

To: Joseph Burns, Dean of Faculty

From: Nerissa Russell

Re: Annual Report, University Faculty Library Board, 2013-14

This year the Library Board has devoted most of its efforts to ongoing consideration of the issues surrounding open access and the future of academic publication, on the one hand, and the struggle to maintain collections in the face of soaring journal prices and various effects of the new budget model, on the other. These two topics are related, as changing business models in the publishing world affect the ability of research libraries to maintain their collections.

Open access came to the fore in the spring thanks to a proposal from an enterprising group of graduate students who were inspired by a class they took to bring a resolution to the University Assembly that would move Cornell from an opt-in to an opt-out commitment to placing article proofs in an open-access repository (green open access). As first conceived, the proposal did not adequately take into account the crucial role of the Library in any such scheme; in part through our discussions, the students and the Library staff came into close collaboration and ultimately sponsored a successful UA resolution to create a committee to devise such an open-access policy and assess the resources it would require. This committee is now beginning its work. I was kindly invited to present the Library Board's work to the Faculty Senate in March, and focused on open access and the collections budget. This led to an article in the *Daily Sun* on open access and academic publishing, and faculty asked me for more information on open access. I recommended that the Library prepare a guide on its website with some pithy information for beginners on "How do I publish an open-access article?" – this is now online (<http://guides.library.cornell.edu/content.php?pid=472614>), although it should probably be featured more prominently.

Maintaining adequate funding for collections has been an issue for some years, in the face of predatory pricing by the leading for-profit scientific publishers. Cornell has been losing ground despite special efforts including one-time funding from the provost and a major fundraising campaign now in progress. The new budget model introduces further complications, as support for the Library now comes from a 'tax' on the colleges. We spent time in several meetings discussing how the Library is navigating this: gathering and presenting usage data that show how faculty and students draw on libraries across college boundaries, the different roles of the Library, and the development of memoranda of understanding with each college. We also discussed the various consortia and collaborations the Library is developing to share costs: the continued expansion of the 2CUL collaboration with Columbia, broadening of BorrowDirect, etc. We also looked at the Library's venture into new publishing models through a collaboration with Cornell University Press in SIGNALE, a German studies monograph series. (The Cornell Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies is also discussing a similarly constructed publication series.) Another result of the new budget model is the perverse incentives it creates as costs are itemized. In the fall we had heated discussions around CALS' plan to

charge departments or individuals for visiting scholars, since they are included in the formula for what the colleges contribute to the Library. We sent a letter to the provost on the topic, and the issue was ultimately resolved when CALS claimed that the fee was only for visiting graduate students.

Among the other topics discussed in the course of the year:

- 1) The completed review of the Mathematics Library
- 2) We participated in the search for an Associate University Librarian for Research & Learning Services, resulting in the promotion of Kornelia Tancheva to this position
- 3) New ventures into archiving websites as part of the Library's collections
- 4) A pilot study of Symplectic Elements, which promises to provide better information on faculty publications
- 5) Research data management: support for archiving data required by new federal regulations
- 6) Privacy, security, and intellectual property issues