

Final Report
FY2017 LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

The University Senate Library Committee met three times this academic year, on October 17, November 14, and March 7. In addition, the chair held a public meeting in February. The results of those meetings is listed below, in terms of the standing charges:

In general, most of the topics this year, as it was last year, concerned digitalization, its positive and negative effects on the library (and on faculty in general), and budget, with respect to staff and to the collection. This summary is organized with respect to the charges to the committee:

1. Charge: "Monitor the Libraries' long-range planning and allocation of resources—staff, physical space, equipment, collections, digitally-based information, etc.—in light of the needs of different academic disciplines and the flat budget situation. Assess the adequacy of these plans and resource allocations to support teaching (including both undergraduate and graduate) and research. Report issues and recommendations for action to SenEx."

The longest range view of the library is that it is in an era of budgetary decline, and most budgetary strategy concerns dealing with that decline, while adjusting to the challenges and opportunities of digital technology. Dean Smith reported in March that the Library was seeking to be more involved in long range university planning, since these plans often required library support when they were implemented. With the anticipated arrival of a new chancellor, the main focus is on the current short term strategy, about which Dean Smith reported at length in March. The three priorities are 1, supporting research; 2, strategic partnerships; 3, organizational vitality. A major partnership is with Digital Humanities. In October, there was a report on the cancellation of the Springer Collection of Journals, and more generally about the budgetary burden of academic journals. Dean Smith mentioned several other initiatives concerning journal aggregators. Other sources of funding are being explored. But the library is approaching "a crisis point" in purchasing. Although the University Library ranks in the top fifty public university libraries, this is on the basis of total collection, not on current purchasing.

2. Charge: "Monitor the effectiveness of communication between the Libraries and students, faculty, and staff, about topics including but not limited to library-based instruction in classes and academic programs in support of university-wide learner outcomes. Report issues and recommendations for action to SenEx. (ongoing)"

The dean raised a number of activities aimed at students, in some cases at marginal students: the common book, the role of Open Access in reducing text costs, the new writing center in Anschutz, gender inclusive restrooms, a "safe Zone." There was a report on "research sprints" in the October meeting, an intensive period of cooperation between a scholar with a project and library staff. Future "sprints" are to be held. Rebecca Smith of Communication and Advancement spoke about various

communication activities, including social media and special events. In "advancement," she mentioned the creation of a "Board of Advocates" and of other fundraising.

3. Charge: "Obtain a report from the Open Access advisory board concerning activities, and long-range planning for Open Access at KU."

Open access was the main topic in the November meeting. Ada Emmett reported on the status of Open Access: in 2014 44% of faculty had items in ScholarWorks, and currently there are seven million items. There was detailed information about dealing with copyright issues; faculty should consult the Schulenberger Office of Scholarly Communications if they have questions.

Faculty can initiate having work entered in this program, but there is also library staff dedicated to collecting eligible material. (Marianne Reed, at the Nov. meeting).

4. Charge: "Seek information from the KU faculty, staff, and students about their concerns. Report issues and recommendations for action to SenEx. (ongoing)"

The Library assesses user satisfaction. More could be done on this front by the committee.

5. Charge: "Convene an open meeting with Libraries faculty and staff in the fall semester. Report issues and recommendations for action to SenEx by 12/1/15."

It is difficult to schedule this meeting in the Fall, and for a second time it was held early in the spring semester. In February, the chair met with six library staff members, 2 of which are ex-officio members of the committee. Concerning the changes in the way reference librarians are used, there was consensus that patrons obtain the services they need. The new issue that arose was the need for a university wide system of records management. There is a University Archives, but there is no consistent implementation of the policy by university entities concerning which records should be deposited there. Improvement on this front would require clear directives from administration and additional staff in archives.

Specific charge: "FY2017 Committee. According to the Open Access Policy for University of Kansas Scholars, that policy should be reviewed every three years. The policy was last revised and updated in FY2014.

<http://policy.ku.edu/governance/open-access-policy>

In addition to a general report on the level of acceptance of this policy and issues encountered in getting it established, the review should address the following:

- a. How well it has been accepted by publishers, which publishers do not support the policy, and whether this has contributed to researchers being unable to put their work in the repository;
- b. The percentage of the faculty who are participating;
- c. Whether there are particular disciplines or research areas that are "underrepresented" in the repository."

This was addressed above. But some of these questions were specifically answered. Scott Hanrath, Assistant Dean of Digital Initiatives and Discovery Services, reported on the technical aspects of ScholarWorks. Dean Smith described how there were discussions with his publisher that led to his recent book being made accessible on Open Access. Ada Emmett, as mentioned above, said that individual scholars can get their works into ScholarWorks, and Dean Smith said there was hard information that indicated open access listing increases the total number of readers, and that it appears that such listing does not depress sales. This is a major interest of the new dean and we can expect this area to flourish.