

## Council on the Libraries Meeting of December 4, 2008

Present: Sean Currey, Michael Dietrich, Robert Graves, Jeffrey Horrell, Hussein Kadhim, Elizabeth Kirk, Mary Munter, Casey Murray, David Seaman, Roxana Verona, David Webb, Kent Yrchik-Shoemaker, Walter Simons.

Excused: William Hickey, Cynthia Pawleck, Barry Scherr, Ellen Waite-Franzen, Sara Walker.

The meeting opened at 12:07pm.

1. Introductions of attendees.
2. The minutes of the November 6 meeting were approved.
3. Digital Publishing (Eliz Kirk, Associate Librarian for Information Resources).  
Eliz presented the Library's "Whitepaper" on digital publishing ("Dartmouth Digital Library Service: Refining Our Structures and Direction), which reviews experience since the library launched the Digital Publishing Program (DPP) in 2001 and defines goals. DPP started with the intention of publishing original scholarship at the College and digitizing selected existing materials from the College's collections. Because the College made these plans so early, the project was more centralized than was common at other institutions; it also benefited from good technical expertise and the ability to establish important links with external web sources. The decision to set up several e-journals--even though the college could not rely on a press which had experience in publishing journals--was sound. On the other hand, several problems have now come to light that need addressing. The Library does not currently have the resources to take on new journal publications and should seek collaboration with a commercial publisher for any new venture along these lines, in part out of financial constraints but also because more editorial assistance is needed. The Library must concentrate its efforts on a small number of projects with a clear impact, like monographs or other well-defined publication projects supporting teaching. In the ensuing discussion, Bob Graves wondered whether to privilege one of the two forms of digital publishing (publishing new material or digitizing material from our collections) and how that decision should be made, while Michael Dietrich noted the success of institutions like Arizona State University in securing government funding for projects that involve the "hard" sciences.
4. Next Generation Library Systems (David Seaman, Associate Librarian for Information Management)  
David reported on the activities of the task force established in the winter of 2008 to study library systems of the (near) future. In order to set parameters for these systems, it defined and evaluated "behavioral standards". Among the realities and needs, it acknowledged for instance the superabundance of resources, the principle that selective and convenient additions are better than sheer bulk, the importance of access, filtering mechanisms, serendipity and even the physical space of the library. It also reminded designers of on-going consultation of and guidance by users, which is a real strategy will need to start.
5. Other Business  
  
Jeff Horrell commented on the current budgetary challenges facing the Library: at present, various scenarios to cut 5 to 15 % are being discussed; decisions will be made in the winter term of 09. E-resources day will be on January 8, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 pm.