

Annual Report, University Faculty Library Board, 2020–21

The Faculty Library Board (FLB) met three times during the summer 2020 (June, July, and August) to consult on the Library's reactivation plans. We held six regular meetings during the 2020–21 academic year. We have scheduled additional summer 2021 meetings for time-sensitive updates on the FOLIO migration, fall reactivation planning, and engaging with Library and campus partners regarding the University Librarian Search.

Rachel Weil (Arts & Sciences), Warren Zipfel (Engineering), and Karen Levy (Computing and Information Science) joined the board this year. Continuing board members include: Eilyan Bitar (Engineering), Jeremy Braddock (Arts & Sciences), Nancy Chau (Business/Arts & Sciences), Abby Cohn (Arts & Sciences), J. Ellen Gainor (Arts & Sciences), Karim-Aly Kassam (Arts & Sciences), Jonathan Ochshorn (Art, Architecture & Planning), Alec Pollak (grad, Arts & Sciences), Chantal Thomas (Law School), and Max Zhang (Engineering), along with new co-chairs Andrew Hicks (Arts & Sciences) and Ellis Loew (Veterinary Medicine). The Library was represented by Gerald Beasley (University Librarian) and Kizer Walker (Director of Collections).

Throughout summer 2020, the FLB consulted on the reactivation plans and priorities that were developed by the Return to Campus (R2C) Library Task Forces; at the board's request, an FLB member (Andrew Hicks) was appointed to serve as a Faculty Representative on the Library Services R2C Task Force. Topics of discussion during the July and August meetings included (inter alia) collections access, fall course reserves, teaching support, availability of study spaces, the reactivation of Interlibrary Loan and BorrowDirect, communication strategies for keeping the University community informed about available services, and the Library's redoubled efforts to maintain equitable accessibility throughout the service interruptions. In July, to support the Library's reopening efforts, the FLB conducted a University-wide survey of faculty and grad students to identify key priorities. The survey garnered more than 800 responses, which emphatically affirmed that the Library's collections, staff, research and teaching services, and working spaces are essential to research and teaching activities across the University.

Upon our return to "regularly scheduled" meetings during the fall 2020 semester, the Library's continued reactivation plans remained front and center; the board also attempted to keep non-Covid-related business and priorities in view: these included updates on the Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications (which had begun its work in the previous year), the Library's Faculty Survey (which was successfully conducted in April 2021), and the status of the Feasibility and Program Study conducted with Brightspot Strategy, LLC, who consulted on the future renovation of Olin and Uris Libraries. The September 2020 meeting addressed these topics, along with a discussion of Library service reactivations. In October, Gaby Gessner (Cornell University Library's Director of Assessment and Planning), Xin Li (Associate University Librarian), and Michelle Paolillo (Digital Lifecycle Services Manager and HathiTrust Liaison) sought feedback from the FLB on HathiTrust's Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS), which provided temporary digital access to a large percentage of Cornell's print collection, though it entailed restrictions in other areas: volumes that were available digitally could not circulate, digital copies did not allow simultaneous use by multiple readers, scans could not be downloaded or printed for offline reading, etc. Given that many members of the University community could not return to campus, there was consensus that the value of continued digital access outweighed

any physical restrictions and that the service should be maintained throughout the fall and spring semester (indeed, ETAS remained available until May 2021).

Our December meeting was primarily devoted to showcasing the scope and value of the library's rare and distinctive (RAD) collections. Associate University Librarian Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty and a team of RAD curators and directors (Brenda Marston, Gregory Green, Tre Berney, Wesley Chenault, and Michael Cook) presented on different aspects of these collections and led a discussion with the FLB about exploring potential faculty/Library collaborations centered on RAD collections. Many other members of the RAD group (from across the Library) joined the meeting for that discussion. The FLB has followed up on that initial discussion by inviting Dr. Joan Lubin (the new Director of Research, Education, and Engagement for Rare and Distinctive Collections) to meet with us in early fall 2021 and engage the FLB in her vision for a community of scholarship and outreach around Cornell's RAD collections. Facilitating faculty/Library collaboration remains a key priority for the FLB.

The December meeting also solicited FLB representation on a new task force called by Vice President for Research and Innovation Emmanuel Giannelis and University Librarian Gerald Beasley: the Library Research Infrastructure task force. FLB members Jeremy Braddock, Andrew Hicks, Ellis Loew, Rachel Weil, and Warren Zipfel agreed to join the taskforce (together with other faculty members from across the University). The work of that task force, chaired by Rachel Weil, will continue throughout the summer, and a report will be submitted in early fall 2021.

At our February 2021 meeting, the board engaged with Senate Working Group C in the Antiracism Initiative. We consulted on the proposal for the Center for Antiracist, Just, and Equitable Futures and the Library's role in such a Center. Following that discussion, the FLB submitted to Dean of Faculty Charlie van Loan a unanimous statement in support of Working Group C's proposal that the Library serve as the physical host for a such a Center:

The Faculty Library Board offers its unanimous support for Cornell University Library's integral collaboration with the proposed Center, including but not limited to the Library's hosting the physical location of the Center. The Library provides a space that is not confined to a single college or a single discipline; that is deeply integrated into the lives of our students, faculty, and staff; and that has a wide-reaching presence throughout the University. The intellectual and social reach of the Library can inform and shape the life of the Center, and the Center can help make visible the range of Library resources that document the history of oppression and dispossession, that record the voices of active and activist resistance, and that chart alternative paths to a more equitable future. The FLB acknowledges that no single physical location has been proposed and that the decision will depend, in part, on the needs of the Center. We feel strongly that the final location should not indicate "ownership" of the Center or dictate its focus or scope. To the contrary, by locating the Center within the Library, its activities will extend across all Library spaces, resources, and collections (including Africana, Kroch Asia, RMC, Catherwood, and many more), and therefore across the Ithaca campus as a whole. In short, by locating the Center within the Library, the Center will be, like the Library, located everywhere. It is an ideal partnership.

Portions of this statement were integrated into the final proposal, Gerald Beasley and Andrew Hicks spoke at the March 17 Senate meeting, and the Working Group C proposal eventually was passed by the Senate with a 101-12 vote (with 5 abstentions).

The April 2021 meeting revisited the HathiTrust timeline (confirming the end of ETAS in May 2021, as had been discussed in October 2020), discussed the goals and priorities of the Library Research Infrastructure task force, heard from UL Beasley about a revision to the Library's Fines and Fees policy, and had a presentation from Kizer Walker about a task force examining DEI principles in the Library's collection policies. At our last regular meeting in May 2021, we invited Associate University Librarian Simeon Warner for a presentation on the Library's migration to the open-source FOLIO platform, which occasioned substantive discussion of the Library's communication strategies about the service interruptions necessitated by the migration. In response to that discussion, the Library Communications worked to increase the visibility of the interruptions across multiple channels (email, social media, a banner on the Library webpage, and direct communication from Library Liaisons).

Finally, the co-chairs of the FLB continue to work closely with University leadership to lay the groundwork for robust faculty engagement in the upcoming search for a new University Librarian. Because of the timing of the search, the FLB will continue to meet during summer 2021 to engage with the search consultants, the co-chairs of the search committee, and other Library partners as needed.

Faculty Library Board Agendas

Thursday, July 16, 2020 | 2:00–3:00 pm | Zoom

1. FLB advice for the Library re: return-to-campus plans, e.g.
 - course reserves
 - accessibility compliance
 - copyright
 - teaching support
 - study spaces
 - other?

Monday, August 17, 2020 | 3:00–4:00 pm | Zoom

1. The Library's social function for students
2. Interlibrary Loan and BorrowDirect—update on reactivation of services and limitations during the pandemic
3. FLB feedback on the Library's course reserve services for the fall
4. Library communication strategies through the fall semester

Monday, September 21, 2020 | 1:00 PM–2:00 pm | Zoom

1. Welcome new and returning members (10 minutes)
2. Non-COVID-related Library priorities and initiatives (10 minutes)
Update on progress and priorities for prior initiatives interrupted by the pandemic.
3. Overview of the coming year (10 minutes)
What topics and business would members like FLB to discuss in the 2020–21 academic year?
4. Hybrid library for a hybrid semester (30 minutes)
Update on reactivation of services, plans and limitations during the pandemic.

Monday, October 26, 2020 | 1:00 PM–2:00 pm | Zoom

1. Announcements and updates (5 minutes)
2. HathiTrust Emergency Text Access Service (ETAS) program (30 minutes)
Since March, the Library has provided temporary online access to about half of our print collections through our active membership in HathiTrust. This access is possible as long as the current public health crisis disrupts our lending services. Gaby Castro Gessner, CUL's Director of Assessment and Planning, will give a presentation on Cornell use of the ETAS program to date and seek FLB members' input on the future of ETAS at Cornell (presentation slides will be circulated in advance, before the weekend). Xin Li, Associate University Librarian, and Michelle Paolillo, CUL's Digital Lifecycle Services Manager and HathiTrust liaison, will also join for the discussion.
3. Hybrid library for a hybrid semester (25 minutes)
Update on reactivation of Library services in three phases: before Thanksgiving break, between November 30 and end of semester, and spring 2021 semester.

Monday, December 7, 2020 | 1:00 PM–2:00 pm | Zoom

1. Rare and Distinctive (RAD) collections in the Library (40 minutes)
The COVID-19 pandemic has further amplified how important access to the Library's rare and distinctive (RAD) collections is to faculty and students at Cornell. As we continue to navigate the unique and evolving challenges of research and learning during this crisis, our session will focus on demonstrating the scope and value of the library's rare and distinctive collections and the special contributions curators can offer to support faculty. Looking ahead, how can curators, as essential members of the academic community, collaborate with the Faculty Library Board to create new opportunities for partnerships that aspire to transform Cornell's research environment using RAD collections?
Short presentations by:
Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty, Associate University Librarian
Brenda Marston, Curator, Human Sexuality Collections, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections (RMC)
Gregory Green, Curator, John M. Echols Collection on Southeast Asia, Coordinator Kroch Asia Library
Tre Berney, Director, Digitization and Conservation Services
Wesley Chenault, Director, Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives
Michael Cook, Head of Collection Development and Digital Collections, Albert R. Mann Library
4. Library Taskforce on Research Infrastructure (10 minutes)
Vice President for Research and Innovation Emmanuel Giannelis and University Librarian Gerald Beasley are co-sponsoring a 2021 taskforce that will consider what kind of infrastructure researchers in all disciplines at Cornell will need from the Library over the next decade. The size/time commitment of the group has not yet been established but representation from the FLB is requested, who will be joined by a small number of other engaged faculty.
5. Hybrid library for a hybrid semester (10 minutes)

Update on reactivation of Library services through December and in spring 2021 semester.

Thursday, February 25, 2021 | 2:00 PM–3:00 pm | Zoom

1. Library as Potential Host of Anti-Racism Center (35 minutes)
See the attached draft proposal: a preliminary draft by a Working Group in the Senate's [Antiracism Initiative](#), which is still open for revision and subject to further layers of review and approval.
2. Update on Library Research Infrastructure Taskforce (15 minutes)
Vice President for Research and Innovation Emmanuel Giannelis and University Librarian Gerald Beasley are co-sponsoring a 2021 taskforce that will consider what kind of infrastructure researchers in all disciplines at Cornell will need from the Library over the next decade. Gerald will report on progress to date.
3. Hybrid library for a hybrid semester (10 minutes)
Nearly a year into the pandemic, we will review where things stand with Library services in the spring semester.

Thursday, April 1, 2021 | 2:00 PM–3:00 pm | Zoom

1. HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS) program (10 minutes)
Since March 2020, the Library has provided temporary online access to about half of our print collections through our active membership in HathiTrust. As discussed at our FLB meeting on October 26, 2020, the Library will be exiting the service at the end of the current semester. A communication plan is being developed.
2. Library Research Infrastructure Taskforce, Rachel Weil, chair (10 minutes)
Task Force members: Rachel Weil (chair), Jeremy Braddock, Andrew Hicks, Ellis Loew, Erich Mueller, Lois Pollack, and Warren Zipfel. Rachel will provide an update on progress.
4. New Library Policy on Fines and Fees (10 minutes)
To increase affordability for our users and to streamline staff workflows, CUL has decided to follow a recent trend in librarianship and eliminate late fees.
5. New Collection Development Task Force, Kizer Walker, convener (10 minutes)
The primary work of the Task Force focuses on anti-racism as part of a broader vision of just and equitable futures.
6. Standing item: Hybrid library for a hybrid semester (10 minutes)
Now a year into the pandemic, we will review where things stand with Library services in the spring semester.
7. Miscellaneous updates: Committee on the Future of Scholarly Publications; Proposed Center for Antiracist, Just, and Equitable Futures: see attachment (10 minutes)
The Committee is resuming its work with the assistance of a Research Assistant; the Center Proposal was presented to the Faculty Senate on March 17.

Thursday, May 6, 2021 | 2:00 PM–3:00 pm | Zoom

1. Implementing FOLIO (20 minutes)
FOLIO is an open-source library services platform, developed with CUL's strong participation in a multi-institutional collaboration of librarians, developers, and vendors (see:

(<https://www.folio.org/about/>). The Library will be completing a shift to the FOLIO platform in July. Presentation and discussion led by Associate University Librarian Simeon Warner.

2. CUL's current reactivation plans for the summer and fall (30 minutes)
Gerald Beasley will provide an overview; Kizer Walker will report on the status of collection development as we plan for a return to in-person research and teaching.
3. Other business (10 minutes)
Updates on the Library Research Infrastructure Task Force, Working Group C proposal, etc.