

LMIS meeting 2/28/2017

Present: Mike Benveniste, James Bernhard (Chair), Jane Carlin, Kate Cohn, Jeremy Cucco, Ann Gleason, D. Wade Hands (minutes taker), Zaixin Hong, Andrew McPherran, Patrick O'Neil, and Lori Ricigliano,

Meeting called to order at 8:15.

Approval of minutes from next to last meeting. Minutes from last meeting to be approved 3/21/17.

The focus of the meeting was on the library with Jane Carlin and Lori Ricigliano leading the discussion. Jane provided a handout "Collins Library Updates" and discussed the major points. Jane and Lori provided an overview of library assessment efforts and also discussed new services. There will be a new PRIMO interface (library catalog) debuting in the summer.

Within the context of the discussion, James raised a question about the number of passwords necessary for entrance into the library system. Librarians are aware of this frustration but the current technical configuration of the system does not accommodate a streamlined approach, however, this is a concern voiced by many libraries so hopefully there will be a solution in the future.

Lori led the discussion of the LIBQUAL survey results which provides national comparative data on library access, use, and services. She emphasized the places – most of the categories – where our scores were very good and a couple places where the data was weaker than we would like. Various efforts to address the concerns were discussed. Categories where the results were quite positive included a number of the questions about the level of satisfaction with staff and services (staff being informed, caring, providing attention, etc.). There was some concern about access to electronic journals, but of course that is a budget constraint issue.

There was a detailed discussion of space and the library as a place as well as services, information, and control, including training for students. In the category of the library as place, there was some concern about group work places. This seemed to be a big concern for students, but there is a trade-off with having a sufficient number of quiet places. Various furnishing solutions were discussed as well as the color zones (lower levels for group work and higher levels for quiet space) as a strategy for balancing the trade-off between collaboration and quiet space.

Zaixin raised a question about Google books. There was also a question about a more user-friendly map of library spaces (an app was suggested).

The question of having a café space for coffee, etc. was discussed and a cart outside (in good weather) was suggested. It was also noted that students have expressed some concerns about florescent lights, and these concerns are being addressed, but because of the expense, it will take time. Jane and Lori noted that the concerns addressed about the library space are consistent with previous surveys: more group study spaces, better lighting, flexible seating, reliable wi-fi, and upgrades to printing. The Library has made several changes to provide more open space, with some capability for group seating.

Lori's presentation ended on a positive note emphasizing the large number of very positive responses by students and faculty praising the library's teaching support. In general the data shows satisfaction with library services and the areas of concern are being addressed as resources permit.

Jane noted that faculty comments reflect expectations and these move with various changes in technology and wider social forces. Librarians are planning some faculty workshops to provide updates about library services as well as working on ways to make journal access more seamless.

There was some discussion of HUM399 "Library as Collaboratory" course which is an activity credit course to help humanities students with library projects that improve their communication, problem-solving, digital humanities and project management skills. The "From Script to Stage" project was also discussed, which is a Council of Independent Colleges and Artstor sponsored project. Several hundred images that document our theatre department productions are now available online.

The full access to the New York Times was noted and everyone was encouraged to use it and encourage students to use it.

In the final fifteen minutes Jane discussed student edited journals, library collections to support the NOW initiative, support for race and pedagogy, and Ron Thomas' materials in the special collections.

Patrick raised a question about the access to Taylor and Francis journals in the library. Jane noted she would get some more specific information and respond.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12.