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Professor William E. Fry, Dean of Faculty  
Day Hall  
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**REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY BOARD- 2008-2009**

Dear Bill,

The Library Board held five regular meetings and one special meeting during the course of this academic year. I will summarize our activities by limiting my comments to four specific items that commanded a significant share of our attention and discussions. There were other items discussed that appear in notes of our meetings but that seem less significant.

1) Open Access publishing. In response to an inquiry to Provost Fuchs, the Library and the Library Board have been engaged in debate about encouraging and engaging the University Faculty in Open Access Publishing. What is open access? The following two conditions must be met in an open access contract.

a) the author(s) and copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual right of access to, and license to copy, use, distribute, transmit, and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship, as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.

b). A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in a suitable standard electronic format is deposited immediately upon initial publication in at least one online repository that is supported by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access...

In response to the economic challenge facing universities, in general, and our Library, in particular, Open Access is being explored as a means of helping the libraries to reduce costs associated with acquisition of published material and to foster more general access to the knowledge contained therein. The problem seems particularly acute in the area of scientific

serials where the exponential increase in the cost of serials has occurred without the correlative increase of the libraries budget. Our Library Board has been supportive of the Faculty Senate resolution of 2004 encouraging Faculty to elect open access publications for dissemination of their work. We have supported the actions by University Librarian Anne Kenney and Provost Kent Fuchs to set aside funding to defray the cost of publishing in true open access journals. The Board has further indicated a willingness to participate in discussions leading to appropriate management of these funds, and to bring a resolution to the Faculty Senate in the coming year in the form of a mandate for Open Access publishing by our Faculty.

2) The Committee has been actively informed of the status of plans to renovate Olin Library and has expressed concerns that the project could be delayed by the current economic crisis. Anne Kenney has forcefully articulated concerns about continued operations in Olin, without appropriate action to resolve many of the life-safety issues that have been identified. These life safety issues (resolution of the current lack of appropriate alarm systems and sprinkler systems) could place the lives of our students and community at jeopardy if not corrected. We applaud the planning that has gone into the Olin renovation with regard to faculty research carrels, graduate nested carrels, and group study spaces. Budget cuts have been a dominant source of discussion throughout our meetings, and the Olin renovation simply brings these to the fore. Other cuts became clear as the announcement was made of the closing of our Physical Sciences Library. As a Board, we have discussed the effects of cutbacks at the many library facilities on campus and have attempted to integrate the closure of the Knight Visual Resources facility into our analysis. The latter has been involved with the Library as some but not all of its collections have been digitized and made available through Library resources (and with the assistance of Library personnel under the guidance of the IT group).

3) The Board was kept apprised of the search for a new Associate Librarian for Scholarly Resources and Special Collections. Nerissa Russell, a member of the Board, served on the search committee. John Saylor has been awarded this position, effective February 1, 2009.

4) We were apprised of the new Library home page, a replacement for the old "Gateway" and there was a fair amount of constructive comment from the Board regarding faculty feedback regarding this new information structure. The goal of the new portal is to streamline entry to library resources held both in the CU Library as well as in other points of access.

5) There are negotiations about the sale and transfer of duplicative holdings in the Uris collection to Xinhua University. This addresses economic issues to a small degree, and space and storage issues to a larger degree. Similarly, the Library is in negotiations with other University Libraries to cooperate and to share "backroom" library functions in a manner that would help reduce costs and continue to provide access to specialized collections. Our Library is involved in digitization projects with Amazon and Google in a manner that should provide economic benefit as well as resource access for the University in the future. Clearly, the recession forces all libraries to consider ways in which they might question the value of their own holdings or facilities, and to reduce un-necessary duplication of collections amongst libraries that are close in proximity and/or status. A Task Force is currently meeting to plan

for “excellence in an environment of reduced resources.” I am participating in that task force and will represent that sentiments and lessons accrued by the Library Board. The report of the Task Force will be provided to the Provost in October 2009.

Please feel free to contact me should you require additional details.

Sincerely,

John W Hermanson  
Associate Professor of Anatomy  
Chair, University Library Board