Cornell University Library

Library Management Team

Notes from the February 10, 1998 Meeting

Attending: Ross Atkinson, Lee Cartmill, David Corson, Claire Germain, Tom Hickerson, Janet McCue, John Saylor, Sarah Thomas, Ed Weissman

1. Alumni Services. Sarah stated that the Library is under increasing pressure to provide greater access and services to alumni. Alumni have been considered outside the Library's core constituency but there are a number of reasons to consider offering alumni greater library access. We will investigate the issues associated with doing this, taking into consideration cost and the impact on other users. Sarah will ask other libraries through the ARL list about the status of library services to alumni and she will touch base with the Office of Alumni Affairs and members of the President's Council.

2. FABIT Initiative to Consolidate Computer Labs on Campus. Sarah reported that FABIT intends to submit a proposal to the Provost to consolidate the campus computer labs into three large facilities. We discussed whether the Library should try to host one or more these labs. Potential advantages include drawing students into library facilities where they are more likely to be exposed to the wealth of non-digital as well as digital materials and services the Library provides, and the provision of hardware and software support from the university worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, taking some of the pressure off the Library's dedicated public access work stations. We agreed to pursue this further and, in doing so, to incorporate the provision of "add-on" services beyond those offered in the "generic" computer labs, e.g., support for the analysis and manipulation of electronic resources, general and technical support for writers of electronic theses. Sarah will let FABIT know of the Library's interest in housing one or more of the labs. Janet and Sarah will explore with Daryl Lund the possibility of housing one in Mann Library and David will look at space in Uris Library. The University is considering space for this purpose in the Purcell Community Center and we will consider ways to leverage this with a possible extension of the Library's presence on North Campus.

3. Library Presence on North Campus. In response to the growth in the number of students residing on North Campus that will result from the new housing policy adopted by the Board of Trustees, Tom Weissinger, the director of the Library's only North Campus unit, has suggested that the Library expand its North Campus presence. We discussed two options--an expanded Africana Center Library and a "virtual" library, possibly in conjunction with the placement of a computer lab in the Purcell Community Center. Concern was expressed about adding a new library unit and the cost of staffing it. We agreed, however, that we should continue to explore this issue in consultation with interested parties.

4. IMLS National Leadership Grants. Sarah announced that the Cornell Institute for Digital Collections is considering submitting a proposal for an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant. This would be for a collaborative project between the Library and the Johnsom Museum. If anyone else is considering a proposal, they should contact Tom Hickerson.

5. Recommendations of the Work Station Replacement Task Force. We endorsed the recommendation from the Work Station Replacement Task Force (Paul Constantine (chair), Tony Cosgrave, Juan Serrano, Judith Holliday, and Janet Gillespie) to replace the 66 Mac LCII public work stations with IBM PC's. Four issues were raised. Three were referred to the Information Technology Group for review (in consultation with Paul) with a report due back in two weeks:

- a) Should we consider less expensive PC clones rather than IBM PC's?
- b) Is a network card included in the recommended configuration?
- c) Do we need the CD capability included in the preferred hardware configuration?

The fourth issue relates to the recommendation to replace the 12 LCII's in the Olin stacks with new PC's. David will decide whether older PowerMacs from the clusters on the first floor of Olin should be moved into the stacks and the new PC's installed in their place on the first floor.