

**REPORT OF THE LIBRARY, MEDIA AND
ACADEMIC COMPUTING COMMITTEE
2003-2004**

May 10, 2004

To: Faculty Senate

From: Peter Greenfield, chair

Actions Taken:

1. Approved the library's decision to stop binding most periodicals.
2. Endorsed the broad goals expressed in the library's draft mission statement, with the understanding that the library will develop specific goals and policies by next fall, based on its statement of priorities, and will bring those specific goals and policies to LMAC for discussion next year.

Summary of Committee Meetings:

After focusing on academic computing issues over the past couple of years, LMAC this year concerned itself primarily with the library. New library director Karen Fischer and her staff brought us several issues related to collection development, library services, and budget. The committee provided some generalized faculty views on these issues, with specific decisions on collection development to be made in consultation with departments.

Perhaps the major concern is the increasing cost of periodicals, particularly those we get in electronic form. Providers bundle the periodicals they offer, frequently forcing us to pay for journals we do not want, and to duplicate electronic versions of some popular journals. Moreover, providers go in and out of business, and alter which journals they provide, making it difficult to ensure long-term access to complete runs. One question for the future is whether electronic sources such as JSTOR mean we no longer need to keep back issues of journals indefinitely. Library staff will work with individual departments in making decisions about the purchasing and archiving of periodicals.

One means of saving on the library budget that is being tried as an experiment is to cease binding back issues of journals except in special cases. Binding appears less necessary, now that a high percentage of back issues are consulted electronically. Library staff will monitor the situation to see if paper back issues suffer more physical damage, or become badly disorganized.

Concerning academic computing, the committee heard about the trial of RefWorks, web-based citation software, about the continuing efforts to increase the number of electronic classrooms available on campus, and about new software for managing digital objects such as image files. Most important for future LMACs is Norm Imamshah's urging that the committee become more active in representing faculty views and needs on information technology to the Technology Planning Group, in order to give the faculty a strong voice in the budget planning process.