

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY
Annual Report 2000-2001

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on the Library (COL) met once each in Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters. In addition, the committee chair took part in the annual meeting of the University-wide UCOL.

In Fall Quarter 2000, COL met on 11/28/2000 to discuss current issues. University Librarian Allan Dyson informed the committee about new services, including the new form of the Request service, which will now go directly to other UC libraries, resulting in a significant leveling of loads. He also provided information about the near system that is likely to succeed the current Union Catalogue ("Melvyl"), which will be discontinued in the new future. The committee was pleased to hear that the campus can feel guardedly optimistic regarding the prospects of the planned TEAM Center and McHenry extension: The project has been reinstated in the 5-year plan, and additional fundraising activities are under way.

In Winter Quarter 2001, the committee had a meeting on 01/19/2001 with Cecily Johns (UCSB), the Project Director for the Collection Management Initiative. This project is a major Mellon Foundation-funded attempt to determine, among other things, what impact having only electronic format (vs. paper format) materials on UC campuses has on faculty and student research. Ms. Johns explained the background and underlying philosophies of the project, the ways in which campus libraries can participate, and just how implementation is envisioned to work. The meeting was very successful in that it brought out many of the problems that will arise once journals (in particular, current issues) are no longer available in paper format: among other things, committee members pointed out that, compared to hard copy browsing in the journals section of the library, electronic browsing is still much less convenient and efficient, and graphics, colors, and fonts continue to present major difficulties.

The University-wide Committee on the Library (UCOL) met on 02/02/2001 at UC Davis. The meeting was followed by a combined UL/UCOL meeting of University Librarians and Library Committee representatives from all UC campuses. A main topic of discussion was the problem of library space. UCOL agreed to send a new resolution to the Academic Council underlining the urgent need to preserve and expand the library space on UC campuses. UCOL Chair Vermeij (UC Davis) presented two new initiatives. First, an attempt to collect concrete and usable data regarding undergraduate use of the library. Such data would be especially important in support of any argumentation for increased library space. After some discussion, the committee agreed that the University Librarians on the individual campuses should be approached to collect such data. Secondly, Chair Vermeij presented his idea to introduce into the curriculum a brief course, required for all incoming students at all levels, on information literacy. The proposal met with much interest, but it was agreed that the concrete implementation of the proposal requires further thought and preparation. Beverlee French, the Interim University Librarian for Systemwide Planning for Libraries and Scholarly Information, reviewed with the committee the principles of campus co-investment in systemwide digital resources. One item that should be of interest to small campuses such as UC Santa Cruz is the fact that while many of the digital resources are shared and accessible from all campuses, it happens in specific cases that a proper subset of the campus libraries gets together to subscribe to some specific item. It is then impossible for the nonparticipating campus libraries to gain access to this material (i.e., not even by interlibrary loan mechanisms, since no hard copy exists).

At the Spring Quarter meeting (5/29/01), University Librarian Dyson briefed the COL on the status of plans for the retrofitting and expansion of McHenry Library. In response to the COL's

1999-2000 letter (strongly endorsed by the Graduate Council and the Committee on Planning and Budget), Chancellor Greenwood sent a letter to the Office of the President urging that the McHenry project, now scheduled for Year 4 of the Systemwide Five-Year Capital Plan, be advanced to Year 2 (2003-04). The project as currently envisioned is estimated at \$63 million (of which approximately 2/3 will be devoted to expansion and 1/3 to retrofitting).

In assessing the overall health of the UCSC Library, University Librarian Dyson estimated facilities to be satisfactory in the long term, if expansion and retrofitting plans proceed as expected (though space will continue to be a problem in the short term), and staffing to be satisfactory, as long as it continues to receive a percentage of budget growth. The budget for collections, however, is an ongoing problem. For example, \$281,000 originally expected for next year's collection budget has been cut. UCSC's share of the overall Library budget was determined approximately 25 years ago, and does not reflect the increase in both numbers and percentage of graduate students. The size of our collection adversely affects the campus's eligibility for inclusion in the American Association of Universities (AAU) and the Library's membership in the American Research Libraries (ARL). The latter is usually a prerequisite for the former.

The Committee thanks Library Association of UC (LAUC) members Ann Hubble and Larry Millsap for their contributions to COL's work. The Committee appreciates student representative Sean Winslow as an active and engaged member of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY
Scott Brandt
Nobuho Nagasawa
Onuttom Narayan
Jin Zhang (W,S)
Quentin Williams
Allan Dyson, *ex officio*
Armin Mester, Chair (F,W)
Sharon Kinoshita, Chair (S)

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