

LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2010, 2:00 p.m.
Minutes

In attendance: Jensen Branscombe, Bonnie Frederick, John Harvey, Miguel Leatham, Till Meyn, Penny Moore, Karen Steele
Ex officio: June Koelker, Tracy Hull
Guests: Dan Williams, Diana Boerner

1) Welcome, Introductions (Steele)

2) TCU Press (Koelker)

Dan Williams, the new director of the TCU Press, provided a brief report to the committee regarding the Press's academic function and its ongoing mission, despite the economic climate and the expanding list of distinguished academic presses that are folding. Dan reminded the committee that TCU Press, which has been publishing since the 1970s, is vital to the research profile of TCU and to the function of university researchers who need academic presses to disseminate knowledge, especially that which is not commercially viable. Dan also expressed his vision that the press serve as a learning laboratory for our students, who would benefit from real world experience in editing, marketing, etc. His visit to the committee was to solicit help in promoting the work and value of the press for TCU.

3) Library Web Committee Usability Study - Update (Diana Boerner)

Diana Boerner, member of subcommittee on web site usability, presented the results of a small, randomly-selected survey of students, faculty, and staff on how effective library users are in completing a range of research tasks. Results of survey found that the successful completion rates varied: Faculty (78%), grad students (59%), undergrad students (70%). Based on the findings of this survey, the committee has forwarded a range of recommendations to the library web committee. One strong finding is that all users avail themselves of drop down menus rather than advanced searches.

4) Digital Archives (Hull)

Associate Dean Tracy Hull announced that a new link went live in early Sept, providing users with a new opportunity to search and view photos from our Special Collection. This digitalization project was several years in the making and assembled by Special Collections staff. The library has plans to add content to showcase what TCU produces (performing arts, campus views, sport events, etc). Tracy asked that if we have content that we'd like to see included in this digital archive to contact Mike Strong, archivist in Special Collections.

5) New Software Purchases (Hull)

Tracy announced that during the summer, the library began to research a new search tool with universal search functionality (in other words, it would search the entirety of our library collections and would approximate the ease and speed of google). The resource discovery tool that they've identified is Summon (parent company: ProQuest). The library has plans to

implement this new search engine over the next 6-8 weeks and aims to be live by spring semester.

The library is considering implementing a new electronic resource management tool, which will help library staff keep track of all of our library databases and resources. This tool is a “behind the scenes” tool, not something that will be usable or noticeable to our users.

6) Dean’s Update

Dean June Koelker announced that the Library Program Review committee has been assembled for AY 2010; committee members include Karen Steele (ENGL), Mary Kincannon, Associate Registrar, and Janis Morey (Research/Sponsored Projects). The self study is due to the committee by Feb. 2011. The dean is presently examining the materials budget to see if it mirrors the size and scope of each college. She will be updating the Faculty Senate of budgetary issues in November. The Texas Book Award, a dinner and awards evening sponsored by Friends of the Library, will be held in spring 2011. Finally, our FacSpeak event for the fall semester will feature Professor Don Coerver in the History department, who will be providing a talk on border immigration and drugs on Thursday, Oct 28.

7) Faculty Research Rooms /Scholar’s Study (Koelker)

The Dean was delighted to announce that she achieved a perfect, albeit delicate, supply/demand balance for research rooms for faculty. Alas, there was slightly more demand for grad (scholar) study rooms than those who requested them.

We adjourned at 2:58. Next meeting, TBA, during the spring semester.