

Cornell University Library

Council of Librarians

January 20, 1999

Attendance: Steve Rockey, Jean Poland, Pat Court, Katie Margolis, John Saylor, David Block, Paul Constantine, David Corson, Juan Serrano, Tom Hickerson, John Dean, Deb Lamb-Deans, Susan Currie, Pat Schafer, Diane Hillmann, Ed Weissman, Ved Kayastha, Peter McDonald, Marty Schlabach, Zsuzsa Koltay, Lenore Coral, Christian Boissonnas, Lee Cartmill, Sarah Thomas, Don Schnedeker, Ross Atkinson, Judith Holliday (recorder)

1) "About CU Library" redesign

Marty Schlabach reported on the redesign of the "About CU Library" page of the Gateway. Marty and his group were asked to redesign the "About CU Library" page so that it would better serve as an introduction to the gateway and the Library for non-Cornell users but they decided that a home page would serve this purpose better. Options were presented to the Gateway Committee which agreed with the recommendation of the group that a CUL home page be designed. Media Services is working with the redesign group to design the home page to provide users with an attractive and functional introduction to the Library Gateway. Many new features will be added to the About CU Library page, among which are: library history, annual statistics, various policies, individual library descriptions, the library administrative structure, a browsable and searchable staff directory, Friends of the Library section and a section on finding library materials. The home page development is on a fast track and there should be something to look at in 2-3 weeks.

2) Introduction of Jean Poland

Sarah Thomas introduced the new AUL for Mathematics, Engineering and Physical Sciences, Jean Poland. There will be a reception for Jean on the afternoon of 2/16/99.

3) User Survey

Christian Boissonnas presented a report on the User Survey. The committee has met with Yasamin DiCiccio of the Computer-Assisted Survey Team (ILR), surveyed the literature, and has met with several groups such as the Working Group on Cataloging. The committee is attempting to understand the goals of the survey as well as define the population to be surveyed. They have heard very different comments from the various groups but the user population seems to be emerging as the people listed in the Cornell phone book. We need to find out the information needs of our users and the survey will help us to do this. Once we know this, we can figure out how to provide them and prioritize them. Yasamin has given the committee good ideas on what not to do: for the Cornell community, a questionnaire is a very bad idea. A telephone survey would be much more productive.

4) Personalized Electronic Services

Zsuzsa Koltay reported on the development of the "virtual carrel." Zsuzsa said she and her group were taking the "talk show" approach and going around and talking to various library groups as well as using tools such as the Gateway User Study.

5) Announcement

John Dean announced that there was a federal initiative from the Institute for Museum and Library Services for preserving America's treasures. The deadline is 2/1/99 and the Department of Preservation and Conservation will be submitting a proposal for \$515,000 to digitize and provide conservation treatment for 10,000 anti-slavery pamphlets.

Submitted by Judith Holliday