

## Report of Senate Library Committee, April 2015

In 2014-15, the University of Winnipeg library continued its strategic planning initiative (begun the previous year) as well as addressing some of the most pressing needs identified in the early stages of that process. In particular, the library Space Planning Committee has been working on several ways to improve the usability of library space, particularly for students. The library has also been active in fundraising in conjunction with the University of Winnipeg Foundation, holding both a Donor Appreciation event and an online crowdfunding campaign targeted at space issues. The Senate Library Committee (SLC), consistent with its terms of reference to advise the library on academic issues, is broadly supportive of these efforts as they affect the library's core academic functions --- providing access to academic resources and an accommodating work environment for students and researchers.

In carrying out its mandate, the SLC addressed a number of issues in meetings throughout the year. These included several specific points, such as noise levels in the library and staffing concerns. The SLC was satisfied with steps being taken by the library to address these issues. However, the greatest share of the SLC's attention was devoted to issues of wider impact for the library and its relationship to the university as a whole, including the following:

- the library's role in aiding faculty with Open Access publishing, especially given the new Tri-Council requirements. The library held a themed week of events in the fall discussing Open Access with researchers on campus, and the SLC agrees that the library is in a unique position to help with Open Access publishing due to its maintenance of the Institutional Repository.
- aiding students with using the library and learning how to do research. The SLC feels that the library is already doing what is possible with limited resources (especially providing instruction to classes on request), and the library staff is constantly looking at possible improvements.
- graduate degree thesis archiving by the library, including cataloging and organization issues, as well as working with Graduate Studies to ensure graduate students to file their theses. With the encouragement of the SLC, Dean of the Library G. Prefontaine has discussed this issue with Acting Dean of Graduate Studies M. Weinrath.
- data on resource usage, especially ebooks and databases. While current package subscriptions are economical, it may be possible to find some efficiencies if underused titles can be identified and subscriptions customized. This is part of a wider move in the library toward knowledge management and data assessment in order to be more evidence-based in decision making.
- succession planning as a response to several recent and upcoming retirements.
- end of life for the Integrated Library System (software for library cataloging, collections management, and acquisitions). Replacement of this software will be a critical issue in the year to come, affecting several of the points discussed above.

The SLC plans to revisit these topics in the next year, especially regarding the Integrated Library System, in order to keep abreast of new developments.

The SLC also held a town-hall-style Library Users' Group Meeting in January 2015 to provide information to and receive feedback from the university community. G. Prefontaine presented an overview of library services and statistics and discussed concerns with several members of the faculty. Some of these topics were discussed further by the SLC. In all, the SLC found the meeting to be helpful and plans to hold another next year, in addition to its regular meetings.

An important common theme throughout SLC discussions is the availability of resources for the library to accomplish its core academic functions. The SLC encourages the university to ensure the library receives sufficient support and funding, as the library's mission is central to the academic mission of the entire university.

A. Frey will call the first meeting of the SLC early in the 2015-16 academic year, and a committee chair will be elected at that meeting.

A. Frey, SLC chair, for the SLC