

Cornell University Library

Library Management Team

Notes from the January 19, 1999 Meeting

Attending: Ross Atkinson, Lee Cartmill, David Corson, Claire Germain, Tom Hickerson, Janet McCue, Jean Poland, Sarah Thomas, Ed Weissman, Marty Schlabach

1) Announcements

Sarah welcomed Jean Poland, the new Associate University Librarian for Engineering, Math and Physical Sciences.

Tom reported that he and Lynne Personius were planning to meet with several LMS vendors in Philadelphia during the ALA Midwinter meetings. They will try to determine the extent to which these vendors have progressed since last spring towards providing a product we might find acceptable.

Ross reported that the Gannett Clinic is starting a "media campaign" against excessive alcohol consumption by undergraduates. The Library has been asked to put "table tents" out in areas where undergraduates are likely to see them. We agreed to this request.

2) Status report on the redesign of the "About CU Library" page of the Gateway

Marty Schlabach, Gateway Editor and chair of the group working on the redesign of the "About CU Library" provided background and status information about this undertaking. The "About CU Library" page is the page that appears in the right frame of the Gateway when someone from outside the Cornell IP range connects to 'www.library.cornell.edu'.

The group he assembled, Martha Walker, Beth Fontana, Brenda Marston, Tom Gale and Adam Smith, was asked to make this page more "PR conscious" and "welcoming." After due consideration, the group recommended to the Gateway Committee that a Home page be developed to serve as a welcome page instead of using the About CU Library page for this purpose. This recommendation was accepted by the Gateway Committee and today LMT also endorsed it. Media Services has been enlisted to help design the Home page. The About CU Library redesign group intends, nonetheless, to reorganize the About CU Library page and to incorporate some new features. Marty will distribute a message to CU-LIB shortly specifying these changes and he will be making presentations to various library groups as work progresses. In the course of this discussion, Ross reported that he was drafting a charge for a Staff Web Committee which will be responsible for updating, redesigning and maintaining the Staff Web page

3) Technical Services comparative review

Ross presented the process he will ask TSEG to follow as it carries out a comparative review of the policies and values in the Library's processing centers. He expects that the review will allow us to confirm that the values driving processing are the values we

approve of and that the review will enable the processing centers to share "best practices."

4) Electronic Publishing

Sarah reported on several activities and developments related to electronic publishing.

a) The Cornell University Electronic Publishing Steering Committee, which Sarah chairs, issued its report to the Provost in the fall. Recommendations in the report include:

- that Cornell develop an appropriate infrastructure so that the Cornell community can produce and use electronic publications
- that Cornell participate in an array of electronic publishing projects
- that there be an educational campaign for faculty and staff aimed at promoting a better understanding of the issues surrounding intellectual property rights.

In response, the Provost asked that Cornell work in concert with other major institutions, not alone, to promote electronic publishing

b) Sarah participated in a meeting hosted by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) on December 4 with representatives from the University of California Digital Library, CalTech, MIT, Michigan, Yale, and Columbia. Faculty and staff at these institutions (along with Harvard and Stanford University, which did not attend) account for a large portion of U.S. scholarly scientific literature production. Several proposals were discussed and a business plan is being drawn up.

c) Last week, Sarah and Bob Cooke each presented an electronic publishing proposal to the Mellon Foundation and Sarah is hoping to hear from Mellon that it will provide funds for a planning grant to create a "cluster" of electronic publications in the field of mathematics. (Project Euclid.)

d) We became a member of SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition), an ARL initiative. "By partnering with publishers, SPARC seeks to create a more competitive marketplace; reduce the prices of journals; ensure fair use and educational and library uses of electronic resources; [and] apply new technologies to improve the process of scholarly communication and to reduce the costs of production and distribution." (see <http://www.arl.org/sparc/index.html>) The American Chemical Society, Evolutionary Ecology Research, and the Royal Society of Chemistry have agreed to become SPARC publishing partners.

e) The Graduate School has indicated that it is prepared to support an initiative to allow students to submit and the University to store and provide access to dissertations in electronic form. The next step is to set up a working group comprised of librarians, technical staff, faculty, and Graduate School staff to recommend an implementation plan. We suggested several possible library representatives to Sarah.

f) Sarah is considering assigning someone who would focus full time on electronic publishing initiatives.

Edward Weissman
Assistant to the University Librarian