a book to any library. Soon, faculty members may request that a book be delivered to his or her office. The Libraries are serious about recalls and will fine anyone who does not return a book when it has been requested.

Colleen Cook reported the result of the study analyzing the capacity of the space in the libraries. We are over capacity and have more books than we can accommodate on our shelves. This is despite the fact that we have many kilometres of shelving: if all the shelves in the library were laid out end to end they would reach from Montreal to the U.S. border. We have added shelves but are looking overall at the situation. Compact shelving is not necessarily an answer as it simply means warehousing books.

Kenneth Ragan asked about moving the books off campus as has been done at the University of Alberta. Stephanie Bachelet was a student at the University of Alberta and reported that in her time there she only had to order a book from storage once and that the system worked well.

Colleen Cook reported that the Libraries are now in phase 2 of the terrace reconstruction. This work is being done, not for aesthetic reasons, but because of problems with flooding. Thanks to funding from student organizations, renovations are also taking place on the third floor of the

Humanities and Social Sciences Library. A single service point is being created for all questions on the main floor and a new group study space has been set in the short term as a “furniture lab” to give students an opportunity to test various types of seating, white boards. She asked that the Committee pass the word about this lab and encourage everyone to use the space and give feedback. Another renovation project has been completed in the Law Library providing new study areas and the roof of the Schulich Library building is currently being replaced.

She also reported Lucy Peacock, an actor from the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, will be speaking at McGill on October 25 as part of the Library’s lecture series.

For interlibrary loan materials, a change in the law will mean that we can email articles to faculty, rather than only providing a hard copy. Elizabeth Gibson added that if the material is coming from the U.S., it is already coming as weblinks to documents.

Joseph Hafter reported on the HathiTrust, which can be described as the research library version of Google Books. Run by the University of Michigan, it is a secure place for institutions to store digital copies of books. McGill was the second Canadian university to join. In the U.S., the Authors Guild took the HathiTrust to court claiming copyright infringement. On October 10, 2012, a U.S. ruling was handed down confirming that the creation and use of digital copies of books is fair use and that it supports the Americans with Disabilities Act. Up to now, books published after 1923 have not been available because they were still under copyright.

The U.S decision also allowed for text mining which will mean that researchers can search the documents and use the material in new ways. (Amy Buckland at the McGill libraries can help researchers with this.)

Colleen Cook stressed that the decision is a “watershed moment” and extended her thanks to colleagues who believed in this initiative. To use it requires authorization, but someone need only sign in to the McGill Library or Hathi to access the material.

The Library of Congress has just joined the HathiTrust. Each member pays to belong but the fees are reasonable as each institution pays the costs for digitizing its own material and a copy is then available through the HathiTrust.

Canadian copyright law is different and it takes longer for a book to be out of copyright but McGill is working with Canadian partners to find solutions. Another U.S./Canadian difference is that U.S. government documents have no copyright but Canadian government documents are under copyright.

Joseph Hafner noted that the wonderful chapbooks at McGill, which are unique early material, will be digitized by McGill and contributed to the HathiTrust.

Cora-Lee Conway asked about our liability with the HathiTrust and Joseph Hafner responded that we need to be careful about following copyright rules.

5. Discussion of community feedback on Libraries

Gillian Lane-Mercier brought up three concerns from her colleagues in Arts:

- The number of books that are missing from the shelves
- The problem that DVD collection of East Asian films is being stolen; two-thirds of the collection is reportedly now missing
- Why can't articles coming from ILL be sent electronically when they are received electronically by the Libraries?

Missing books are a problem at all libraries and Colleen Cook asked to know the call number range so that the Libraries staff can follow up. Joseph Hafner encouraged anyone who cannot find a book to ask at the service desk and that across the libraries we have fewer than 1000 books missing out of a total of roughly 3.5 million monographs. Colleen Cook suggested that library staff could perform more shelf readings as a way of catching more missing books, and to better know what areas need their attention.

Concerning the DVDs, Joseph Hafner expressed surprise and asked for more information as all the DVDs have security devices (unrelated to the bar codes) that cannot be removed; Elizabeth Gibson will follow up on this concern.

The change in the law will mean that ILL articles can now be sent to requestors as a scan.

Stephanie Bachelet brought up the problem of the lack of study space for law school students in the Law Library as non-law students use the library as study space. She mentioned that at the University of Alberta, students did not use the libraries as places to study as they do at McGill. Colleen Cook noted that the Libraries staff is well aware of the serious space issue in the Law Library. Kenneth Ragan noted that the space issue is not a library problem, but a McGill problem. Nathalie Cooke reminded the committee of an observation from a committee meeting last year that students have "brand loyalty" and often return to study in the same space again and again even if it is unrelated to their current research. She noted that Colleen Cook has been an advocate concerning the space issue and is working hard to find solutions.

Colleen Cook noted that study spaces that are not in libraries do not seem to be popular. People associate libraries with studying just as they associate churches with praying. Research on library users demonstrates that people associate libraries with the life of the mind.

6. Other Business/ Discussion

There was no other business.

Kenneth Ragan moved that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Sara Holder.