

# Cornell University Library

## Library Management Team

Notes from the November 3, 1998 Meeting

Attending: *Ross Atkinson*, Lee Cartmill, Jerry Caswell, David Corson, Pat Court, Tom Hickerson, John Saylor, Sarah Thomas, Ed Weissman

### 1) Library Financial Priorities

Sarah is preparing a statement that she will present to the Provost outlining the Library's priorities for funding support. Based on feedback she received from LMT, the two top items will be the new library management system and the retrospective conversion of the shelf list. Another item will be support for the materials budget. Sarah stated that her intention is to seek funding for digital initiatives from external sources. After we agree on a "digital initiatives" tactical plan, Sarah will form a working group to come up with a set of funding proposals to foundations, corporations and individuals in support of the plan's objectives.

### 2) Proposals for the \$100K pool

Sarah reported that she received six responses to her request for proposals that would advance the goals and objectives of the tactical plan and have library-wide impact. She has made \$100,000 available for this. At an upcoming meeting, we'll rate the six proposals against these criteria in order to determine which to fund.

### 3) Tactical Plan Update

Sarah has reviewed the status reports on progress made with regard to accomplishing tactical plan goals and objectives. These reports will be incorporated into the tactical plan and distributed to staff.

### 4) NSF International Digital Library Research Program

The International Digital Library Research Program is a new NSF program. NSF is making \$1 million available each year for three years. Tom stated that successful proposals are not likely to receive more than \$165,000 per year less indirect costs. He anticipates a very competitive process.

We discussed several ideas and agreed that a cooperative project with the University Library in Goettingen on electronic publishing in the area of mathematics would be the most feasible. Sarah said she would work with Steve Rockey on a process to involve faculty in the Math Department. Proposals are due on January 15.

### 5) Consolidation of Scheduling Software

Jerry presented a recommendation that the Library consolidate on the NT server scheduling software for all library units and departments and that it pay for licensing and operational costs centrally. The advantage of doing this is that scheduling software would be made available to more staff than is now the case and that it would allow for greater efficiencies in scheduling meetings through the use of automated meeting proposal features. It might also allow for the

elimination of some unit and department servers. Some concern was expressed about the impact of this change on administrative staff and Lee agreed to discuss the implications and seek feedback at the next AdminOps quarterly meeting. Jerry will look into the how existing servers are used in units and departments to determine the impact if units are relieved of the responsibility for maintaining scheduling software. He will also monitor CIT's progress in selecting a scheduling software package for the campus. The staff in some units use scheduling software served by their colleges and we discussed the advantages of being able to automatically propose meetings with faculty, administrators and others outside the Library. The adoption of a common scheduling software package throughout the university would make this possible. The cost and the technical aspects of centralizing and broadening access to scheduling software would not be an obstacle but we will wait for reactions from administrative staff responsible for maintaining calendars and for a decision from CIT on preferred software.

#### **6) Web Access to the Library Catalog**

Jerry summarized George Kozak's 10/29 message to CU-LIB on the status of Web access to the catalog. PacLink is Ameritech's mainframe Z39.50 server software. The use of PacLink resulted in a series of library system crashes which led us to shut down PacLink in April 1998. This eliminated Web access to the catalog, a valuable feature for both patrons and staff. On October 29, after upgrading to the latest version of the PacLink software, we ran a test, which again resulted in a library system crash. It is possible that this problem is being caused by the mainframe operating system. Other Notis sites running more recent versions of MVS and CICS are not experiencing PacLink induced crashes. Jerry recommended that we retest PacLink after CIT completes the upgrade of the mainframe operating system (this should be sometime in January). If, after the upgrade, we continue to experience crashes, we will work with CIT to set up a new Notis operating region on the mainframe so that the production library system itself would not be affected by PacLink problems. CIT is understandably reluctant to set up this new region now because the mainframe is running at very high percentage of capacity and there is concern that this action would cause serious response problems. With the migration of the payroll system off of the mainframe, we hope this will be less of an issue.

Edward Weissman  
Assistant to the University Librarian