

## University Library Advisory Council

### Meeting #1: Friday November 29, 2013

**Present:** J. McDermid (Chair), G. Beck, J. Benn, B. Detlor, C. Eilers, C. Galindo, S. Graham, J. Heisz, S. Huque, W. Kahl, V. Lewis, A. Mactavish, J. McKinnell, P. Miu, A. Pearce, O. Perkovic, I. Postic, M. Ramachandran, W. Wyckoff

**Regrets:** R. Cossa, D. Earn

**Guests:** D. Askey, G. Mircea

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1. **Welcome (J. McDermid)**
2. **Review of the minutes / role document from April 2013.**

An updated version of the minutes will be posted to the public web site at:  
<http://library.mcmaster.ca/content/university-library-advisory-committee-ulac-0>

3. **The Work of the Committee - Mandate, meeting frequency, membership terms, minutes**

The chair noted that the group had three primary roles: to advise the University Librarian, to serve as ambassadors within members' home departments or constituencies and to advocate on behalf of the Library to the campus community.

Membership includes a broad spectrum of faculty, students, University Library staff and other interested members.

The group is expected to meet three times during the 2013/14 academic year. Members should expect to reconvene in January/February and then again heading into the spring exam period.

Minutes will be produced in a timely fashion. Drafts will be sent out via e-mail. Members will be given approximately one week to submit corrections before final posting.

#### 4. Report from the Acting University Librarian – Strategic initiatives, Budget, Staffing (V. Lewis)

A copy of the University Librarian's report was sent to all members via e-mail and posted on the ULAC web page. (Please see: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/content/university-library-advisory-committee-ulac-0>)

**Appointments:** The Library has made six continuing appointments since the Spring meeting. We are very happy to have new people and new ideas coming into the organization.

**Budget:** The Library's financial outlook is reasonably good – thanks to a small increase in our framework allocation from the University Budget Committee. A more detailed report will be given at the next meeting.

**E-Books:** A survey of faculty perceptions of e-books was recently conducted by J. Adlington and W. Wyckoff. The group is interested in receiving a report at the next meeting.

**Ask-A-Librarian:** The new virtual reference service was launched in September 2013. 15 University Library operators are contributing approximately 22 hours a week of service to the Ontario-wide service. In return, McMaster students, faculty and staff are receiving 67 hours of service from the consortium. 4-5 operators from different universities are on call at all time. The service is being marketed through social media (Flickr, twitter, facebook, etc.)

**Faculty Member in Residence:** Dr. Brian Detlor (DeGroot) began his term as the Library's first Faculty Member in Residence in July 2013. Dr. Detlor is focusing his efforts on a small number of research projects including a textual analysis of LibQUAL comments (with Kathy Ball) and the Digital Storytelling Project (in conjunction with the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Public Library). He is also supporting librarian research.

**Student Ambassador:** Maitrey Ramachandran assumed her role as the University Library's first Student Ambassador in September. Maitrey is assisting with story writing and social media.

#### 5. Update from the Lewis & Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship (D. Askey)

The Sherman Centre has awarded three fellowships to graduate students engaged in digital scholarship. For details on the successful projects, please see: <http://scds.ca/projects/researchers-projects/>

Have established a hackerspace to support development of DS skills. For details, please see: <http://scds.ca/scds-hackerspace/>

Centre staff members are also involved in a proposal to support campus data management requirements. Discussions are ongoing with Research and High Performance Computing.

The Centre is leading the library's involvement in a province-wide cloud storage project to enhance digital storage capacity.

Work continues on building a new digital archive for storing the library's rich digital collections. Hope to unveil the new resource early in 2014.

Other news:

- Sherman Centre staff will be involved in teaching a credit course in fall 2014.
- The Centre has been named in two SSHRC grant applications.

## **6. Focus Topic: Open Access and Scholarly Research (Presentation by Olga Perkovic and Gabriela Mircea)**

Olga Perkovic presented an overview of open access and Digital Commons, McMaster's institutional repository. Gabriela Mircea presented information on open access journals and McMaster's new platform for online journals (Escarment Press). Their presentation is available on the ULAC web site at: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/content/university-library-advisory-committee-ulac-0>)

The group had a free-ranging discussion around the key issues. Many members expressed frustration with the high fees being charged by publishers to publish articles. The fees were creating a "publish AND perish" environment.

Many members expressed general agreement with the proposed new Tri-Council policy which mandates public access to federally-funded research. One member noted that the new harmonized policy only covers funded research – not the far larger universe of non TC-funded research.

Some members expressed concern about the fate of small publishers which are ranked high in their respective fields but not set up to support electronic distribution. Some have made choices in recent years that are not compatible with OA.

The chair noted that all scholars want to publish in the highest quality journals. It costs a lot for him to publish in OA. For example, Maney charges

\$2,000 USD to publish open access in science/technology journals and \$800 to publish in humanities/social science journals.

One member noted that some funders explicitly disallows direct pay to publishers out of grant funds.

The Director of the Health Sciences Library noted that researchers in her field have been living with OA fees for some years (CIHR has had an OA mandate since 2008.) She also noted the existence of several high-profile OA journals.

One member suggested that we needed further discussions with publishers. What is the business case for open and traditional publishing models?

Awareness: Researchers are unaware of their options re publication contracts. Many only glance at the contracts they sign and do not keep copies over time. Some assume that their contracts wont allow them to publish OA – but don't know for sure.

Changing Practice: May take a few years of persistence to create a stronger culture for OA. By way of comparison, it took a few years to make the community aware of and consistently thinking about research ethics board requirements.

Mandate: Researchers would be more willing to deposit material if they received a statement from the Provost or V.P. Research around OA.

Students: Students support open access in principle. McMaster is a member of CASA – which has a policy on OA. (For details, see the press release at: [http://www.casa-acae.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/CASA\\_PR\\_OA-Week.pdf](http://www.casa-acae.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/CASA_PR_OA-Week.pdf))

Some institutions have created a mechanism whereby researchers can send a request for an article. The article is automatically sent to them via e-mail, thus alleviating the need to actually post the material online.

University Research Council: Olga Perkovic and Gabriela Mircea will be doing a short presentation on OA and the IR at the University Research Council. This body is chaired by the V.P. Research & International Affairs and is composed of the various Associate Deans of Research for the faculties.

V. Lewis and J. McDermid will brief the Provost.

## **7. Next meeting / adjournment**

The group will meet again in February 2014.