

University Library Committee
Minutes
May 14, 1984



PRESENT

Gordon Bechanan, Director of Newman Library
Teresa Brown, Graduate Student Representative
Darrel Clowes, Education, Chair
Chris Cook, Undergraduate Student Representative
Marion Ehrich, Veterinary Medicine
Loke Kok, Agriculture
Guenter Lehman, Architecture
Jim Martin, Business
Robert Whitelaw, Engineering

ABSENT

Hilbert Campbell, Arts and Sciences
Vinod Chachra, Provost's Office
Miriam Saltmarch, Human Resources

GUESTS

Shirley Glazener, Newman Library
Glen Lowry, Newman Library
Tom Souter, Newman Library
Linda Wilson, Newman Library

1. Minutes of the March 12, 1984 meeting were approved. Minutes of the April 9 meeting were not submitted since the meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum.
2. Staff Reports:

1983-84 Budget - Shirley Glazener

The current acquisitions budget is almost fully expended. Three short-term trends are apparent: serial costs have shifted from 58% of the budget in 1982-83 to 60% currently, but controls are in place to maintain that percentage; monograph costs now represent 36% of the budget, but the number of monographs purchased is up modestly; and the combination of moderating inflation and continuing internal economics has worked to stretch the Acquisitions budget.

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1984-86 Budget - Gordon Bechanan

No new news expected until mid-June. The continuing need for an increased Operations budget to cover the computer upgrade and new shelving was restated.

Automated Systems - Glen Lowry

VTLS has added two disk drives as an interim solution to the problem of insufficient memory. VTLS thus went from 90% utilization of available memory to 70%; the trade-off is increased response time. Glen restated the solution: a computer upgrade.

Collection Development

No report.

3. Sub-Committee Reports.Library and the Development Office - Darrel Clowes

The committee discussed and approved the statements of development opportunities prepared by Gordon Bechanan (see Appendix A1 and A2).

New Data Sources - Jim Martin

Library directors will be discussing this at their next state meeting. Gordon Bechanan will attend and report back. A sampling of desired data sources and cost within one college was presented (see Appendix B).

4. Watching BriefsSpace Needs - Loke Kok

Loke presented and discussed data from the Schneekloth report (Appendix C). The data are consistent with other reports (i.e. the shelf-list study) and indicate an approaching space problem. Discussion involved estimates on time until the problem is upon us (2-4 years) and considerations of options: increasing shelving, reorganizing, and relying on technology to reduce the problem. There was no consensus.

Status of Networks - Gordon Bechanan

The continuing drama of the OCLC effort to copyright the pooled data base was chronicled. Now several libraries, including the Library of the Commonwealth of Virginia, have also been granted copyrights so the episodes roll on with no clear direction. A new cloud on the horizon -

costs of telecommunications are now projected to skyrocket with an unknown effect upon our efforts at employing an automated library system.

5. Old Business

Status on New Serials Acquisition - Darrel Clowes

A reminder that each college should review and purge the existing serials list and then develop recommendations for new serials.

Association of Research Libraries Report - Gordon Bechanan

The current ARL Survey was highlighted. The library remains low in volumes held ranking 84th of the 104 libraries. Off-setting highlights are the productivity of the library relative to its staff size. We rank 96th of 104 in professional staff size but are 49th and 54th in processing of interlibrary loans and volumes added to the collection.

The report underscores our posture as a new comer to the research library world. We have a relatively small collection; our collection strength lies in its currency since we have a low proportion of our collection in dated monographs. Volumes acquired has improved over last year but must be maintained at a high rate to maintain currency and to fill existing collection gaps through retrospective purchasing. Retrospective purchase increased from 1-2% of the acquisitions budget in 1982-83 to over 4% in 1983-84. Guided and sustained collection development is a future necessity.

6. New Business

Bibliographic Instruction - Linda Wilson

The library staff believes many users are unfamiliar with basic bibliographic research techniques and with VTLS in particular. A series of voluntary faculty and student workshops are planned for fall. The staff proposes a system of learning modules on the library terminals for independent learning augmented by special workshops.

The problem is lack of knowledge, the needed knowledge is available, the proper delivery system is not identified. The library staff requested and received the ULC's endorsement of the intent to deliver bibliographic instruction. The next step is unclear and should be followed carefully by this committee.

Thanks - Darrel Clowes

The chair expressed appreciation to the members for their assistance, and particularly thanked the student representatives for their active involvement.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrel Clowes".

Darrel Clowes, Chair

Approved 10/4/84