

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2013-2014

Submitted by Mark Ashbaugh, Chair

June 30, 2014

The Library Committee met on a monthly basis from September, 2013, through May, 2014. This has been the practice of the committee for at least the last several years.

The major issue of the year was surely the mold problem at the second depository storage area (UMLD2). The committee had discussions and updates on the matter since it was made aware of the problem near the end of Fall Semester, 2013, and it was actively involved in making suggestions on how to handle the problem and how to give faculty, students, and other library users a role in the decisions that need to be made regarding saving or not saving the contaminated materials. At our first meeting where this issue came up both Jim Cogswell (Library Director) and Anne Riley (Associate Director) were there to tell us the extent of the problem and what appeared to be needed to address it. Since that time we have had updates, and the Libraries' response to the problem has continued to evolve.

Some of our other topics of discussion that have come up during the year are (these are listed in the order in which they arose):

- We had an update on the Libraries' plans for a Centennial Celebration in 2015. A member of our committee was appointed to the MU Libraries Centennial Celebration Committee, which is handling the planning for the centennial celebration.

- We've had information and updates on the repairs that were needed for the western wing of the library due to settling. This part of the library was built in 1935, and, apparently due to the drought experienced a couple of year ago, it has settled and cracks have developed between it and the main (central) part of the library. The problem is primarily cosmetic and not a safety issue, but needed to be addressed. These repairs were to start over the Christmas holidays and be finished in about 6 weeks. As part of that project, a women's restroom outside of room 202 was to be converted to a handicap accessible gender neutral restroom. In an unrelated matter, a leak in the original 1915 plumbing in the subbasement of the central part of the library was repaired over the Thanksgiving holidays (2013). Since this necessitated shutting down the water for the entire building, the library was closed the day before Thanksgiving so that the work could be accomplished.

- We've had information and updates on the Renew Mizzou project, and its impact on Ellis Library and its users. Under this project a large number of employees from Jesse Hall will be relocated to the West Reading Room and the Current Periodicals Reading Room while repairs and renovations are made to Jesse Hall. This relocation means that these two large reading and study areas will not be available to library patrons during the 2014-15 academic year (in fact, Jesse Hall employees will begin moving in at the end of Spring Semester 2014). This will particularly impact students, as they will lose a large amount of study space. The Libraries are looking at ways of alleviating this problem by finding alternative space that can serve as study areas during the time that the reading rooms are out of service.

- We reviewed information on the Libraries' expenditures during the past three years as provided to us by Library Director Jim Cogswell.

- We reviewed the Library Assessment Document that the Libraries have prepared for the Strategic Planning and Resource Allocation Committee (SPRAC). Members of the committee were able to make comments and suggestions before the final document was submitted to SPRAC.

- We met with Jeannette Pierce, MU Libraries Associate Director of Research and Information Services, who gave us a sense of her work in the assessment effort and showed us a variety of statistics that the library keeps showing how much the library is used and also how use has been evolving in recent years. Jeannette is also involved in the Libraries' efforts to address the mold problem at UMLD2.

- We met with David Rosenbaum, the Director of the University of Missouri Press, who gave us a sense of what the Press does and where it's headed under his leadership (he assumed the job on November 1, 2013, coming from outside the UM system). There was also some discussion of how the Press could interact with the Libraries, or how the two could jointly foster one project or another.