

University Council Libraries Committee Meeting

October 4, 2021

Present: Toby Graham, Jane McPherson, Cynthia Camp, Jalen Burton, Jennie Gay; Tiago Parella; John Maltese, Katie Diehl, Kristen Smith, Kristin Nielsen, Nan McMurry, Rosanna Rivero, Sara Kajder, Sarah Burns, Stacey Piotrowski, TJ Striepe, Toby Graham, Trey Shelton; Jeff Netter; Duncan Elkins, Patrick Stephens

1. Welcome (Toby Graham)

Dr. Graham welcomed the group and thanked them for their participation on the committee. He also introduced chair Jane McPherson, who was unanimously elected by the committee via an electronic vote.

2. Introductions (Jane McPherson)

Dr. McPherson thanked the group for their patience with her as she is new to the committee and to the role of chair. She is a fan of the UGA Libraries and looks forward to learning more through her service on the group. She then called for the rest of the group to introduce themselves.

3. Libraries updates (Toby Graham)

Library collections: A key budgetary challenge for UGA's libraries and research libraries, internationally, is the escalating cost of electronic journals and databases. The Libraries negotiate with publishers to secure the best possible terms, but every year there is a gap between the base collections budget and the rising cost of journals. Dr. Graham was pleased to report that Provost Hu pre-approved coverage for the collections funding gap for FY22.

About 72% of e-journals spending is for six large packages. UGA's largest e-journal agreement is with publisher Elsevier, more than \$2.8 million this year. Improving the inflation cap for this package is extremely important for sustaining access. Last year, we were able to lower our annual inflation with Elsevier from 4.25% to 0% (FY21), 1% (FY22), 2% (FY23), and 2% (FY24). Beyond this, we currently are in negotiations with five other large publishers (Wiley, Springer, Sage, Oxford, and Cambridge). The group had previously discussed different approaches to e-journals beyond the "big deal," including the "transformative agreement" approach that the University of California system took with Elsevier (and that temporarily led to a complete dissolution of UC's access to current content from Elsevier). In that approach, the university pays for "publish and read" rights. Trey Shelton, head of Acquisitions & Serials, explained "publish and read" agreements as covering both access to the e-journal content combined with a waiver of open access publishing fees for researchers from the institution. Right now, the UGA Libraries is exploring a publish and read agreement with Cambridge. This would mean that, with the Cambridge agreement, authors would not pay APCs (author processing charges) to publish their articles Open Access in Cambridge journals. A committee member asked whether unbundling had problematic results. Dr. Graham responded that for institutions that unbundle, the risk is that (combined with the loss of access to titles) savings initially realized could diminish significantly over time as uncapped inflation has its way on the remaining titles.

Monographs: Nan McMurry, head of Collection Development, explained evidence-based and demand-driven models of acquiring books. These are two variant purchasing approaches that lead to more content in the library catalog to be discovered by users and more choice about what to acquire. These methods currently focus on e-books, loading records into the catalog, that are not yet owned, and resulting in a purchase if the book is downloaded or used for a certain amount of time. Nan would like to find a way to apply this to print books as well. The rationale is to provide users with more of the content that we know that they want, as opposed to trying to anticipate their need. The Libraries' use of evidence and demand driven models had been experimental, but has expanded this year. Not every book is eligible. These approaches are steps to make sure we spend money on materials faculty and students want and need, including creating budget flexibility to allocate more funding to purchase primary source databases.

Special Collections Libraries updates: The special collections libraries continue to add approximately 1,000 cubic feet of archival material a year. They are increasingly efficient at processing new archival material to make sure that we're able to provide public access to the holdings that come to us. There is excitement around the Ted Turner collection and accompanying endowment, which is particularly important for our very strong broadcast history collections.

Improving salaries for lowest paid staff: Dr. Graham was pleased to learn of the University's newest initiative, in addition to compression increases earlier this year, to increase the minimum hiring rate and to provide compression increases for those making between \$27,500 and \$50,000. 77% of classified staff at the Libraries will benefit from this effort, which is retroactive to October 1. The student hourly rate increased to \$9.50, which is also meaningful to the Libraries and the students we hire, particularly given the size of our student workforce.

Facilities: Use of Libraries facilities continues to increase and looks more like pre-pandemic level, while we still work to promote public health by continuing most of the 2020 precautions. UV filtering for the HVAC system at the Miller Learning Center was installed over the summer and implemented last week at the Main Library. The UV system kills 99% of microorganisms in the air, and is an important enhancement and effective way to promote public health in these buildings.

Center for Research Education at Wormsloe: The Wormsloe site, a state historic site located near Savannah, is a place of unique historic, archaeological, and ecological significance. Oak Alley is one of the most photographed places in Georgia. A component of the site is owned by UGA and is home to a research and education operation with graduate fellows and faculty from eight UGA colleges and Franklin departments engaged in research. CREW was administratively transferred to UGA Libraries two years ago, and we have been working with the director, Sarah Ross, since that time. A new research and education building was recently approved by the Board of Regents for the site to support the work being done there. 100% of funding has been raised privately, and we anticipate breaking ground as early as March, with the building in place by fall of next year.

Mary Frances Early autobiography and event: Mary Frances Early, first Black graduate of the University, recently completed her autobiography. MFE College of Education and the Libraries published the book

with distribution by the UGA Press. We launched the book on Sept. 28 with an event in which women's basketball coach Joni Taylor interviewed Ms. Early about her book, life, and work.

Special Collections Faculty Fellows: Please apply by January 7 to participate in the Maymester 2022 cohort. Members of the committee who had participated in the Fellows program shared their experiences, including some of the following:

- Dr. Camp shared that teaching at SCL, which she has done yearly since she was a fellow, made getting out of bed during COVID worth it. The Special Collections librarians are interested in building collections around what faculty want to teach with. It is a remarkable program.
- Dr. McPherson was a fellow during the pandemic, so her personal project is both real and virtual, adaptable to both synchronous and asynchronous instruction formats.
- Dr. Netter's wife, Dr. Poulson, showed her business school students business documents, including clay tablets from 6,000 years ago.

Provost's Affordable Course Materials grants: Increasing textbook costs mean that students can benefit significantly from a low-/no-cost course. The Provost provides funds for these grants, in addition to a Libraries donor who became interested in the project. Grant proposal submissions are due December 1st, and USG Affordable Learning Georgia grant proposals are due November 1.

Additional updates:

- The UGA Press had a record year in FY21 with \$2.15 million in sales.
- The Hargett Library is participating in On These Grounds, a Mellon-funded project to develop data schema/vocabulary on the history of slavery and higher education.
- The UGA Press and Hargett Library have developed the Georgia Open History Library through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities
- The New Georgia Encyclopedia will premiere a new platform/design tomorrow
- The Digital Library of Georgia has received continued NEH funding for newspaper digitization, expanding its newspaper database used millions of times per year.
- The Libraries continue to support local archives in underserved communities through a regrant program with Georgia Archives (NHPRC)

4. What's next

The committee must meet once per semester. Dr. Graham shared that his needs for the group are to help communicate:

- Every college/department has one or more library liaison who can consult in any capacity and is there to serve specific, subject-based needs
- About Fellows program and affordable learning grants
- Issues around scholarly communications, research data management, digital humanities, and other issues we need to push forward

Dr. Rivero mentioned her work with the Map Library on GIS day, which went under the radar last year, and suggested that as an example of events/opportunities people across UGA should be made aware of.

Dr. Netter suggested another meeting later in the semester that could include an update on how workers have been treated during the pandemic and addresses the question about what the Libraries would like people on the committee to share with their units.