



## University Library Advisory Council (ULAC)

Monday February 29, 2016

Chair: Dr. J. McDermid

**Present:** J. McDermid (chair), J. Heisz, R. Howland, D. Kidney, W. Kahl, V. Lewis, S. Nestico-Semianiw, W. Wyckoff

**Regrets:** J. Benn, R. Cossa, S. Huque, J. McKinnell

**Guest:** A. Pottier

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### 1. Welcome and Introductions (J. McDermid)

### 2. Updates from the University Librarian (V. Lewis)

**Strategic Plan:** The University Library released a new strategic plan covering the period 2015-2020. Under this new plan, the Library aspires to be a “catalyst for intellectual activity for the University and its community. The plan is available at: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2p2MCEoZE\\_remdKdGxlb3M1VkU/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2p2MCEoZE_remdKdGxlb3M1VkU/view). Thanks to the many members of ULAC who provided feedback!

**Development:** The Library has hired Chryslin Pais as a Development Officer. Chryslin will help raise funds for programs, collections and spaces.

**Copyright:** McMaster publically announced that it was opting out of the Access Copyright deal. <https://library.mcmaster.ca/news/35542>. For copyright questions, please contact [copyright@mcmaster.ca](mailto:copyright@mcmaster.ca)

**Open Access:** The Library created a new video and online tool to help researchers comply with the Tri-Agency Policy on Open Access. The tool is available from: <https://library.mcmaster.ca/news/32138>.

- **ACTION:** Vivian will ask Zachary Batist, the graduate student who won the OpenCon conference travel scholarship to come to the next meeting to talk about what he learned.
- **ACTION:** Vivian will also ask Olga Perkovic and Sarah O’Byrne to speak about Open Access and Jay Brodeur to speak about research data management.

**Humanities 2DH3:** The University Library taught its first credit-bearing undergraduate course in January 2015. The course, an introduction to Digital Humanities, was team-taught by a group of staff (including one PDF) in the Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship. The first run focused on WWI collections held in Archives & Special Collections. The second run of the course, which started in January 2016, is focusing on writing for Wikipedia.

### 3. Library Budget (V. Lewis)

The Library is finalizing its budget for submission to the Provost's Office. Early indications are that we will finish the current year in reasonable shape but will see an in-year shortfall beginning next year – due in large part to journal inflation and currency.

**Journal Inflation:** The cost of information resources climbs well in excess of inflation. On average, individual journal prices increase 5-7% a year. (By purchasing in large packages through consortiums, we can often keep the increases down to 3-5%.)

Our ability to add and drop specific titles is limited. The vast majority of our serial subscriptions (upwards of 75%) are made consortially with our Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) and Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) counterparts – as part of binding, multi-year agreements.

**Currency Crisis:** The dramatic reduction in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar this past year is having a disastrous impact on our Information Resources budget, here at McMaster and across the country. We estimate that we lost \$700K in 2015/16, just due to currency.

### 4. Master Space Plan (A. Pottier)

The Library commissioned the architectural firm of Perkins + Will to do a master space plan for Mills, Innis and Thode Libraries. The consultants met with students, faculty, staff, senior administrators and members of this committee. Many members of the McMaster community submitted comments using an online survey.

The plan identifies several key problems including: infrastructure and accessibility code concerns, inadequate study environments, un-inviting and overly-complex navigation and poor staff spaces.

**Proposed Changes to Mills:** Significant improvements to study space (more quiet and silent study space, significant increase in group study rooms), bigger grad study space, enhancements to Community Room, shared event space with Museum, improvements to Research Collections (adding exhibit space and a classroom), creating a more inviting entrance .

**Proposed Changes to Thode:** Improved acoustic controls (one member noted that Thode acts as an “amplifier”), conversion of the closed-access storage area to open stacks, a greater variety of purposeful study space, enhanced access to collections, creation of a Maker Space, a better classroom.

Limited Changes Proposed to Innis given the discussion of expanding the building.

Members liked the proposed cut-out in the lobby of Mills to bring more light and visibility into the building. Noted that the concept was similar to the “constructed void” in Hamilton Hall.

**Next Steps:** Anne Pottier will offer a lobby display and comment event in Mills and Thode. Will also offer an opportunity to provide feedback online.

5. **Member Queries - none**

6. **Adjournment -**