

To: Charlie Van Loan, Dean of Faculty  
From: Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming  
Re: Annual Report, University Faculty Library Board, 2018-19

The Faculty Library Board (FLB) convened six times in 2018-19. Eilyan Bitar (Engineering), Nancy Chau (Human Ecology), Abby Cohn (Arts & Sciences), J. Ellen Gainor (Arts & Sciences), Andrew Hicks (Arts & Sciences), and Chantal Thomas (Law) joined the board this year. Continuing their service on the board from last year were Alice Colby-Hall (Arts & Sciences), Lee Humphreys (CALS), Karim-Aly Kassam (CALS), Ellis Loew (Vet), Jonathan Ochshorn (AAP), and Max Zhang (Engineering), along with co-chairs Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming (both Arts & Sciences). The Library was represented by University Librarian Gerald Beasley and the Library's Director of Collections, Kizer Walker.

Like last year, the main focus of the Faculty Library Board's energies in 2018-19 was on issues related to openness and sustainability in scholarly publishing, a set of concerns that pertains directly to the Library's support for the Cornell faculty's research and teaching. The Board worked with the Library to plan and host the Cornell Editors' Forum, held at the A.D. White House on October 16. The Forum was an opportunity for editors from across Cornell departments and disciplines to shed light on shared pressures facing academic control of the scholarly publishing process and to consider solutions to these shared problems. Participants included a dozen colleagues who edit Cornell-based journals or serve on the editorial boards of society journals and other publications; University Librarian Gerald Beasley and key members of the Library staff whose work involves supporting scholarly communications and acquiring access to published materials; the Director of Cornell University Press, Dean Smith; and two guests, Heather Joseph, the Executive Director of SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, and John Willinsky of Stanford University's Graduate School of Education, founder of the Public Knowledge Project. The Library is poised to explore new services to support the publishing needs of Cornell scholars, and the Forum was also intended to help inform the Library's planning in this arena, and a Cornell Editors listserv was established to facilitate future collaboration and conversation on these and other issues.

Later in the fall, FLB co-chairs Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming presented at the [Nov 14 meeting of the Faculty Senate](#) on journal subscription costs and related issues in scholarly communication. The co-chairs also introduced a proposal, reviewed and endorsed by the Faculty Library Board, for an initiative in the Faculty Senate to form a Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications.

The Board offered advice on various Library initiatives and new directions that were presented by the University Librarian and Library staff members. The Board heard about the Cornell Portal project, as well as the Library's involvement with the HathiTrust Research Center and options for computational access to large corpora of digitized books. Members were kept informed about two searches for Associate University Librarian positions. Library staff reported on an initiative to address textbook affordability for Cornell students. Occasioned by preliminary plans for renovation of Olin and Uris Libraries, the Board weighed in on library space needs across campus.

For the final meeting of the academic year, the Board was joined by Cornell's Provost Kotlikoff for a free-ranging discussion of Library-related topics, including collection support and issues surrounding scholarly communications. The Board shared the draft proposal for a Committee on the Future of Scholarly

Communications with the Provost. The call for the Committee was approved by the Faculty Senate at the May 13 meeting.

### **2018-19 meeting agendas**

**Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Olin Library 703**

**1. Introductions (10 minutes)**

*The Faculty Library Board (FLB) welcomes five new members this fall: Eilyan Bitar (Engineering), Nancy Chau (Human Ecology), Abby Cohn (Arts & Sciences), J. Ellen Gainor (Arts & Sciences), and Chantal Thomas (Law).*

**2. Library goals (20 minutes)**

*University Librarian Gerald Beasley will share his 2018-19 goals for Library and seek the advice of the Board.*

**3. Cornell Editors' Forum - October 16 (20 minutes)**

*As part of its ongoing engagement with issues of sustainability and access in scholarly communications, the FLB is sponsoring a half-day meeting for Cornell faculty members who are editors of scholarly journals published at Cornell or serve on the boards of externally-published journals. We will discuss the goals and expected outcomes.*

**4. Faculty Senate (10 minutes)**

*The FLB plans to address issues surrounding the economics of scholarly publishing and pressures on the Library budget at an upcoming meeting of the Faculty Senate.*

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**Thursday, October 18, 2018 | 3:00 – 4:00 pm**

**235 Olin Library**

**1. Introductions and announcements (10 minutes)**

**2. HathiTrust Research Center (20 minutes)**

*The HathiTrust Research Center enables computational analysis of works in the HathiTrust Digital Library. Last month, HathiTrust announced that computational access for academic research, previously limited to a subset of the digitized books in the collection, is now extended to the full corpus (all books, both in and out of copyright). Michelle Paolillo, Digital Curation Services Lead in the Library's department of Digital Scholarship and Preservation Services, coordinates Cornell's partnership in HathiTrust and will discuss the new developments with the FLB.*

**3. Cornell Editors' Forum and next steps (30 minutes)**

*Faculty who edit Cornell-based journals or serve on the editorial boards of society journals and other publications were invited to attend this October 16 event. The goals are to build a local community of practice around editorial and publishing work and to explore University-based alternatives for dissemination of scholarship. The Editors' Forum grew out of FLB discussions on openness and sustainability in scholarly publishing. We will debrief and consider next steps.*

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**Tuesday, November 27, 2018 | 3:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Olin Library 703**

1. Announcements (5 minutes)

2. November Faculty Senate report and follow-up (45 minutes)

*FLB co-chairs Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming presented at the [Nov 14 meeting of the Faculty Senate](#) on journal subscription costs and the related issues in scholarly communication that have been the focus of recent FLB discussion. They will report and discuss possible next steps*

3. Cornell Portal (10 minutes)

*Since August, the Library has hosted the [Cornell Portal](#), a space outfitted with immersive audio-visual technology that Cornell community members and guests can enter for face-to-face conversation with people in a distant portal (the Portal is the gold shipping container on the Arts Quad outside of Olin Library). November 20 is the Portal's last day of operation; FLB will discuss whether to recommend its return next fall.*

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**Wednesday, February 6, 2019 | 3:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Olin Library 703**

1. Library space needs of faculty (25 minutes)

*Gerald Beasley will provide an update on the "Olin & Uris Renovation Pre-Schematic Design" effort (see attached report) and discuss broader library space needs.*

2. Associate University Librarian (AUL) searches (10 minutes)

*A search is underway in the Library for two Associate University Librarians, one position focused on Special Collections, the other on Information Technology and Digital Research. Candidates will be on campus in February. Gerald will update the Board.*

3. Proposing a Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications (25 minutes)

*Paul Fleming will report on an initiative in the Faculty Senate to form a Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications reporting to the Cornell President. The Board will review a draft proposal (attached).*

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**Thursday, March 14, 2019 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm**  
**Olin Library 703**

1. Textbook affordability (30 minutes)

*Gerald Beasley will provide an overview of the Library's efforts to address the financial burden to students posed by the cost of required course texts. Ashley Shea, Head of Instruction Initiatives for Mann Library, and Mary Ochs, Director of Mann, will attend to discuss the related topic of CUL's support for the creation and use of Open Educational Resources (OER).*

2. Proposing a Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications (20 minutes)

*At the February 6 meeting, Faculty Library Board members reviewed a draft Faculty Senate proposal for the formation of a Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications reporting to the Cornell President. A new draft (attached) has been prepared based on Board members' feedback. Members are asked to review the new version and submit changes to co-chair Paul Fleming (paul.fleming@cornell.edu) in advance of the upcoming meeting. The goal is to arrive at a final version that can be approved by the FLB on March 14.*

3. Associate University Librarian (AUL) searches (10 minutes)

*This semester, the Library has hosted candidates for two AUL positions. Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty, currently a faculty member with UCLA's California Rare Books School, has been appointed AUL, beginning May 1, with responsibilities including supervision of Cornell's Rare and Manuscript Collections (RMC) and the Kroch Library's Division of Asia Collections. Simeon Warner, Director of IT for Library Linked Data and Repository Architecture at CUL, has agreed to take on an Interim AUL role with responsibility for the Library's information technology and digital research operations from May 1 to the end of 2019, as the search for a permanent AUL for that area continues. Gerald will provide more information.*

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**Wednesday, April 24, 2019 | 3:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Olin Library 703**

1. Welcome (Paul Fleming)

2. Discussion with Provost Kotlikoff (all)

- Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communication
- Library Budget
- Other

3. Library Campaign Priorities: update (Gerald Beasley)

4. Thanks to FLB members

## Cornell Editors' Forum

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 – 2:00-7:00 pm

A.D. White House, Guerlac Room

### **Participants**

[brackets] = confirmed, but unable to attend

Gerald R. Beasley	Carl A. Kroch University Librarian, Cornell University Library
Rick Bonney	Director, Department of Program Development and Evaluation at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Editor of <i>Citizen Science</i> .
Jeremy Braddock	Department of English
Diane Brown	Managing Editor, <i>Diacritics: A Review of Theory and Criticism</i>
Abby Cohn	Department of Linguistics
Paul Fleming	Departments of Comparative Literature and German Studies; Taylor Family Director of the Society for the Humanities
[Michael Fontaine]	Department of Classics
Shane G. Henderson	School of Operations Research and Information Engineering. Editor-in-Chief of <i>Stochastic Systems</i> .
Robert Howarth	David R. Atkinson Professor of Ecology and Environmental Biology. Editor-in-Chief of <i>Limnology &amp; Oceanography</i> ; founding editor of <i>Biogeochemistry</i> .
Heather Joseph	Executive Director, Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
[Karim-Aly S. Kassam]	International Professor of Environmental and Indigenous Studies, Department of Natural Resources; American Indian & Indigenous Studies Program
Lara Kelingos	Managing Editor, <i>New German Critique</i> ; Cornell University Library
[Lillian Lee]	Computing and Information Science. Co-editor-in-chief of <i>Transactions for the Association of Computational Linguistics</i>
Joe Regenstein	Professor Emeritus, Department of Food Science. Co-editor-in-chief of <i>Food Bioscience</i> .
[Diana Sinton]	Soil and Crop Sciences, School of Integrative Plant Science. Editor, <i>Journal of Geography</i> in Higher Education; senior editor, <i>Geographic Information Science &amp; Technology Body of Knowledge</i>
Dean J. Smith	Director, Cornell University Press
Gail Steinhart	Scholarly Communication Librarian, Cornell University Library

Lars Vilhuber	Executive Director, Labor Dynamics Institute, School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Managing Editor, <i>The Journal of Privacy and Confidentiality</i>
Kizer Walker	Director of Collections, Cornell University Library
Kim Weeden	Jan Rock Zubrow '77 Professor of the Social Sciences, Department of Sociology; Director, Center for the Study of Inequality. Founding editor, <i>Sociological Science</i>
Terrie Wheeler	Director, Samuel J. Wood Library, Weill Cornell Medical College
John Willinsky	Khosla Family Professor of Education, Stanford University; Director, Public Knowledge Project
[K. Max Zhang]	Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

### **Editors' Forum agenda**

2:00 – 2:30: Welcome and opening remarks, Jeremy Braddock (English) and Paul Fleming (Comparative Literature and German Studies). Introductions.

2:30 – 3:45: Round-robin: What is on participants' minds regarding publishing/editorial work? Where pressures are editors experiencing today?

– *break* –

4:00 – 5:00: Open Access and University-sponsored publishing solutions, Gerald Beasley (Cornell University Library), John Willinsky (Stanford and Public Knowledge Project), Heather Joseph (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition – SPARC). Discussion.

5:00 – 5:30: Next steps.

5:30: Reception (Dining Room)

**The Faculty Senate calls for the formation of a 1-year, ad hoc Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications.**

In light of the Faculty Senate Resolution on *Cornell Leadership in Honest and Reliable Knowledge* (April 2017), we hold that:

- 1) the rapidly changing landscape of scholarly communications together with the competing pressures of Open Access and commercialization have made the careful consideration of sustainable, universal access to knowledge both an ethical and existential imperative for the University, its faculty, and its students;
- 2) as a globally influential institution with both private and public elements, Cornell is in a unique position to lead on these issues (as its leadership in arXiv attests); and
- 3) given emerging alternatives for publication and distribution, we have reached a critical moment and opportunity to rethink and discuss how we publish and disseminate reliable knowledge.

Action in this arena is especially timely due to:

- 1) the dramatic increase in costs to the Library of academic journal subscriptions, particularly those sold by the big five for-profit academic publishers (Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, Wiley-Blackwell, Springer, and Sage);
- 2) the opportunities that [Fair Open Access](#) publishing offers for sharing scholarly knowledge with underserved populations and the world generally;
- 3) the significant steps towards mandatory Open Access publishing made by the European science funders who have established “cOAlition S,” a move backed by major libraries and funders in China (September 2018, December 2018);
- 4) the unprecedented decision by academic libraries in Sweden and Germany to decline to renew Elsevier contracts (July 2018), recently followed by the University of California (February 2019);
- 5) recent decisions made by influential editorial boards (e.g., *Journal of Informetrics*) to abandon Elsevier and pursue Fair Open Access publication; and
- 6) the NIH’s requirement that all research funded by it must be made publicly available 12 months after publication (<https://publicaccess.nih.gov/policy.htm>)

The Committee will:

- 1) Assess the ramifications of the escalating costs of scholarly journals
- 2) Explore and identify inexpensive and fair open access publishing models
- 3) Address the challenges posed by new publication models, such as
  - a. the implications for tenure and promotion,
  - b. new models for evaluation and measuring “impact,” and
  - c. new funding models for Fair Open Access journals
- 4) Explore possibilities for coordination with other universities, whether through Faculty Library Boards or existing interinstitutional networks
- 5) Consider the appropriate role of the University as a funder of new scholarly methods, investing in excellence and taking a leadership role in scholarly communications
- 6) Consider the role of the Library and University Press as collaborators in any new scholarly communication efforts

- 7) Report to the Faculty about for-profit academic publishers' move towards investing in data management and data analytics, and the potential impacts on scholarship

The Committee will report to the Faculty Senate, and will work with the Faculty Library Board, a representative of arXiv, and Cornell University Press.