

Library Council
March 5, 2015
Minutes

Attendees: Deborah Jakubs, Lisa Huettel, Ann Elsner, Bob Byrd, Tom Hadzor, Naomi Nelson, Tim McGeary, Len White, Rick Hoyle, Jackie Wachholz, Gil Merckx, Christina Davis-Gibbons, Sumi Ariely, Charlotte Clark, Victoria Szabo, Daniel Schmitt, Guests: Liz Milewicz, Molly Bragg, Will Sexton; Recorder: Lynne Grossman

1. Announcements/Introductions

- Deborah and the Executive Group are pleased to announce that we have exceeded our Duke Forward Campaign goal, 2 ½ years ahead of schedule. Through a team effort, we are now at \$47.2 million. Although we are not going to increase the size of our goal, we will certainly continue our fund raising. Over the next couple of years, we will be talking more about need than effort and will focus on positions, collections, technology and programming.
- Bob Byrd noted that the DUL User Service Philosophy statement has been changed to incorporate your comments. If you have more, please e-mail him, as this is a work in progress.

2. The Many Dimensions and Multiple Publics of Special Collections: Naomi Nelson

- Special Collections are critical to the research that goes on in the Library, and undergraduates are our biggest users. We have a range of different kinds of materials: still images, graphics, moving images, audio, electronic records, artifacts, furniture, ephemera, even an original cigarette rolling machine from the Duke family. When thinking about the many things we could collect, we consider which departments and faculty might be interested in a particular area or collection. Then we ensure that we understand the rights of what we will be able to do with the materials. Security and privacy issues are also concerns as we negotiate complicated legal agreements.
- The number of reproduction orders, research visits to the reading room and instruction classes have all been increasing.
- Projects and partnerships are at the heart of our collections. For example, materials from the Abraham Heschel and Marshall Meyer collections are being used by faculty and students in Jewish Studies, Documentary Studies, and the Divinity School. Heschel and Meyer were very active in civil and human rights; there has been a lot of engagement around these two collections.
- It is important that we have the original documents because size, weight, material and smell all matter. Duke has a large collection of newspapers that were rescued and they are getting heavy usage. If you have the

originals, you can do DNA testing, use them in exhibitions and use 3-D printing.

- How we decide what collections we want to acquire is almost never determined by space, although price is an issue. We might turn something down if we do not think it has immediate use because we are trying to build collections that will be frequently used here. Some collections would be better located in smaller institutions.

3. Making Digital Collections More Useful for Research: Liz Milewicz, Molly Bragg and Will Sexton

- The Libraries are beginning the process of upgrading the web platform for searching and displaying its digitized collections. As part of this process, we want to engage with researchers, to learn how they use (and would like to use) digitized sources in their work, and what tools and features provide the greatest support for gathering and using such materials.
- The Digital Production Center's primary mission is to create digital captures of rare, unique or distinctive primary sources. Part of our tasks is to coordinate work flow across groups of curators, conservators, DPC, metadata, developers and outreach. Recently, we digitized the H. Lee Waters film collection and it has made the single biggest splash of any collection that we have digitized. Waters was a film maker who filmed people in the streets, schools, other public places in North Carolina and Virginia. He would then screen the films and people would come see themselves in the movies in the 1920s-1940s. Access to the digitized materials is provided through the website: library.duke.edu/digitalcollections.
- We are interested in research, personal connections and instruction. A historian writing a book about women's travels used our digital collections of women's travel diaries; a business consultant researched our historical in-house publications to make recommendations to a client. We try to measure the impact to help us decide what to digitize and how to represent those collections once we put them on line. The use of digital materials in citations has increased over the last few years. The Library is currently engaged in a project to digitize and provide access to the Kenneth Willis Clark Collection of Greek Manuscripts.
- We are undertaking a project to develop the next generation for our platform and we call it "Tripod." Tripod 1 was the Hugh Mangum photographs; Tripod 2 was rolled out 4 years ago; and this is the beginning of Tripod 3, which overlays an entire digital preservation framework. We are using the Agile software methodology for the first time. You are constantly in contact with the audience to test what you have done. You debug and then you release after frequent and focused testing.
- We are asking the Library Council for their feedback on using digitized collections. What are we missing? What are the possibilities? This can help us plan ahead in the development cycle as we are trying to create pathways to collaboration. Where do you feel engaged with the digital

content? Four areas are audience, content, discovery, and use. Answering the question, “Are there non-humanistic research communities we should consider,” Daniel replied that the science community’s websites are filled with digital archives that are not represented in the Library. Tim met with Larry Carin to help determine and maintain the long term use of these scientific digitized archives. Gil noted that groups in sociology, engineering and oceanography are developing large data sets and visual images.

- In terms of content, what kinds of digital content do you use in terms of your research and instruction? Len uses thousands of MRI data sets and said it would make sense to have a central administration repository for them, although there are HIPPA issues that would need to be addressed.
- Are there factors that impact whether you choose digital or analog? It depends on what you want to do with it. For a really high quality image, you want to see the original.
- Is there some digital content that you don’t use? Len stated that discoverability is a huge issue in interdisciplinarity. The Bass Connections project could benefit from Library collections that he does not know about, and it would be helpful to have a path to them.
- When you think about how you locate digital content, is there a typical path you use? Gil uses the Internet and Google. Could we have a mirror repository? We have been fairly successful in getting Google to pick stuff up.
- How do you incorporate the digital content into your work? Persistently.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Grossman, Recorder