

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Faculty Council on University Libraries
November 16, 2005

The Faculty Council on University Libraries was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, **November 16, 2005**, in The Petersen Room, Allen Library. Chair Beth Kerr presided over the meeting.

Synopsis

1. Approval of the notes of October 20, 2005.
2. DSpace and Institutional Repository Update (Ann Lally, Head, Digital Initiatives)
3. Digital Futures Alliance (Betsy Wilson)
4. Discussion of letter from Mel DeSart (to be forwarded to the council)

Welcome and Introductions – Chair Beth Kerr

FCUL Chair Beth Kerr again welcomed new and returning members to the 2005-2006 academic year. Council members introduced themselves, identified their department or unit, and briefly noted their academic or administrative focus.

Approval of minutes

The notes of October 20, 2005 were approved as written.

DSpace and Institutional Repository Update - (Ann Lally, Head, Digital Initiatives)

Lally gave an abbreviated update to the Council beginning with in March 2003 the libraries installed a barebones institutional repository system called DSpace which is open source, developed by MIT Libraries in partnership with Hewlett Packard. Since that time DSpace continues to move forward. The libraries has been working to establish DSpace communities (being a department, a college, etc) within the depository at the University of Washington, and within the communities you establish collections. She gave a few examples and noted that there really isn't a software constraint on how these communities are created. The Libraries has been working on policies, but plan on waiting until things come forward before establishing strict guidelines. One policy, for those departments who have a thesis requirement for their undergraduate degree, we will put those in. Not every college or program will go in there, only those required for completion of their degree – which also includes honor thesis such as the Women studies. Subject specialists in the libraries know about these programs and try to get the word out. Ann has been trying to educate people on campus but there still seems to be some confusion of what the point of this would be -- Why they should to use DSpace, how it can be used. MIT worked with marketing executives to establish this on campus and found they needed to talk to people seven times before they understood the principle and incorporate it into their daily activity

The mission of D-space software is to house faculty and other publications (preprints, white papers, working papers) to begin to take back scholarly communication. Ann mentioned the high price of serials and one of the things the libraries is trying to do to off set this is to build depositories of faculty preprints. Sometime in the future, there will be a body of literature to build something that will harvest all of these papers to get around publishers. Lally defined a preprint as the file you have that is sent to Elsevier, who reformat it into their format. This is the post print. The advantage is the professors hold the copyright on the preprint, particularly in the field of medicine. Getting preprint materials into the depository helps people get access to the information who couldn't get it otherwise. The difference is that Google points to things...this would be a house where things are stored, where Google points. The D stands for Durable. It is set up as a repository where an institution would take responsibility for the file information long term so it has a preservation aspect as well. The question was asked do we want to preserve all this information? Maybe a department decides what goes into the DSpace for that

department. A filtering process most likely would exist. For selection, each group would be able to make their own selection guidelines. There would be a set of depository wide guidelines as well, set up by the Libraries. The Libraries is being considered as a place to store the electronic dissertations and thesis with commitments that the file still could be read 20-30 years from now. Wilson commented that DSpace could be used for University Archives along with other applications. DSpace is really a mechanism for highly reliable storage with an institutional responsible for maintaining it. DSpace also has a persistent URL so if the URL is in a book, DSpace is a digital storage for primary sources for future records. It can also be used for records retention issues. An end date can be put on the records in DSpace in case there are things that people may not need in the future. DSpace is all stored on rada ray in ITS.

A member noted that Publisher access is not guaranteed in the long term and if they don't continue to provide service, those documents they have are lost forever. Wilson noted our experience with DSpace is being used for a wide variety of things and gave an example that the first collection that went into DSpace were images of 2000-year-old Buddhist manuscripts that researchers are using all across the world. These collections are controlled as a working environment. This group was looking for a persistent way to preserve the images so their research could be carried out.

Lally mentioned the iSchool is putting their technical reports in DSpace. Applied mathematics and mathematics both have faculty members who are putting their preprints in the repository. The Communications department wants to store web pages. The University Archives is also using DSpace.

It was asked why limit access to DSpace. Lally said sometimes large .tif files are added or large audio files with limited access so people can't go out and copy these things without permission.

The Libraries hope that theses and dissertations will eventually be placed in this depository. There is a committee working on how to implement the electronic dissertation and thesis project since there are a lot of questions to answer. The libraries feel confident they can store and provide access to these documents now the DSpace has been developed. The advantage would be a writer's copyright would be protected. Electronic format will save shelf space.

Lally explained how to get to Digital repository from the Libraries web page. She mentioned that once a community or collection is well established the library will add a collective level record to the libraries catalog.

Wilson mentioned she has met with the Graduate School Dean who is also interested in putting in the thesis and dissertations. The goal of the committee to is have an implementation plan in place at the end of this academic year. There are still many questions that have to be answered. An example is will the staff in the graduate school be able to transfer the paper version to electronic version so it can be added to DSpace? There are lots of things that need to go into the process. It's not a technical issue anymore, but more a matter of policies and transitions. Wilson said she didn't think there are any disciplines that would say electronic doesn't serve them.

The libraries are funding the increase of space for DSpace.

A council member suggested that this opportunity be presented to the units. Lally assured them she will be pursuing communities to add to DSpace.

Digital Futures Alliance - Betsy Wilson

Wilson briefed the Council on the recent developments in a major initiative the Libraries has launched called the Digital Futures Alliance. About six months ago, the Libraries' campaign committee for the Libraries asked Wilson what issue "keeps her up at night." Wilson mentioned the issue that concerns her

most as the Dean of University Libraries – long term - is digitally born information (information that is being created digitally), we don't have a good understanding as a society, on how are we are going to preserve and archive all this information created digitally.

Wilson mentioned there are a lot of experiments and approaches on portions of this problem, but nothing that is a comprehensive mechanism. Data is being created and maintained by research teams, but what happens to the data when they are finished with it? We are, as individuals, writing email more than letters on paper. Wilson mentioned that some have referred to the past several years as a “digital dark age” and we are losing a lot of the world's intellectual output because of the fleeting nature of digital transmissions. She mentioned websites that are now gone such as sites for the recent presidential campaign.

Wilson noted that her committee told her there is a group of technology companies in the area that should be able to help with this issue. This is how the Digital Futures Alliance was formed. On September 14, the Libraries brought together over 50 Northwest companies, libraries, and other organizations to start have a conversation on a solution for networked long term preservation and accessibility. Cliff Lynch for the Coalition of Networked Information reviewed what was going on internationally in this arena. Also, a panel talked about the challenge of archiving digital information in their own organizations.

Wilson noted there was a lot of interest from the UW which makes us at the forefront to solve these problems. Wilson noted that her goal was to get these various sectors to start talking to each other. Through the discussion, the group found out they need a better problem definition. What do we need when we talk about digital archives? What do we need when we talk about digital preservation? An external organization called New Edge has been secured who is involved to get a handle on the definition by interviewing the organizations involved. Research is almost concluded and that report will serve as a basis for next steps for the DFA.

From the Libraries point of view, the decision to archive digitally born information could be made at the creation of the information. The Libraries often receive the information at the end. President Emmert sees a critical role for the University and the Libraries as neutral parties in bringing others together. Presentation of digitally born information is a technical, social, educational, legal, organizational issue.

There are few standards. There are many views on what information needs to be preserved. Wilson noted that she hopes what comes out of the Alliance is best practices.

Wilson sees great promise with the Alliance and promised to keep the Council informed at another meeting.

Discussion of letter from Mel DeSart (see background document)

Mel DeSart, Head of the Engineering Library, briefed the council on the open letter to University President's and Provosts from UCSB economics professors Theodore Bergstrom and Preston McAfee. DeSart mentioned that Ted Bergstrom has been doing this kind of research for a number of years – and his son Carl, who is a faculty member in the Biology department, have co-authored a number of works looking at the economics of scholarly publishing. The data indicated that, on average, cost per page and cost per citation are significantly lower for not-for-profit journals than for for-profit titles. The authors of the study specifically mention results for the for-profit titles. The authors of the study specifically mention results for six subject areas in their letter, but they have numbers for far more than those six subject areas (listed in the document). The website they mention at the end of the document <http://www.journalprices.com> is wonderfully interesting to be able to decipher hundreds of journals and to see cost comparisons all in one spot.

Charles Wilkinson also presented a letter to the Council regarding NIH and open access policy. Discussion followed with the Council members on various issues.

It was suggested that the FCUL should think about ways to promote awareness and what will be needed to point faculty and students to the website. This is one of the FCUL roles. Wilson suggested a symposium for the campus highlighting what's happening with journal pricing.

It was also suggested that perhaps a means of getting people to think about journal pricing could be an article in *University Week*. Also the FCUL notes will be on the Faculty Senate web page for people to read. Kerr suggested that the FCUL address ways to build campus awareness at another meeting. She also suggested that perhaps DeSart could define some of the more mysterious indices found on the "journal price webpage" so that readers could have more background when they look at the webpage. It was also suggested that a workshop with Carl Bergstrom might be beneficial.

5. Next FCUL meeting

Kerr suggested the council visit the Sandpoint facility for the next meeting. She will send an email to all members to see if there is interest. Wilson will arrange transportation for the members.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Future agenda items:

Visiting the Sand Point facility

Libraries Budget

Biosciences

Scholarly communications and institutional depository

New programs i.e. nanotechnology, archive databases

Next meeting

The next FCUL meeting will take place Tuesday, December 13, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Sandpoint Facility.

PRESENT: *Professors* Beth Kerr (chair), Charles Wilkinson, Gregory Korshin, Robert Goodkin, Aurel Bulgac

Ex officio members, Betsy Wilson, Larry Bliquez, Jonathan Evans

Guests: Ann Lally, Mel DeSart

Representatives: PSO Alternate Jeanette Mills, Jonathan Evans

ABSENT: *Professors:* Ann Sales

Guest: Charles Chamberlin

EXCUSED

ABSENCE: *Professors* Stuart Sutton; Anneclaire DeRoos, George Martin

Representatives: Jessica Albano

Ex officio members: Laurel Sercombe