

**Library Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 30, 2025**  
**Hybrid** (Carpenter Boardroom, RL 249 & Zoom)  
**Start Time: 12:30 pm**

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome (Kyle Bradbury)
2. University Librarian Updates (Joe Salem)
3. Alma Update (Karen Newbery)
4. Library Campaign Priorities (Blue Dean)

**Present:** Kyle Bradbury, Lou Zhou, Alex Zhang, Blue Dean, Dracine Hodges, Emily Daly, Tim McGeary, Joseph Salem, Rachel Porter, John Quintero, Astrid Giugni, Jocelyn Olcott, Julian Liber, Esther Kim Lee, Kate Driscoll, Jameca Dupree, Michael Reiter, Jennifer Knust, Dean Smith, Ann Saterbak, Misha Angrist, Tracie Canada, Lauren Ginsberg, Giuseppe Lopomo,

**Absent:** Naomi Nelson, Thavolia Glymph, Tsitsi Jaji, Edward Triplett, Bill Seaman, Saskia Ziolkowski, Ahilan Eraniyan

- 1. Welcome (Kyle Bradbury)**
  - Kyle welcomed everyone and provided a quick overview of the agenda.
  - Kyle reminded the group of the roadmap for the semester, including a future talk on state of journal models and emerging collections as well as AI impacts on the library.
  - If any other members have concerns or topics, they would like covered at future meetings, please share them with Kyle.
- 2. University Librarian Updates (Joe Salem)**
  - Goal for University Librarian updates is to check in about some of the topics we've been discussing and any news on the libraries
  - The first topic is the Library Space study. The Library Council has a good engagement session with Shepley Bulfinch back in November. The study is progressing on schedule and we hope to have a draft report from the firm soon. We plan to share this final report with you as well as the Library Advisory Board.
  - Q: Any high-level takeaways from the Space Study? A: They've done some really good work to think about creating more contiguous space for things like staff. We can't have all this all of our staff in one space. But to do more with teams that could collaborate more and also to have them around some of their service or public areas. That they have either responsibility for or where their interaction with users, with students primarily will be helpful. They've done a nice job of identifying space to enhance our partnership opportunities as well as find a good balance using our spaces in a traditional library sense to a more progressive take on Libraries. We fall somewhere in between these two spectrums.
  - Q: Will the report touch on challenges that do not have a direct strategy to address them at the present? A: we'll have to check in with them about what

appendices that they've put together but they've done a really nice job of addressing the most consistent themes.

- Next update is on the Library Service Center and Off-Site Storage: Joe reported that the study was progressing on schedule and that they were exploring vended storage options. He also mentioned that they were considering a feasibility study for expanding the library service center and retrofitting an existing Duke-owned warehouse.
- Q: Would the retrofit of the existing Duke home warehouse be
- be towards a permanent use of that warehouse for that purpose, or temporary? A: Yes, a permanent solution.
- Joe wanted to highlight a couple of new items
  - The new exhibit in the Chappell Gallery “A Worthy Place”
  - Full Access Resources to the campus community – New York Times and The Atlantic
- Update on Lilly Library: Joe showed pictures of the load bearing stacks in the core of Lilly Library being removed:



- Questions: There's a lot of concern about electronic materials that seem to have become unavailable — maybe a catalog issue? A: This question serves as a good transition to Karen's next presentation on the Alma implementation. There have been issues as we switch to a new library system but they are actively working to resolve them. All are encouraged to reach out to their subject librarians with any problems.

3. Alma Update (Karen Newbery)

- Karen Newberry, the Library Systems and Integration Support team gave an update on the Ex Libris Alma implementation and shared some information about the history of library systems at Duke.
- Karen discussed the evolution of library systems, from the old DOS-based system, DRA, to the most recent system, Folio. She explained that the transition from DRA to Aleph in 2003 allowed for more flexibility, enabling the Duke Library system to operate with its own budgets and circulation rules.
- In 2008, the TRLN partners moved to a shared interface called Search TRLN, based on the e-commerce platform Endeca.
- In 2011, Duke staff began working on setting up and compiling a Duke instance for the Open Library Environment (OLE). However, due to the discontinuation of work on the base platform, Rice, the implementation of OLE was stopped in 2016. In 2018, Duke got involved with Folio, an open-source library system, and launched six applications in production. Karen also mentioned the shared discovery interface update in 2018, which was based on the open-source software Blacklight.
- Karen discussed the transition from the Folio project to the Alma project, which involved a change in the display of course reserves on their website and the migration to a new library services platform. She highlighted the challenges of the long and complex process, including the withdrawal from the Folio project and the decision to go live with Alma in 2024.
- Karen also detailed the local project management of the Alma project, including the involvement of existing steering groups and implementation teams, and the use of tools and timelines similar to those used in the Folio project. She mentioned the onboarding and implementation phases, the configuration and migration documentation, and the test extract and data load.
- Karen also discussed the integrations kicked off in January, the Agile team's work on 16 integrations, and the transition to phase 2 to continue work on smaller issues.
- Karen discussed the challenges faced in extracting data for tier one discovery, particularly with the use of Primo and the limitations of Alma's API calls. She highlighted the potential benefits of moving to Alma in the future, given the plans of other institutions.
- Karen also explained the library's technology, including bibliographic records, holdings records, and item records. She noted the challenge of availability at the holdings level in Alma, which is not compatible with tier one discovery. However, she mentioned that some changes were made to improve the holdings level availability. Karen also outlined the workflow to get data out of Alma and into tier one discovery, involving multiple steps and processes.
- Karen discussed the challenges and progress of transitioning from Aleph to Alma. She acknowledged the significant effort required to adapt the data model and user interface, which has caused some concerns for patrons.
- Karen highlighted the team's efforts to make the transition as smooth as possible for users, with the same books and media search remaining largely unchanged.

She also mentioned the need to update the catalog request system and address issues with e-resources and related records

- Karen assured that once all kinks are worked out, users should be able to see all online resources as expected. She also addressed concerns about data privacy, confirming that user data is anonymized and security measures are in place. Lastly, Karen mentioned ongoing integrations and the need for a more focused approach in future projects.

#### 4. Library Campaign Priorities (Blue Dean)

- Blue Dean, the Associate University Librarian for Development, discussed Duke University's upcoming public phase of a fundraising campaign. The campaign, which has been in a silent phase since 2019, aims to raise \$7 billion over 10 years, with the libraries' goal set at \$125 million. The campaign's theme is "Made for This," and it focuses on climate, Duke science and technology, student experience, and healthcare.
- Blue noted that Duke is on track to meet its goal, and the libraries' goal is the largest within the Association of Research Libraries. She also mentioned that the university has been mindful of the impact of the campaign and has been transparent about the goal. Blue highlighted that the libraries have raised just over \$73 million to date, with the majority being for Lilly.
- Blue discussed the challenges faced by the library in raising funds, including donor fatigue and a decline in the number of donors. She highlighted the need to grow their donor pipeline and engage new individuals in their work.
- Blue outlined the library's campaign goals, focusing on areas such as collections, space, staff, and technology. The campaign, which will officially launch on February 20th, aims to raise an additional 50 million dollars. Blue emphasized the importance of unrestricted annual fund donations, which allow the library to make decisions and invest in its staff. She also mentioned the need to better engage with development colleagues within the schools and units to create meaningful relationships.
- Blue discussed the university's fundraising achievements, including a record-breaking year with over 13 million in cash fundraising and a new commitment year of over 20 million. She highlighted the importance of engaging new prospects and donors, particularly faculty and retired faculty, to elevate the libraries' internal status. Blue also addressed the issue of donor fatigue, suggesting that donors might be willing to make large gifts over a 5-year pledge cycle. She mentioned the possibility of a 10-year campaign and the potential for late pledges to contribute to the campaign's goal.
- Blue encouraged the council to think about ways to engage faculty and retired faculty more effectively.
- Blue discussed the importance of engaging with donors and the evolving nature of their priorities. She highlighted the significance of technology, student needs, and professional development in donor engagement.
- Blue also emphasized the importance of having other voices, such as students and faculty, share their experiences with libraries to resonate with donors. Jocelyn

suggested focusing on faculty for donations, while Jennifer stressed the importance of material books for student experience.

- Kyle concluded by mentioning the upcoming meeting (February 24<sup>th</sup>) and encouraged continuing engagement from the Council.

**Adjourn.**