SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday 18 February 2021 2:32-3:43p.m. via Zoom

Attendees

Senators
Francis Andrew
Gage Averill
Janette Bulkan
Lawrence Burr (Vice-Chair)
Maura MacPhee
Shigenori Matsui (Chair)
George Tsiakos

Regrets
Tarique Benbow
Eshana Bhangu
Colin Godwin
Chalaya Moonias
Nick Pang
Pam Ratner
Alex Scott
Richard Topping

Senate Staff
Emma Clarke

Ex Officio
Erik Kwakkel
Susan Parker

Guests
Eugene Barsky

Call to Order
The meeting of the Senate Library Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:32 p.m. on 18 February 2021 by Shigenori Matsui, Chair.

Agenda
THAT THE Senate Library Committee adopt the 18 February 2021 agenda as presented.

Approved by General Consent

Minutes
THAT THE Senate Library Committee approve the 21 January 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Approved by General Consent

University Librarian Update
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Update on the course, The Equity Toolkit, which is been taken collectively by members of the Library Executive.
To help get on the same page about major issues, particularly in the library field.
Self paced program with online offerings with live facilitated discussion.
Opportunity to participate in webinars that are library focused including one offered by the Association of College and Research Libraries: From Inclusive Leadership to Advancing Equity.
Will continue to take advantage of these opportunities as they continue to arise.
Irving K. Barber Learning Center
Usage Statistics
- The busiest day to date since January 4th is Monday, January 25th with 176 people (38% full).
- Most users are repeat users
- Many students utilize space to take online courses.
- Continues to be used by mostly undergraduate students and off-campus students.

Fall 2021 Planning
- Planning for the continued use of this space as well as the possibility of opening up further spaces dependent on how much campus will return to in-person teaching.
- Question about the possibility for The University’s Scenario B of in-person teaching and its effect on the library especially as it pertains to increased traffic on campus and increased demand for library space.

Other Updates
- The Library, in partnership with the Faculty of Forestry, sponsored a talk by Dr Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*.
- Event held for Library staff in January put on by the Excellent Workplace Committee.
- The Chapman Learning Commons has put together several foundational skills videos made by the student employees to help students with tech related questions. [https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/tech-support/foundational-skills/](https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/tech-support/foundational-skills/)
- The Library is part of a number of consortium in Canada, including the BC Electronic Library Network (BCELN) which has around 25 members. The BCELN was formed by the Province In order to make sure that there was a body that would be able to take provincial dollars and ensure that every educational institution province has access to a basic minimum level of online resources.
- EBSCO - academic search index and the business search premier index and the conversation around continuing to license both as a consortium.

Letter to the Library
Discussion around a letter sent to the University Librarian from an Emeritus Professor and the response to that letter as well as a conversation around the current state of the UBC Library.

Background and Comments from Susan Parker
- Funding
  - For a library of this size, scope, and importance the university library does not have the funding or amount of resources that is appropriate.
  - Has had discussions with the Provost and President as it factors into university ratings.
- The library is more than just books: there are many other resources offered.
• Presentation made to the board with the library's request for $1 million to cover the cost of materials requested by faculty that the Library could not cover at the time. The request has been granted as part of the Academic Excellence Initiative – funds will be received starting this year over a five year period. Next step is to develop further funding streams for the library.

**Physical Books/Books in Storage**
- Can request and get access to a book from storage within 24 hours because the facility is on campus.
- Circulation statistics on print books also don't by and large justify occupying space that students want to use for study.
- Opportunity to develop space that is not just for study but for many of the things that students look to the library for.

**Collections**
- Behind on cataloguing – impacted by COVID-19.
- In the process of doing a major workflow analysis to improve the catalogue.
- The UBC Library has made a significant investment in electronic books; has been able to purchase more in terms of the quantity of titles by going with electronic resources.

**Discussion/Comments**
- The retrieval system for books in storage is better now that it ever was. Noted that the range of material that's available in service, eBooks, and journals is top class.
- Making sure there is access to electronic materials and the struggle to provide access to print-only materials during the pandemic.
- The balance between the demand for print and electronic resources.
- Every branch of the Library is unique in terms of its collection and i.e the Law Library vs. the Music, Art, and Architecture Library. The collection demands are different.
- In the midst of a massive technological shift from physical to digital material as well as the way we approach knowledge as a society.

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**Geodisy: a Geodata Search Interface funded by CANARIE**

As Presented by Eugene Barsky *circulated*)

Presentation of Geodisy: a geospatial discovery search for research data and an open-source software.

- Software released last April.
- Instead of a text-based search the user drives an interactive map that delivers data about a specific location.
- The interface is 99% programmatic. It analyzes various datasets coming from more than 70 different repositories and extract the metadata from those datasets.
- Metadata is cleaned then sent to national research interface: Federated Research Data Repository for Canada (FRDR).
- Next step is to translate the website to French.
Discussion/Questions
Question: does Geodisy cover environmental research about specific areas?
Answer: the tool doesn’t create the data but instead makes currently available
data farmed from multiple sources discoverable in one place.

Question about the program called BC ShoreZone and how to make that data
available on Geodisy.
Answer: if the data is geospatial in nature it can be integrated and displayed on
the map.

Discussion around the possibility to use the resource for other types of
geospatial/location data i.e a visual map of the world's musical recordings or a
map of religions and religious history (integration with a religious studies
database).

Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 18 March 2021 2:30-4 p.m.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 3:43pm.