COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 16 January 2024

Minutes

Present: Castelot, Chee, Cirnigliaro, Feiler, Fosu, Goodman, He, Jawad, Mehrer, Olivetti, Parker, Sunde, Wales, Webster

Apologies: Davis, Kull, Gleiser, Peters

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Johnson, Taxman

Guests: Scott Pauls (Director, DCAL), Christian Darabos (Senior Director, Research Computing, ITC), Lora Leligdon (Head of Research Data Services, Dartmouth Libraries)

1. Welcome
   The Chair and Dean welcomed the Council members and guests.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 21 November 2023
   The Minutes of the November 21, 2023 meeting were approved as written.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting
   None.

4. Generative AI: DCAL, ITC, and Library
   DCAL: Scott Pauls, Director of DCAL, reported on the efforts of the Provost's Advisory Group on GenAI and Pedagogy. This working group was convened to consider ways in which faculty can effectively and responsibly use Generative AI for instruction, with a focus on enabling people to use it and to address the challenges it poses. Membership included staff from DCAL, ITC, and the Libraries to bring to bear institutional resources and capacities, as well as faculty representatives from each of the schools. They found that instructors' responses to GenAI can be categorized as resistant, cautious, or excited, with the largest group at Dartmouth currently in the cautious category. Those cautious instructors recognize that GenAI is or will soon be ubiquitous but are also concerned about its implementation and implications. For any instructor interested in incorporating GenAI tools into their pedagogy, the biggest challenges stem from how fast it is moving. Capabilities of the tools are continually evolving, creating moving targets for students

and educators, and new tools emerge every day, making it difficult to evaluate and support them. Ethical and equity implications must be considered as part of any engagement, and the tools are impacting various disciplines in different ways.

The working group recommendations include creating a standing advisory group to continue working on this topic and hiring a program manager to facilitate the work of the advisory group. The group also recommended implementing a call for proposals for smaller faculty working groups (supported by staff, including ITC, DCAL, and the Libraries) to focus on thematic areas within the umbrella of GenAI and pedagogy, e.g. GenAI in Writing Intensive Courses, GenAI in Courses with Coding Components, etc. These working groups might output tools, policies, recommendations, or new/unanswered questions, etc.

ITC/Research Computing: Christian Darabos, Senior Director of Research Computing, provided an update on what Research Computing has been doing in the GenAI space to support research. They are working less in terms of policy and more in terms of solutions delivery, which falls into two buckets: commercial software and hosted open-source solutions. For commercial software, Dartmouth has not committed institutionally to any one option. Protection of data is a primary concern, as we don't necessarily know what happens with data inputs to commercial software. Microsoft offers some degree of protection, but hosted open-source solutions give the institution more control over the environment and ensure nothing gets leaked. Dartmouth's AI Tools Repository provides an early version of AI/GenAI tools available to the Dartmouth community that are supported by Research Computing and the Dartmouth Libraries. Some of these tools are general applications, such as Dartmouth Chat, which is similar to ChatGPT, but it is hosted by Dartmouth, does not save uploaded files, and does not leak data to external parties. Other tools have bubbled up from faculty interests, such as the Patient Actor app developed by Associate Professor of Medical Education Thomas Thesen in collaboration with the Libraries' data scientist Simon Stone. Medical students can interact with the AI Patient Actor to practice interviewing diagnosing patients. To support additional projects, Research Computing has put out a call for proposals (no funding available, but resources and time from Research Computing are offered) and plans to support 6-12 projects over the next year.

Library: Lora Leligdon, Head of Research Data Services at the Libraries, provided an overview of AI across the Libraries. As the center of campus and a source of information available to everyone, the Libraries are uniquely positioned to support various user groups in different ways. One area of focus is on Critical information literacy – helping researchers and students ask the right questions about and with GenAI tools. The Libraries are offering a workshop series on "Thinking Critically about GenAI," meeting with individual departments, and engaging in undergraduate instruction and consultations. Research partnerships are another area of focus, including working with faculty and students who want to use these tools in their own work. Examples include collections-based analyses, handwriting text analyses, and undergraduate computational research thesis support. The Libraries' Scholarly Communications department is staying abreast of issues related to publication policies, authorship, and plagiarism checkers and having conversations with researchers across campus. The Libraries are also exploring how AI might be used in archives and records management, as well as search and discovery tools.

Council members expressed appreciation for the compelling examples of what people are doing already, and asked how ITC finds out about these projects. There has not been a systematic

mechanism to capture everything that is happening with AI. Most projects have become known through various forms of outreach (e.g., workshops, events) and open calls for collaboration.

Council members asked how someone without expertise might connect to resources for getting started with AI. Right now, there's not a centralized process, but there is lots of coordination happening. There is a proposal to hire a project manager who could serve as a point person for intake. There are also efforts to develop a list of offerings/ resources in one place. Research Computing, DCAL, and the Libraries are developing a page (https://genai.dartmouth.edu) on "Exploring AI at Dartmouth," which is intended to be a resource for community building and information, with events and announcements related to AI at Dartmouth. The AI Tools Repository (https://ai.dartmouth.edu/) is more focused on tools that are available to the Dartmouth community. For specific inquiries, sending an email to Research.Computing@dartmouth.edu creates a ticket that can be routed to the person best qualified to respond.

One Council member shared their experience of having creative work stolen via AI and asked how the institution is addressing copyright issues and the environmental costs of AI. The working group on GenAI and Pedagogy sought out faculty/instructor perspectives on AI, which included various critiques. The recommendations for moving forward include being attentive to those issues, and making sure we have the expertise to address them. Part of the rationale for forming additional working groups is to have the Dartmouth community work though these kinds of questions. In addition, the critical information instruction offered by the Libraries considers issues of copyright, bias, and sustainability. Council members asked how student voices will be included moving forward. The working group recognized that convening students will be an important first step in any direction they go.

A Council member asked for clarification about Dartmouth Chat and whether data inputs stay at Dartmouth. The answer is yes and no. For the life of the session, data is in memory and stays there for up to 24 hours. None of it is written to disk, and no one else will have access to it.

5. University Press Panel Event
   Qiana Johnson, Associate Dean of Libraries for Collections & Content Strategies, informed the Council that Dartmouth Libraries will host a university press panel at 4:30 PM on April 4 for a discussion of the changing landscape of scholarly publishing. Experts from MIT, Princeton, and the University of Michigan will be at Dartmouth for the panel discussion.

6. Any Other Business
   None.

7. Next Meeting: 27 February 2024