

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY
(Final; Information)

LB.24.09 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Library

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Library (LB) during the 2023-2024 academic year. LB held four meetings during the fall 2023 semester (September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6) and four meetings during the spring 2024 semester (January 17, February 7, March 6, April 3). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

LB.22.02, Faculty Advisory Committee for Collections

LB was assured that faculty will have input on decisions made regarding collection management and the decision was made to remove this item from the agenda.

LB.22.03, Open Forums on the Library Renovation Project

In 2023 the decision was made to not have an open forum. In its stead LB created a survey to garner feedback.

LB.22.07, Academic Program Review

The University Library underwent an Academic Program Review in 2022. The Response to External Reviewers was completed in December 2023. The review is the basis for future discussions that LB will take, as well as the annual report and budget.

LB.22.09, Discussion on Departmental Libraries

In the recent past, a number of searches were undertaken for personnel. While there are still positions to fill, there is no longer a pressing need to have further discussion on this topic.

LB.23.01, Library Survey

The Library Survey was created with the purpose of gathering feedback from students and faculty on the level of services received, suggestions for areas of improvement, and to identify any areas of concern. The information will be used as a tool to share with the new Dean of Libraries and University Librarian as well as help inform future LB initiatives.

LB.24.08, Discussion with Student-Focused Spaces Task Force

The Student-Focused Spaces Task Force works to ensure that student-focused spaces across the University Library meet the expectations and needs of the student body. David Ward,

Director, Library Teaching and Learning, University Library, shared results from several focus groups. Jen-chien Yu, Director of Library Assessment, University Library, shared results from two different types of surveys, a Large Sample Student Survey, and a Library Service Satisfaction Survey.

II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

LB.22.01, Pressure on the Collection Budget

Tom Teper, Associate University Librarian for Collections & Technical Services, reported that the University Library received \$730,000 for materials. \$506,000 is allocated to cover material price increases, \$506,000 is allocated to cover material price increases, \$148,000 is allocated to support developing Open Access needs, \$48,000 is allocated to assist in the Social Sciences, and the remaining \$30,000 is allocated for Illinois Experts, Pitchbook, and a Cambridge eBooks package. Claire Stewart, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, University Library, noted that the cost of inflation on library collections is about \$790,000.

LB.22.04, Open Access and Transformative Agreements

An open publishing agreement with Elsevier began in January of 2024. Discussions continue regarding Elsevier's Scopus AI feature. Tom Teper, Associate University Librarian for Collections & Technical Services, University Library, shared that negotiations are wrapping up for a new Elsevier license for Science Direct. Teper also reported that Transformative Agreements are agreements that include both a subscription model to journal content and a mechanism for discounting or paying for article processing charges (APCs) that underwrite open access publishing. He also noted there is substantial evidence that OA articles are more highly cited, increase global reach of scholarship, and democratizes access. The University of Illinois has strategic partnerships with the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) that cover some licenses (Wiley, Cambridge University Press) and direct renewals with Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Elsevier, and Institute of Physics Publishing (IOP).

LB.22.05, Pressure on Library Storage Space

Claire Stewart, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, University Library, reported that the 10-year Capital Planning Project Grid is being updated. Stewart also noted that the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) is doing their first large scale analysis of print holdings. In total there are 114 million bound volumes, 48 million monographic volumes, of which 22 million are unique titles. The initial analysis shows that 62% of the holdings are held in one library. In 2007 the Big 10 Academic Alliance (BTAA) partnered with Google to digitize millions of bound volumes in their library collections. The University Library is a premier repository with indications that there are several items in the collection that are not available elsewhere.

LB.24.01, Status of the Archives and Special Collections Construction Project

Tom Teper, Associate University Librarian for Collections & Technical Services, University Library, noted that initial bids for the Archives and Special Collections Building were higher

than anticipated and rebidding needed to take place. The construction bid for the Archives and Special Collections construction project will be presented to the Board of Trustees for official approval of the increase. Construction is slated to begin in September of 2024.

LB.24.02, Provision of Space and Services for Undergraduates

Tom Teper, Associate University Librarian for Collections & Technical Services, University Library, shared that data collected from 2019 through 2023 demonstrates a steady increase in on-site usage by undergraduates. Claire Stewart, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, University Library, reported that there is a strong body of research showing the connection between library use and student success. Services available that help focus on student success include course-integrated instruction, information literacy support, and the Innovation and Design in Engineering and the Arts (IDEA) lab.

LB.24.03, Maintenance and Servicing of the Main Library

LB received regular reports from Claire Stewart, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, University Library, on the issue of maintenance and servicing of the Main Library.

LB.24.04, Role of Artificial Intelligence's (AI) in the Utilization of Library Materials and Services

Christopher Prom, Associate University Librarian for Digital Strategies, University Library, Celenia Graves, Visiting Assistant Professor, Library Administration, Tracy Tolliver, Director of Library Information Technology, Library Administration, and Mary Ton, Digital Humanities Librarian, University Library, provided an extensive report on the University Library's AI Strategy and Services. Key principles included integrating significant benefits of AI into our core services while mitigating potential disruptions/harms. Key partners include external partners such as publishers, the Joint Task Force on Scenario Planning for AI, and the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), and Internal partners include the Generative AI Center of Expertise (GenAI CoE), Technology Services, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), Illinois Computes, the Center for Innovations in Teaching & Learning (CITL), The School of Information Sciences, and the Writers Workshop. Key activities include Machine Learning/automated classification, metadata creation and improvement, retrieval augmented generation projects, providing training in AI and responsible use, and AI consultations. The Library AI Task Force's mission is to identify and develop library-specific plans for the short and medium-term strategy, service priorities, resourcing, development, integrations, and support of technologies and services related to the use of AI in the University Library. It also aims to provide services that support the use of AI technologies by University faculty, staff, and students.

LB.24.05, Heavy Metals Remediation

Jennifer Hain Teper, Preservation & Conservation Librarian, University Library, and Mary Laskowski, Acting Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University Library, provided an overview of the precautions the University Library is taking in the handling of Victorian era book cloth. The University Library's Preservation Services unit will do testing using X-ray Fluorescence (XRF). Results from testing will help determine which books to prioritize.

LB.24.06, Open Educational Resources and Affordable Course Content

Sara Benson, Associate Professor, University Library and Evie Cordell, Assistant Professor, University Library, shared that The PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) published a study in June 2020 stating 2 in 3 students decided against buying a text due to cost. Open Educational Resources (OER) are freely available, high-quality learning materials that can be downloaded, edited, and shared to better serve students. The Open Educational Resources Incentive Program, sponsored by the University Library and the Office of the Provost, is designed to address challenges students face with textbook costs. The Office of the Provost allocated \$75,000 to boost the Open Educational Resources program.

LB.24.07, Open Forums for the University Library

Chair Mathisen expressed a desire to continue co-sponsoring open forums with the University Library as a means of maintaining open dialogue with faculty and students. Most issues brought forth at the last forum were not related to the library renovation project. Mathisen would like future forums to touch on a broader scope of subjects related to the University Library. This spring's Open Forum will be held via Zoom on Thursday, April 25. Topics to be covered will include remarks from the Dean of Libraries on vision and planning, the Library's role in AI, and a Space projects update.

LIBRARY

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