

LIBRARY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2003

[In these minutes: Report from the University Librarian, Journals: Status and Shifting Models, Report on Meeting with Professor Jasper Hopkins]

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

PRESENT: Ray Wakefield, Chair, LeAnn Dean, Wendy Lougee, April Schwartz, Bill Sozansky, Owen Williams, John H. Anderson, Jill Barnum, David R. Brown, Elaine Challacombe, Robert Dexter, Lael Gatewood

REGRETS: Joan Howland, Isaac Fox, William Phillips, Leon Satkowski, Thomas Scanlan

ABSENT: Sue Engelmann, Victoria Iwanij

OTHER(S): Suzanne Thorpe

I). Professor Wakefield called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present.

II). REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN:

- University Librarian Wendy Lougee reported to the Committee that the Library just received word that some of its compact requests were granted. The Library will receive approximately \$630,000 in recurring support for: collections, undergraduate initiatives, digital library and systems development, security, and copyright education.
- Ms. Lougee noted that Ellen Nagle, director of the Biomedical Library, recently announced her retirement. The Library has already begun working with the AHC to explore needs and directions for the Library's future. This process will help determine what is happening in the biomedical and health disciplines and what the Library needs to do to be a robust player in that

arena. Ms. Lougee further noted that the head of the Vet Medicine Library, Livija Carlson, recently retired as well.

- The Library has begun working with museums, historical societies, and libraries throughout the State to launch a Minnesota Digital Library that will focus on the first 50 years of primary source material dealing with the State's history. The initial phase will convert visual resources (e.g., photographs, art, maps) for on-line use by K-12 students and the citizenry in general. Grant funds are likely for this initiative. More information will be available concerning this effort in a couple months.

III) RECENT TRENDS AND ISSUES IN JOURNALS:

Ms. Lougee provided an overview of issues associated with scholarly/research journals. In the last several decades, there have been several trends: high inflation (particularly from commercial publishers), greater use of technology, and new models for format and pricing.

The conventions of journals (i.e., how they are structured and reviewed have evolved over three centuries. Practices for recording ownership and discoveries emerged over time and have become deeply rooted within the academy.

There are really two types of markets operating. Producers and consumers of knowledge operate in a "gift" economy—i.e., faculty donate their time for peer review and editorial boards. Further, authors often turn over copyright to publishers and, users rarely pay for content in the context of a library. In the gift economy, typically there are no dollar values attached to these services. On the other hand, libraries operate in a market economy. Libraries are in the middle between the publisher and the user, responding to requests and having to pay for these resources. The market economy is inelastic -i.e., publishers can raise prices significantly, but libraries do not cancel subscriptions proportionally. For example, over the past 15 years journal prices have increased approximately 215%, and libraries, in general, have only cancelled 5% of journals on average. Libraries have been put in a position to coalesce the support of its user community who have varying interests. However, if libraries band together in an attempt to strengthen support, they are accused of collusion.

Ms. Lougee explained what is taking place currently in the journal environment. She highlighted the following:

- There is tremendous volatility in the publishing environment. Not only is there volatility in terms of pricing, but how publishers are adapting to new options, new models for distribution (licenses), and new models for managing rights.
- Fundamental issues surrounding intellectual property and content are being raised.
- There is an increase in the amount of journal competition. An Association of Research Libraries (ARL) initiative, SPARC (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition), was launched to generate competition in the scholarly publishing environment. The program provides start-up monies to new journals to introduce non-profit competition in the marketplace. The University of Minnesota invests in this initiative.
- The roles of publishers have changed. In the past, libraries were the archives for journals. In the new era, however, most content resides on servers at a publisher's site. Publishers are being forced to think about whether they are the archive, and, if so, how will this role be sustained and funded. In addition, publishers are needing to think about service and user support issues. These new roles are requiring publishers to consider how to incorporate the cost of these services into their pricing structure.

The inflationary phase of journals of the late 70s and early 80s witnessed:

- Double-digit inflation, 'differential pricing' and exchange rate issues.
- An increase in publishers' production costs and the need to invest in new non-proprietary systems. In addition, paper and postage costs increased.
- A fundamental shift in the roles of publishers from production and distribution to archiving.

Ms. Lougee referenced charts in her PowerPoint handout, which supports her comments on the inflationary phase of journals. The University has been experiencing approximately 9% annual inflation for the last 3 years and last year that increased to 12%. To illustrate what this means, Ms. Lougee stated that the Library last year would have needed to receive an increase of \$800,000 - \$900,000 to order to not cut any of the journals it had been receiving and to sustain monographic purchase levels. Ms. Lougee also noted that the highest rate of increase of all the costs of higher education is library materials. This surpasses utility and benefit costs.

Ms. Lougee encouraged members to read a 2002 Morgan Stanley report, *Scientific Publishing: Knowledge is Power*. The report concerns investors in scientific journals. The report can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/~tedb/Journals/morganstanley.pdf>

Next, Ms. Lougee shared information on the evolution of electronic publishing in journals and compared traditional journal features with new journal features. Journals, in the past, were a fixed product whereas now they are more likely to be dynamic, linked, or sometimes interactive. While publishers focused on sales of individual items in the past, now there is an interest in marketing electronic titles to a community through licenses.

Ms. Lougee highlighted the following information concerning electronic licenses:

- Generally electronic licenses for journals cost 15% - 20% above print costs. If print versions are cancelled this does not automatically mean a savings is recognized. To the contrary, libraries will oftentimes still incur a cost increase.
- Publishers have introduced conditions in an effort to prohibit libraries from reducing their spending levels. For example, the University reduced the number of titles it purchases from Elsevier from approximately 700 to approximately 600 copies and eliminated nearly all print copies, and, despite these efforts to contain costs, the University's price per title rose. The University's price per title would not have increased as dramatically if the University would have agreed to keep its spending level at \$1.7 million.
- Approximately 20% of the content purchased on the Twin Cities campus is purchased outside of the Libraries; consequently models that license content for a campus community may allow units and individuals to forego these purchases in the future.
- Publishers have instituted license conditions restricting users, uses and ownership.

Questions that have arisen out of volatile journal market conditions include:

- What is the value in the publisher's role? How can this value be accurately assessed?
- Who manages access, rights and archival responsibilities?
- What is the desired economic model? Should it remain a subscription-based model where institutions pay? There is an interesting movement afoot, which

suggests there should be an author pay model. Or, should there be some hybrid model?

Next, Ms. Lougee provided members with selected examples of new journal formats, pricing and distribution models:

- Non-peer reviewed article services e.g. <http://arxiv.org/>
- Electronic peer-reviewed journals e.g. <http://www.philosophersimprint.org/>
- Association/society journals - these membership organizations are concerned if a library licenses their journals, its individual members will discontinue their individual membership. Some organizations are looking at added value models for members. e.g. <http://www.acm.org/>
- Institutional publishing journals e.g. <http://www.epic.columbia.edu/>
- Non-profit aggregators e.g. <http://uk.jstor.org/> and <http://www.bioone.org/bioone/?request=index-html> These are two non-profit examples that work primarily with society and association publishers to aggregate and distribute content.
- Open access - seeks to make journal content freely available. In order to accomplish this, these journals typically shift the cost structure to the author e.g. <http://www.plos.org/> and <http://www.biomedcentral.com/>

Ms. Lougee noted an interesting legislative development related to the issue of open access. Congressman Martin Sabo introduced legislation that would require the results of federally sponsored research to move to the public domain (i.e., without protections of copyright). This legislation also prompts consideration of more open models, but does not establish the infrastructure to do so. It is unlikely this legislation will pass, however, it has stirred up a lot of interest.

To conclude, the following have influenced change in the journal industry:

- Historical forces which have created havoc in the marketplace.
- A heightened interest in copyright issues.
- New technologies.
- Viewing publication as a process versus a product.

Challenges in the journal environment include:

- Commercial publishers trying to sustain their market share.

- Society publishers aggressively trying to retain their membership.
- Libraries struggling to determine their role in the market versus gift economies.

Discussion highlights following Ms. Lougee's presentation:

- What is the process for canceling journal subscriptions? What factors are used in determining which journals will be cut? Ms. Lougee asked members to keep in mind that none of the journal cancellations are irreversible. Factors that are used in determining whether a journal is cut include: use, cost per use and impact to the field. Fortunately, the \$500,00 in royalty money that was received from Vice President of Research David Hamilton reduced planned journal cancellations from 2500 to 1200 subscriptions.
- A member suggested that journals institute a user cost where the user pays for the article by page, for example. Ms. Lougee stated that many publishers offer individual articles for sale. Issues to think about with this type of approach are:
 - Unevenness of research support that lies in the disciplines and whether there are monies available to pay these charges.
 - The impact this would have on students.
- Another member, tongue in cheek, suggested charging for peer reviews.
- Would it be appropriate for the Library to approach departments and have them manage departmental resources and possibly extend electronic access? Ms. Lougee noted that a funding argument can be made for the Library when department's cancel their departmental subscriptions because of the Library licenses—i.e., departments can cancel departmental subscriptions and could provide those funds to the Library to offset the increased cost of the license. To put in context, Ms. Lougee stated that the amount on content purchased outside of the Library in 2002 was approximately \$2 million in OM funds. This does not include journals purchased with federal monies or through other funding sources.
- A member expressed a concern regarding access to Ovid and the fact it is slow and cumbersome to work with. It was noted that there are other ways to access journal titles other than through Ovid. Ms. Lougee noted a new tool, SFX, will be rolled out in late October which should help this problem significantly. SFX allows linkages to be automatically made (e.g. citation to journal links, citation-to-citation links).

- Ms. Lougee noted that the Library hopes to do some type of symposium or event this year in part as a response to the Sabo legislation and also to better educate the University community about what is occurring in publishing.
- It was noted that the federal government plans to curtail what scholarly articles will be allowed to leave the country because of the sensitive nature of some information. Ms. Lougee stated there are some interesting issues that have resulted from articles being available electronically. In the interest of national security, the federal government has withdrawn content that it had given libraries as part of the Depository Library Program. There have also been instances where publishers have withdrawn content. Typically this is done when there are perceived integrity issues.
- Does the faculty need to accept the fact that there will continue to be reductions in the University's journal collection? How is the University of Minnesota ranked compared to other institutions? Ms. Lougee noted that the University is reducing journal titles at a significantly faster rate than peer institutions. Other institutions have also been more aggressive in pursuing efforts to educate the community about issues of copyright or new publication forms. In Ms. Lougee's opinion, the University has been cutting journal titles for so long that the University community has grown accustomed to this phenomenon. More can be done to educate the campus about the issues. A member agreed and noted that the University provides little support for editorship; it is a work of love and personal resources.
- Ms. Lougee asked the Committee how it would like to be engaged in these issues. Professor Wakefield interpreted this question as a challenge to the Committee. A member stated the Committee needs a vision of what type of scholarly communication model it would like developed at the University. Over the long haul, the University's current model is not sustainable. What is a sustainable model that will satisfy the needs of faculty and students? Professor Wakefield summarized this discussion by suggesting the Committee work on awareness, and, with broad participation from all stakeholders, prompt dialogue about sustainable models and a vision for the future surrounding this issue. He recommended continuing this discussion at the November 10th meeting and working on developing an action plan. Ms. Lougee asked members to think about their own anecdotes and to consider how a journal has changed or how their use of a journal has changed.
- Can a member of the general public use the information in the libraries? According to Ms. Lougee, most licenses the University signs have a clause

that allows walk-in users who are unaffiliated with the University to use content in the Library. It is vitally important for a public institution to not close off its mission as a state resource when it moves to electronic formats.

IV). Professor Wakefield reported that a meeting was held with Professor Jasper Hopkins, Ms. Lougee and himself on September 29th in response to a letter from Professor Hopkins dated July 28, 2003. He noted the meeting was a lengthy, frank and open discussion. Next, he asked Ms. Lougee to report on Professor Hopkins' issues and accommodations, which the Library has made.

Issues of concern outlined in Professor Hopkins letter included:

- Reduction in Library hours made during budget cuts.
- Wilson Library, in particular, is too noisy. Designated group space infringes on others with research interests.
- A civic engagement event last May at the Humphrey Institute brought in children's groups that were allowed to play in the plaza area outside the Humphrey Institute. Professor Hopkins requested that a University policy be instituted to make the plaza a quiet area, prohibiting public events from taking place in this space.
- Wilson Library has no suggestion box.
- Concern over security in Wilson Library.
- Concern regarding Diehl Biomedical Library.

The Library:

- Based on monitoring of Library traffic, has re-instated morning hours for major libraries on Saturday (opening at 10 a.m. vs. 11 a.m.)
- Is receiving a lot of demand for group space (prompted by changes in curriculum and types of assignments). Consideration is being given to reconfigurations within Wilson Library to better separate its quiet study and group space areas.
- Is aware that loud noises are disruptive to Professor Hopkins. Therefore, the Library has, in the past, accommodated Professor Hopkins by moving his study area to another part of the building. The Library will offer Professor Hopkins' an alternative carrel location in a more remote part of the building.

- Wilson Library has had a suggestion box for many years and this was pointed out to Professor Hopkins.
- Has increased its investment in security by roughly \$20,000. Ms. Lougee plans to renew the Libraries' efforts to better train its security guards.
- Has been informed that the Biomedical Library in Diehl Hall is on the Capital Projects list for renovation in 2008. Unfortunately, due to the layout of the building it is not conducive to reconfiguring this building as is being done with Wilson Library. Elaine Chalcombe volunteered a room in the Biomedical Library with a door that Professor Hopkins can use if he so desires.

It was noted that the Library has limited resources and is faced with competing demands. A suggestion was made to have the Library conduct a survey to help determine how its limited resources should be allocated.

A member asked that the Committee go on record and take the stance that plaza areas on campus are public spaces and need to be shared.

V). Hearing no further business, Professor Wakefield adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate