Librarians Meeting, 12-8-05; informal minutes composed by Fran Rosen

Present: Richard, Joe, Leah, Julia, Melinda, Dave, Ray, Rick, Yuri, Fran

This was Julia’s first meeting so we tried to at least define the acronyms we used.

Richard spoke about technology in the building. Rick & Richard have been exchanging emails with IT people noting their deep concerns about not getting notified about plans & actions which affect the library and not getting meaningful replies when our concerns are raised. A strong memo was written & forwarded with a strong endorsement to the VPAA, who responded that this is an important issue and needs discussion. From FLITE’s point of view the most important thing is to have a good process worked out, and for there to be a philosophical approach with respect to the service FLITE provides to the university. Rick will write up a detailed memo to share with the VPAA.

Richard reported on the COLD meeting last week in Flint. There was an update on the work Google is doing, given by a representative from UM. The project is going full-steam ahead. They are uploading records at least 2-3 times a day; and plan to upload 1 million volumes/year. One thing they are planning to do is character recognition for languages other than English & the Romance languages. The Library Deans & Directors talked about where the future is headed, and whether Google will take over the earth. UM gets to keep a copy of every item digitized and will be making the text available through their OPAC (in full compliance with any copyright restrictions). At the COLD meeting they also discussed how different libraries support faculty research interests. Tim Richards of UM-Dearborn said they give new faculty coupons to use to order library books for their discipline, and this has been successful in getting new faculty interested in the library. Richard said we should think about whether we should try something similar.

We librarians had some general discussion about Google, the availability of books Google has already scanned (through Google/books), how we might promote the availability of this scanned information, and whether Google will take over the world.

Richard said that the packet for the Instruction Coordinator candidate is at the VPAA’s office, and once he approves it Richard can make the offer.

There is nothing new on the hot water situation.

Rick announced that the new Innovative server will show up today or tomorrow. The goal is to migrate to the new server on Dec. 19th.

Rick & Melinda are running tests of DSpace (Institutional Repository) on a test server. This is going very well. The permanent DSpace server is in the building. The Database access page, Scott’s web pages, and some other stuff will also be moved to the new server. The Database access page might need to be down for a couple of hours when that happens; we will try to have it done the week before Christmas when usage is low.
Network issues are better right now. Ferris got a new piece of hardware to handle firewall stuff; and also added more bandwidth. However we still have access issues, especially with Haworth Press.

If we are using 1 of our Database resources and it doesn’t do what it is supposed to do, we should try to capture the page & send Rick the graphic. He is collecting examples of network issues that we have at FLITE in order to have clear documentation of the problems. We are working toward a process for network change, and network issues, so things get dealt with.

Another upgrade is also happening – we are getting a new version of UniPrint, and it will be put on a bigger server.

Melinda announced that we have 10 applicants for the Distance Ed. position. The application deadline is Friday. There are promising applications. They hope to do interviews in January.

We discussed the Health Science Librarian search committee. Greg Potter from Pharmacy will be on the committee. The committee should meet & put together criteria & meeting times so that we will be sure to get Greg’s input.

Joe announced that Kelly Devers starts in the ILL position on Dec. 19th. Now we will have to post her position. There are 16 applicants for Ling Fei’s old position; the committee will meet Friday afternoon to review the applications.

Also, the review of job descriptions for the CT’s has been completed, and the recommendations were forwarded to the VPAA last week.

On Saturday, Jan. 7th the College of Education does orientation, plus Sharon Hamel’s MBA class will be meeting at the library. Therefore, the library will be officially open that day.

Fran said that the microfiche renewal had gone in. Information is forthcoming about the budget and whether we need to spend money, but suggestions are welcome. There is also Yankee money available if special subjects need additional funds.