Library Liaison Advisory Group

Agenda

January 28, 2022

1. Welcome (Peggy Keeran)

This will be the only LLAG meeting this academic year because Peggy will be on sabbatical in spring quarter, but Jack Maness and Carry Forbes may be reaching out via the listserv for feedback on projects that may come up.

1. Shared Print Collections (Michael Levine-Clark and Jack Maness)

The DU Libraries participate in shared print programs, so we want to explain what they are and why they are important. Libraries generally have giant collections of print materials which are heavily duplicated across institutions. When space becomes an issue at a library, materials have to be removed, and, if there is no storage, discarded. Collectively libraries are ensuring we don’t discard all copies of a print title without realizing it. There are a number of initiatives nationally and internationally where libraries have grouped together and signed memoranda of understanding to commit to preserving some of their print collections on behalf of the larger group for the long term. We are we are part of two such groups: WEST (Western Regional Storage Trust - <https://cdlib.org/west/> - focused on serials and journals, not government documents or monographs) and the Alliance (Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries - <https://coalliance.org/shared-print-archiving-policies> - broader scope of shared print, including monographs and other types of materials). We are holding some journal runs for the larger WEST community, as are other institutions. If we had to discard journals in the future for some reason, we can be confident our partners would preserve those titles they committed to. WEST is part of a larger organization that is made up of 6 regional groups, Rosemont Shared Print Alliance, <https://rosemontsharedprintalliance.org/>, which is coordinating efforts on a broader scale. In the monograph world there is a similar grouping of networks of shared print, called the Partnership for Shared Book Collections (https://sharedprint.org), and the Alliance is part of that broader network.

WEST has a tiered approach to preserving serials and journals: 1) most scarce or most important get physically validated at the issue level before they are committed to the Trust; 2) middle tier where they validate at the volume level; and 3) lower tier where we trust that the data is correct and the material is there. Commit to hold for 30 years, and then sign a new MOU. We are about 15 years into WEST, and over the past year started contributing more. We have about 80 “journal families” in the middle tier we are working on. We are the first “builder” of an institution our size – most institutions who work on the first and second tiers are the large libraries. Our involvement is a pilot to demonstrate what a mid-sized institution can contribute.

1. Report on library faculty positions (Michael, Jack, Carrie)

We have three library faculty positions posted now: an exhibits librarian and two residency librarians. We had an exhibits manager (staff position) who worked with faculty and other campus groups to incorporate exhibits into courses and events. The manager’s vacancy prompted us to make the logical decision to rethink the position as a faculty line within the library, and build upon our experiences of exhibits as a teaching tool, so think about how to incorporate exhibits into course goals within your departments. The two residency faculty lines are intended to provide opportunities for development of a career in academic librarianship for a member of historically underrepresented group, and the positions are three-year term term-limited positions. A residency program is part of a nationl effort through the Association of College and Research Libraries to diversify our profession. One of the positions is a digital archivist who will help us create a comprehensive digital archiving plan for preserving digital materials, such as the born digital objects in Portfolio once it is sunset-ed. The other residency position is a community outreach and reference librarian, who will work jointly with Bridget Farrell as liaison to the College of Education and will do community outreach to the GSPP infant and early childhood mental health program and other programs on campus that have community outreach and engagement work.

1. Collections update and Denver Business Journal (Shannon)

There is a change in how the Denver Business Journal subscription will be accessed – this change came from the vendor, and libraries were not given a choice. In the past, access was on-campus only with a shared login for remote work, and recently we move to e-mail authentication. This means that members of the DU community will now need to sign in using their DU email address and to register a password, and it won't have to be the DU password. Access will be available from off campus as well. However, we will be limited by the number of registered users, or “seats,” at one time. We will review the seats twice a year to make sure we don’t go over that number. Question: Which email should Law students use? Answer: their du.edu email, not their Law email.

We received a small cut this year to our collections budget, but it's nothing near the cut that we received last fiscal year. So that's somewhat hopeful. We acquired a number of new electronic resources at the beginning of 2022 that can be accessed via our A to Z databases listing page, on the right side of the page under the New/Trial Databases section. We're continuing to order and receive monographs. At the same time, we're also addressing a backlog of orders that have accrued throughout the pandemic. If you or the faculty in your department have published books since the beginning of the pandemic, contact your librarian liaison to let them know so we can ensure we have copies.

Question: how are ebooks being preserved, once a publisher stops supporting them? Answer: On a small scale through Portico, with the intent of preserving on a broader scale. HathiTrust partners are also adding books they have digitized in addition to what Google Books has digitized. There would be a version available in HathiTrust, but not in the same way that Portico and the journal preservation process happens. There is a greater need to address issues related to preserving ebooks.

Question: Is DU a member of HathiTrust? Answer: We've been trying to become a member of Hathi Trust for a very, very, very long time. All sorts of sort of strange bureaucratic hoops that didn't quite line up for us. We're finally getting close to being able to join soon.

1. Overview of New Library Website (Carrie)

Erin Elzi, our Design and Discovery Librarian, not able to attend today, but she led the team that did the major work on updating our website, which hadn’t been updated in 10 years. Carrie Forbes gave an overview of the website, noting that links to AskUs and Chat are on every page, and that links to Google Scholar, Prospector, and ILL are under “Research Tools.” Alerts, like when we are having problems with a resource, will appear at the very top of the screen. The main website has a news section when the viewer scrolls down. Course Reserves is under “Check Out & Request,” and Suggest a Purchase is under “Collections & Library Materials -> Main Collections.” The Subject & Liaison Librarians list is under “Research Services.” There's a form to request a workshop for your class under “Research Services,”, under Workshops and Library Instruction. Requests for purchases and workshops can also go directly to your librarian liaison. We are still working on the Group Study rooms reservation form.

Question: What happened to the single sign-on software to sign into ejournal articles? Answer: We can do it for some of our resources, but not for all, which is problematic. At present we rely on a proxy system to manage authentication access.

1. Move to R1 Status and Impact on the Libraries (discussion led by Michael, Jack, and Carrie)

Michael asked liaisons to tell us what they think an R1 library should look like, what do collections look like, what do services look like, etc.

* R1 institutions are able to provide access to a larger number of databases and subscriptions than we have, and they can get the databases a faculty person needs for a specific research project, resources the faculty may not know until the start of the project that they need. Would be great of the library had the flexibility in the budget, etc. to get the sources needed for the duration of the research project.
  + Some challenges include: don’t have budget to purchase speculatively, and harder to subscribe/purchase more expensive data and subscriptions; our library faculty and staff numbers are small in comparison with R1 libraries; most R1s serving much larger populations with broader interests
  + Our operations budget is low, which allows us to spend a large percentage of our budget on collections, but less on salaries; we are part of the Alliance and other partners that allow us to subscribe to major ejournal packages at a lower cost because of the size of our institution and budget.
  + Services R1s provide that we can’t: copyright support and other services around publishing, data management, making sure grant proposals contain a strong data management component to the proposal through to the preservation of that data and on ongoing accessibility of that data; use of data (not just management).
* Would it be possible to partner with R1 institutions that have resources our faculty may need to provide access, to see what works for us?
  + We do partner with other Colorado and Wyoming institutions in the Alliance, but licensing agreements are barriers to accessing digital subscriptions at other institutions. There could be potential for piloting such an idea.
* Agree about providing more services around scholarly communication, research, data management, copyright, open access publishing, etc. A need for helping faculty or supporting faculty and preparing the tenure packages and the various emerging metrics for analyzing impact beyond impact factor. Extend these services to include grad students, not just faculty.
  + Meg’s involvement with Redcap shows a real need, and it is unstainable for her to continue to be the sole person on campus who can help with this tool. REDCap research guide: <https://libguides.du.edu/c.php?g=948419&p=6838928>
  + How do we identify what software is needed on campus, and how do we support it?
  + Example of a service not traditionally supported by institutions: our staff member Mel Stafford is making sure that the data about your publications in Activity Insight is up-to-date and accurate - her job is to make sure that the publications of the faculty at DU are accurately represented and therefore more discoverable and more visible and hopefully provides greater visibility for all of your work. We recognize that as an important service and it's not something that universities have traditionally done and it's not something that therefore libraries have traditionally done, but it's something that universities are recognizing as important.
    - University of Arizona example of <https://kmap.arizona.edu/#/> - with correct internal data, can help faculty and their impact, analyze their reach across the world. Just getting data right in Activity Insight can lead to such mapping down the road.
  + Our campus partnerships with IT, OTL, and other departments are important in developing services as an R1 institution.
* We're thinking about doing a survey, but we don't want to drive people in a particular direction. An open-ended survey that tells the librarians what faculty needs and demands are that we’re not even thinking of.
* An example of a tool that could be useful for publications: Ripeta, <https://ripeta.com/?_ga=2.141618866.1605307395.1643401098-466581528.1643221558>
* If liaisons would take this discussion back to their departments and get input, they can send the information to their librarian liaison. Perhaps even invite the librarian to a meeting where this will be discussed.