Minutes
Faculty Library Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 22, 2010, 2:30-3:55 pm
Library Room 2032

Present: Andrew Hill, Sergei Adamovich, Edgardo Farinas, Reza Curtmola, Jie Hu, Allison Perlman, Wei Xu, Yuan-Nan Young, Ian Fischer, Richard Sweeney, Ann Hoang, Doreen Mettle, Maya Gervits, Davida Scharf, Heather Huey, Haymwantee Singh, Bruce Slutsky, Erin Finnerty, Matthew Brown, Lisa Weissbard, Jessica O’Donnell

1. Minutes of February 18, 2010 – Approved

Not many changes from last year’s journal ranking. Changes from last year include two position swaps - Wiley Interscience and IOP (numbers 10 & 11) swapped positions in the ranking. Omnifile and Nature (numbers 13 & 14) swapped also.

a. Distribute and discuss database votes
Rich explained that databases will likely be dropped this year; and if this is the case, they will drop from the bottom of the database ranking list. Inspec and APP SCI ABS Web are cancelled and no longer on the list. Communications Mass Media Complete was removed from the list as it received no database votes but is funded by Humanities Journal budget. Database subscriptions at the top of the list will likely be renewed: those at the bottom will not likely be.

b. Distribute and discuss database usage stats
Usage statistics distributed at the February meeting and included in the voting workbook were distributed. MathSciNet will likely not survive the cut as it is lower on the list. Representatives whose departments use Omnifile, Nature Weekly, Current Index to Statistics and PsychArticles were advised to make their faculty aware that these databases will likely be cut unless additional funds are found, but assuming a flat budget this coming year the increased prices of the databases at the top of the list will have to be funded from other journal and database cancellations. PsychArticles is funded through distance learning fees and be will be unaffected until August 2011.

a. Andrea Spender resigned – vacancy: no authorization to fill. Rich will inform the committee if and when the vacant Technical Reference Librarian position is authorized to be filled; Math Department liaison responsibilities have been picked up by Haymwantee Singh, Bruce Slutsky has picked up Physics and Biology, and Management has been picked up by Davida Scharf.

b. Academic Search Premier (NJKI) state funding ends June 30, 2010 Governor Christie has announced that the State Library will no longer be funded as an independent entity any longer. This will affect databases at NJIT that are funded by NJKI such as Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier and RefUSA, reducing our funds for the database ranking list.

c. Business Source Premier funding credit through 6/30/2011 Business Source Premier will continue through June 2011 without state funding as we received a credit a two years ago.

d. State Library Services cut 74% Rich offered that the huge public response to the Governor’s plan could lessen the 74% cut to State Library services that he proposed.

e. No document delivery services expected in 2011 The cuts to State Library funding affects document delivery system. Unless VALE comes up with an alternative delivery system, books lent via ILL would be mailed, and received, through the U.S. Mail at postage rates. An email that Rich forwarded to the librarians from the State Librarian indicated that document delivery will be centered in INFOLINK, but it is unclear whether this will be funded by individual institutions paying an allotment to them, or by state funds paid to them.

f. Interlibrary loans from State Library dropped All interlibrary loan infrastructure that supported the academic and public libraries in the state were eliminated in the Governor’s budget proposal; there were previously four regions in the State that handled the document delivery; three have been eliminated, the fourth is greatly reduced.
g. AY 2011 Budget issues
The additional $4000 price increase from AY 2009 to AY 2010 for MathSciNet was not budgeted in the library’s budget but was a special allocation from the provost. If the library gets a level/flat non-personnel budget for the coming AY, then this last year’s increase will not be budgeted. The Architecture Library is not included in the database and journal ranking and selection process; their budget is handled separately. Databases are different from journals in that access to the entire group of titles must be purchased. Databases are ranked collectively with votes from each academic department, while each academic department independently ranks their individual journal and/or e-journal subscriptions.

i. $78,703 needed to maintain the status quo
With the expected price increases for journals, databases, books and materials and assuming the same non-personnel budget as last year, there will be an approximate shortfall of at least $78K. Assuming a level budget for the coming year, we are likely to lose all databases below IOP Corporate from the database ranking list. Rich explained that cutting from the book budget to make up for this shortfall could have repercussions for our Middle States visit next year, as the library is now ordering only one-third the books being ordered at the time of the last visit, when we were cited for having too few books. Questions about Middle States visit were handled; one committee member asked if Middle States notes the number of journals and databases, and Rich answered that generally, no, as the overall concern is with meeting the needs of undergraduates. Rich cited a graduate student focus group finding that graduate students are generally more interested in having a comprehensive collection of books than databases and journals. Rich stated that a bad report from Middle States would not likely lead to loss of accreditation, but the university’s overall rating may be affected, and could possibly affect a full accreditation in the future.

ii. Decision needed on journal-database-book priorities for AY 2011
Priorities need to be made on whether cuts will be made in the journals, databases or books. Cutting the entire book budget to cover increases in databases and journals would likely be insufficient to solve the problem; the book budget has already decreased from year to year and the cut wouldn’t be enough to make a difference. Journal retention and cancellation decisions are made by the appropriate academic departments, and the budget for that department is allocated based on a formula. Faculty is reminded to check the rankings of journals for their departments and make sure they agree with
them. Department journal lists are available on the faculty library committee website; Haymwantee then showed faculty were to find them. These journal ranking lists are to be edited and given to Erin before the end of the semester. Erin will send a comprehensive email with all information needed and the decisions must be returned to Erin before faculty leave for the summer. Davida reminded department reps to make sure faculty of new programs see the list, as it is often misunderstood that they will automatically get the journals they need. Once we receive our budget in July while the faculty are on summer break, Erin will finalize (using the journal budget formula and each department’s rankings the titles which will be renewed, added or cancelled) and then no changes can be made. Database retention or cancellation is a collective decision of the committee. An exception to this is a department may fund an individual database from their journal budget.

h. eBooks study – note growing interest among graduates
Students seem to be embracing e-books. While E-books are more expensive than print, there are benefits, namely simultaneous access and an e-book does not take up shelf space. NJIT e-books are not yet on portable devices, which is currently happening on other campuses. In contrast, Maya brought up a research finding that states that faculty do not favor e-books.

4. Graduate Library Focus Group Report
Rich shared some points from the Graduate Student Focus Group, which consisted of 11 graduate students that were selected from different departments. One was a PhD student from Architecture who mainly uses the Littman Architecture Library, the rest were users of the Main Library. Four used smart phones and four used Interlibrary Loan. Three used e-books before, seven used books more than journals, four used journals more than books. Complaints included the time restrictions on the group study rooms, which are currently limited to six hours at a time. Wi-Fi was another complaint but that issue has been resolved since then. Noise is also a problem. One student brings a laptop to campus on a regular basis and the others do not, citing lack of security, and it cumbersome to carry around, and the inconvenience of having to power it up. There were also complaints about the computers, cleanliness problems on the second and third floors and restrooms of the Main Library. Staff were given high marks for skills and knowledge, and service. Unsubscribed databases that the library would like to see, such as ArtStor, were mentioned. They stated that book selection is
good in some areas, but books are outdated in other areas. Graduate students who teach want access to textbooks.

5. Information Literacy
Davida reported that for the last UCRC meeting in May, they are working on a report that will be presented to summarize the departmental plans for IL implementation and assessment that were first put forth in December. This report will also be presented for the Middle States Outcomes Assessment Committee. Librarians and faculty are working together to introduce more Information Literacy into the courses. All departments were required to submit plans for Information Literacy instruction and assessment to the UCRC for undergraduates in December, and faculty committee members were shown how to access the individual plans, as well as the university-wide plan online.

6. Rapid ILL Report
Doreen provided an overview of Rapid ILL. As of the last meeting, 81% of requests through Rapid ILL had been filled. For 2009 (Beginning in March) there were 1,017 article requests, and 954 were filled for a 95% fill rate. For January through March of 2010 there were 388 article requests, of which 363 were filled, for a 94% fill rate. Volume of requests is increasing, and processing of these requests is keeping pace. Rich clarified for a faculty member that Rapid ILL is funded by a fee paid by the library, and not per article.

Submitted by Jessica O'Donnell