

Cornell University Library

Library Management Team

Notes from the March 10, 1998 Meeting

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

1. SUNY Virtual Library

The SUNY Library Directors presented a proposal to create a SUNY Virtual Library to the SUNY Provost in November. The Provost indicated his desire to have Cornell participate. The Directors proposed that funding to operate the virtual library come both from "new initiative" funds from the State Legislature and from a "redirection" of existing SUNY library financing. We discussed possible advantages and disadvantages of participation. One advantage is that participation would allow us to benefit from the new funding some of which is likely to provide significant subsidies for shared access to online services. At the same time, the "redirection" of funding in SUNY library budgets means that we are likely to be taxed to pay for this initiative anyway. Possible disadvantages include the possibility of increased demand for document delivery and greater ILS participation. Ross was concerned about the fact that the private colleges and universities were not included.

Sarah will send a letter to Joe Branin, the Library Director at Stony Brook, who drafted the proposal, stating that we see some promising aspects to this but that there are a number of issues we need to explore in greater depth.

Janet will represent Cornell at the SUNY Council of Library Directors Conference (April 22-24) where the theme will be "Building a SUNY Virtual Library."

2. Cooperation with LC

Sarah described a proposed cooperative agreement between Cornell and the Library of Congress that would, among other things, test the interoperability of LC's American Memory and Cornell's Making of America (and, possibly, the Core Historic Literature of Agriculture) files. It could involve some commitment of resources on our part. The proposal is still undergoing significant revision and Anne Kenney will contact Janet and others as she continues to work with LC and then circulate a draft.

3. Web Committees

Ross stated his intention to formally thank and discharge the three CUL Web Committees--Web Policy, Screen Design, and Web Developers--that provided the library with effective leadership and coordination as we moved forward with Web development. The Library Gateway built on the work of these groups. As the Gateway is mainstreamed and as we look to the implementation of the new library management system, the knowledge and participation of members of these groups will be needed to continue to insure that CUL has a first class presence on the Web.

4. Cataloging of Aggregated Networked Resources

Ross reported that the [Electronic Resources Committee](#) was gearing up to discuss the cataloging of aggregated networked resources such as UMI's ProQuest and Lexis/Nexis Universe. Cataloging these kinds of publications involve the expenditure of significant resources in technical services. We discussed the make-up of the ERC and reiterated that our intention in establishing this body was so that it could establish policy on issues such as this, subject to LMT oversight and review. The ERC will make as many decisions as it can on its own; however, cases of significant policy changes or resource requirements will be directed to LMT.

5. Tactical Plan

Ross distributed the newly revised [draft of the tactical plan](#) and said he would ask Diane to make it accessible on the CUL staff Web site. Sarah reminded us that we should be taking this to our units and functional groups to solicit feedback during March. She would like to bring the evolving plan to the Council of Unit Librarians for a final review in April.

6. The Scholarly Publishing & Academic resources Coalition (SPARC)

SPARC is an ARL initiative to promote electronic publishing. Its mission is "to be a catalyst for change through the creation of a more competitive marketplace for research information" and it will operate as a project of the ARL Office of Scholarly Information. It has been endorsed by the AAU Committee on Digital networks and Intellectual property. The ARL Executive Committee is asking its member institutions to become charter members by contributing \$5,000. We endorsed Sarah's recommendation that we participate in this initiative.

7. AUL and other positions

Sarah announced that Ross would chair the search committee for the AUL for Life Sciences position and that Tom would chair the search committee for the AUL for Mathematics, Engineering and Physical Sciences position.

Tom said he is in the process of reviewing the qualifications he feels he needs to emphasize in recruiting the next Curator of Rare Books. The search committee and position description will be announced after this review is completed.

Lee said that there will not be a search committee for the position of Director of Human Resources but that he intends to set up a process that will allow for sufficient input from library staff.

8. CS Digital Library position

Members of LMT and others will have the opportunity to meet with candidates for the faculty position in the Computer Science department that will specialize in digital libraries.

9. Computer Labs

Sarah announced that the FABIT proposals regarding the computer labs would be sent to the Provost this week. It includes recommendations that labs be placed in both Uris and the Engineering libraries.

10. NSF Proposal

Sarah spoke with Michael Lesk, a program officer at NSF for the next round of digital library proposals, and confirmed that NSF would be putting more emphasis on research proposals taking into account humanities and social science interests. The letter of intent to apply is due next month with proposals due in the summer. **We asked Tom to invite Peter Hirtle and Anne Kenney to discuss the current status of the proposal as well as library research interests within that context to members of LMT and other library staff.** The NSF RFP is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/1998/nsf9863/nsf9863.htm>

11. Ithaca-NY collaboration

With Sam Demas' imminent departure, Ross will take over responsibility for the Ithaca, NY Medical College collaboration initiative. A meeting with an outside facilitator will take place in June to create a plan and to move this initiative forward. Ross has asked Susanne Whitaker to serve as the Ithaca campus "point person."

12. TOC

In response to a question from Claire, Ross said he hopes to move ahead with the plan to add table of contents information to CUL bibliographic records but that we still need to identify a source of ongoing funding for this service.