

Senate Library Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2015

[These notes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these notes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

In these minutes: [Update on University Libraries; special collections available digitally]

PRESENT: David Fox, chair; Leann Dean, Douglas Olson, Wendy Lougee, Teresa Beaulieu, Matthew Rosendahl, Andrea Johnson, Neil Olszewski, Marlo Welshons, Bo Hu, Owen Williams, Jill Trites, Daniel Pesut

REGRETS: Ron Hadsall, Connie Lenz, Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran, Michelle Brasure, Vicki Graham, Evan Roberts

ABSENT: Joan Howland

GUESTS: Cecily Marcus, curator, Givens Collection of African American Literature, Upper Midwest Literary Archives, and Performing Arts Archives

Chair David Fox welcomed the committee, and committee members introduced themselves.

1. Update on University Libraries

Wendy Lougee, University Librarian, updated the committee on the status of the University Libraries. Lougee referenced materials previously distributed and reviewed highlights, including:

FY16 collection funding

- Allocation less than required to cover inflation; received one-time support to bridge. Cancelled ~ \$200,000 journals, databases
- Reducing/reallocating commitments
- Transfer of Copyright Permissions Center
- Reconfiguration of staffing after voluntary layoff program
- New costs: enterprise systems, insurance, job study, minimum wage

Update Programs

- Facilities enhancements
- Data curation: DRUM and workshops
- Digital Preservation proposal under review by IT Capital Planning group
- Experts, research impact, identifiers
- Publishing services
- Affordable course content

Affordable Course Content: a series of programs aimed at reducing student costs for course materials. Components include:

- Library licensed resources such as ejournals and ebooks

- Freely available open textbooks
- Open education resources/modules
- Faculty created, openly licensed materials
- Lawful determinations of fair use

Lougee went on to discuss the Partnership for Affordable Content launched in Spring 2014, noting that textbook and course materials costs were increasingly problematic for students. The average undergraduate student nationally spends over \$1,200 a year on textbooks and other course materials. Lougee said through this partnership, the University Libraries could help faculty and instructors find and use alternative content to help alleviate costs for students.

Highlights of the program included:

- Providing the faculty award program, offering small grants (\$500 to \$1500) to explore more affordable alternative content for their course
- Bringing together all Library eLearning efforts to date: Digital Course Packs, reserves, open textbooks, Coordinated Service Model, content creation
- Showcasing success stories to leverage future work with faculty in these areas
- Website: <http://z.umn.edu/pfac>

Lougee gave examples of the partnership faculty awards, and emphasized potential savings of \$167,000/year with these courses:

- Ethics & Value Sports: replaced traditional textbook with a Digital Course Pack
 - 45 students; \$1600 savings
- Statistics-Nonparametric Methods
 - Open Educational Resource & Licensed – 50 students; \$12,500 savings
- Mass Communication – Open text
 - 400 students; \$22,000 savings
- Survey of Kinesiology
 - Library licensed content
 - 425 students; \$34,000 savings
- Biostat Methods
 - Digital Course Pack (open & licensed content) – 250 students; \$37,500 savings
- Geography: Mapping our World
 - Digital Course pack (open & licensed content) – 300-400 students; \$60,000 savings

Lougee then described digital course packs:

- Published through Libraries course reserves system
- Can include:
 - Library licensed, fair use, freely available, and royalty required
 - Articles, ebooks, PDF, images, video, etc.
- Fall 2012 - Spring 2015
 - Estimate: saved 405 courses and 10,680 students over \$411,000

Lougee discussed the Bookstore Course Lists pilot, which took place in Fall 2015:

- Required course materials from the bookstore were matched with library ebook holdings - list created

- The Libraries added the materials to course reserves - which can easily be added to Moodle sites
- Licensed 200 unlimited or multiple user titles for dozens of courses (\$20,000 investment)

Lougee reviewed the strategic plan for the Libraries in 2016-2018.

FY16 Major Priorities

- Collections investments
- Course content & services
- Content creation & publishing
- Data management and curation Digital preservation
- Researcher expertise, impact analytics, & identity services
- Master plan for physical spaces

Fox thanked Lougee for the update.

2. Digitization of special collections: *Umbra: Search African American History*

Lougee began by saying the University had extraordinary special collections and was one of the largest special collections in the country, especially of archives. Digitization is supported through internal funding programs as well as grants (MN Legacy Amendment and federal/private foundations). Key examples of initiatives include:

- Minnesota Digital Library (MDL), a program of Minitex and the University Libraries, working with approximately 170 libraries, museums, and historical societies in the state to digitize content.
- MDL as a leading Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) service hub, based on a much like Google.
- Umbra: Search African American History (umbrasearch.org): A national search tool that brings together the most extensive digital collection dedicated to African American history and culture from U.S. archives, museums, and cultural heritage institutions. The purpose of Umbra is to bring the hidden, unknown, and anonymous stories of African American people out of the shadows—or *umbra*—of American history in order to inspire and support contemporary scholarship, works of art, politics, and policies reflect the depth and diversity of our collective past.
 - Umbra brings together over 400,000 digitally available materials documenting African American history and culture
 - More than 500 US archives, museums and cultural heritage institutions are represented in Umbra, discovering 400 years of African American cultural history in Umbra
 - Works off the DPLA model and in partnership with DPLA
 - Project began in 2014; it is in second year of development, but comes out of years of deep partnership with Penumbra Theatre Company around archives and questions of historical context and legacy.
 - Umbra is freely available for use by students, teachers, writers, journalists, artists, and the general public

- Umbra is presented by the Givens Collection of African American Literature at the University of Minnesota Libraries in partnership with the Penumbra Theatre Company

Future plans for Umbra include:

- Planned work on issues of terminology and taxonomies to improve search as a national effort: “Making Digitization Matter: The Case of Culturally Specific Taxonomies”
- 2016 rollout with local and national events, site visits, and stakeholder meetings
- Digitizing more archival content: UMN African American Digital Collection (CLIR)
- Release of the Umbra: Search African American History widget
- Continued work with partner institutions to test and embed widget
- Continued beta and usability testing (www.umbrasearch.org/about/participate or email info@umbrasearch.org.)

Key questions asked:

- What happens when you can’t see the item you clicked on (only available in a reading room, for example)? There is value in knowing it exists and where.
- What possibilities exist for creating other topical “collections?” There is interest from DPLA in this work, and Umbra making these conversations timelier.
- Is Hmong and Somali content included in Umbra? If it’s digitized and freely available and we can find it, Umbra hopes to include it.
- Do library users prefer print or digital content? Though there is an increase in accessing digital materials across devices, print still works best for certain groups/individuals.
- Fox thanked Marcus for the information and discussion. Fox said in his absence, Olszewski would chair the October meeting.

Hearing no further business, Fox adjourned the meeting.

Mary Jo Pehl
University Senate