

Minutes of the Library Committee, November 4, 2019

Present: Tracy Hull; June Koelker; Zack Hawley; Abigail Vernacchia; Bingyang Wei; Jeff Bond; John Donor; Roman Ruckhofer; Tim Barth; Jill Havens; Marla McGhee; Brandy Quinn

As some members had not met before, we started with introductions.

Jeff Bond, a special guest of Dean Koelker and technology officer of the library, began with an interesting discussion of Open Educational Resources (OER) and a recent library survey of their usage amongst the faculty. The faculty engaged with the library (about 100 responses to the survey) and disclosed that almost all think about the cost of educational resources faced by their students when choosing what to adopt for a course. The survey found that almost half of responders currently use OER in some form. The faculty asked to think about how OER creation and adoption should be viewed in terms of tenure and/or merit evaluations. Abby, an undergraduate student, asked how this would affect the cost for students and if there was a database of free textbooks available now. Jeff was able to answer her questions and lead her to Rice University's online search tool for OER.

Jeff then spoke of the new Data Management of Research Data plan. There may be need currently or in the future for researchers at TCU to house their data for public access and use. For example, a grant recipient may be required to allow the public to have access to the data generated or used for a publicly funded research project. The library is looking into the cost and demand for such services. Right now, the library offers this service to a few researchers (three databases) and has an application for those in need of data housing. There is no additional funding, for more servers or a data manager, so it is limited in scope. This may be an area of growth in the future.

Tracy Hull then spoke quickly about the strategic plan. This included a handout on the core values and initiatives at the Library. It was nice to see some of the projects planned.

Tracy then discussed the materials collection reviews. The library is currently reviewing our subscriptions to journals. There was discussion of the growing outcry within the larger research community over Elsevier's business model. Tracy handed out an article about the University of California system and Elsevier's relationship. She discussed the sizable cost to access the research published in these journals, which was originally paid for by the same universities that are subscribing. The discussion was interesting and timely. The library is also conducting a standing orders review to help free up budget space. Finally, Tracy discussed the database review (which has never been done before). Roman, a graduate student in music, was worried some databases would be removed. Tracy relaxed those fears and signaled there was only plans to examine the usage and importance now and if the library was thinking about dropping a database a more extensive review would take place. Roman seemed pleased with that answer and shocked to learn that the database about which he was worried would be removed was actually being used by many across campus.

Tracy then discussed a crowd funding campaign the library started back in September. She said that while they did not reach their goal, the library was able to achieve about half of the amount needed. This allowed the Fab Lab to purchase a new 3D printer; this printer will be a significant upgrade from the current models in the Fab Lab now.

Dean Koelker encouraged the faculty to view and spread the video the library made for TCU gives day.

Dean Koelker then discussed the Board of Trustees meeting and shared the library's points of pride they plan to share to the trustees.

June then shared that the library was digitizing audio recordings of Van Cliburn. This is a wonderful development and Roman shared his excitement with the group.

Finally, Dean Koelker gave an update on faculty research rooms. There still seems to be a shortage, but the library is doing the best they can to house faculty researchers.

Respectfully submitted by: Zack Hawley, chair