

Library Management Team

Notes from the August 15, 2000 Meeting

Attending: Ross Atkinson, Lee Cartmill, Claire Germain, Tom Hickerson, Sarah Thomas, Edward Weissman, Mary Crowe, Martha Walker

1. Announcements

Ross recommended, and LMT agreed, that access services will no longer send out printed notices to users with e-mail addresses. Ross will handle the publicity for this change.

2. Interim Report of the Task Force on the Library Guide

Marty Crowe and Martha Walker presented the Interim Report of the Task Force on the Library Guide which was charged with recommending a redesign of the Library Guide with respect to both content and layout. As a result of the ensuing discussion, LMT decided that instead of making a major overhaul to the Guide, the Guide will be published in its current format for one more year only. At the same time, a brochure, modeled after one produced by the University of Michigan, will be designed for next fall and will be distributed instead of the Guide to incoming freshmen. This brochure will be more visually appealing and more likely to be perused than the Guide. Beginning in 2002-2003, the effort that now goes into updating the Guide will be directing towards updating the same information on the Library's Web pages. The Task Force will work with Beth Fontana on the process for producing the brochure and will report to Ross.

3. Wireless Networking in the Library

Tom reported on discussions between the Library and the Office of Information Technologies (OIT) about wireless computing. OIT has presented three options for implementing wireless networking on campus: a) a single university-wide wireless network; b) every unit on its own; c) CIT assigns spectrum points for coordination but every unit implements its own network. OIT is recommending the first option and LMT agreed to support that recommendation. Tom said that CIT is treating library units as a priority for installing the networks. Users who want to take advantage of wireless capabilities will either have to subscribe to this service or the Library will have to provide cards which can be easily installed into laptops. (The Engineering Library provides this service now.) Unfortunately, cards can not be exchanged across platforms. Windows, Macs, and Unix each have separate cards. Tom suggested that Desktop Services and the network administrators support this activity. He also recommended, and LMT concurred, that the Library push for treating wireless installations in library units as "public good." Under these circumstances, users would get "free access" within libraries. Library units might have to lend cards and we would also consider whether to lend laptops as well.

Minutes recorded by Edward Weissman.