

LIBRARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 4, 1995

Present: J. Cochren (Chair), L. Griffin, L. Hite, C. Scott, H. Oloomi, S. Sarratore, D. Oberstar

Library staff present: J. Violette, S. Skekloff, and C. Truesdell

J. Cochren called the meeting to order and the minutes from the November 13 meeting were approved. J. Cochren also stated the purpose of this meeting was for the librarians that were present at the meeting to educate the committee on what is evolving and the direction of the library. L. Griffin also stated that he believes it is important for the faculty and librarians to work together and that the meeting will be totally open for discussion.

C. Truesdell was the first librarian to speak. She spoke about all of the choices that were going to be available in the future. There will be a wide range of needs to meet, from the student who wants help to the student who wants to do the work completely alone. Ms. Truesdell believes that print will never completely disappear but a lot of things such as self check-out, document delivery, and information sources will be done electronically. She would like the librarian's role to be to try to make it as easy as possible for the patrons to get what they want. Computers will be needed by everyone eventually whether one wants to use them or not.

L. Griffin stated that the CIC schools, through a consortium, are offering online services. We are not able to participate due to money and lack of clear direction from the faculty. We need a clear direction because options like this come up often, and direction would allow library staff to make decisions that fit direction.

C. Truesdell also spoke about "access enhancing ownership." Many journals are now full-text online. This could be more cost effective. Journals that are used once a year can be received through Document Delivery. We can also set up accounts with each department so they can order the information needed directly. C.

Truesdell also stated that there are over 70 journals now available full-text online from OCLC.

J. Violette was the next librarian to speak. She spoke of the three big projects that the Library would be working on: The Library Fund Drive, Computer & Data Processing Lab on the first floor of the Library, and the Introduction of the Horizon Project, which is the client/server version of our catalog. She spoke first of the Library Fund Drive stating the need for a

clear vision of who we are and a well-reviewed collection policy. She also stated that whether we go electronic or ownership the Library needs guidance. She asked that the committee review the collection policy and give the library guidance.

S. Skekloff spoke about Faculty and Librarian interaction. She spoke of the importance of increasing communication especially when it comes to assignments. She suggested that there be one department meeting per year between faculty and librarian in that particular department and that all new faculty should spend time with the librarian. She stressed the need for more communication with part-time faculty both with the librarian and the associate faculty. She said that the assignments could be reviewed by the librarian via e-mail.

L. Griffin stated that some faculty assume we carry everything. Students come in looking for something that we do not carry and get frustrated when they are told we don't carry it.

D. Oberstar asked why some faculty do not have access to a computer.

S. Sarratore said some of them don't get an e-mail message for six months, so they stop checking anyway. He also stated that the department meeting with the librarian is a good idea but suggested that several meeting times be available so it would fit into everyone's schedule.

H. Oloomi stated that the direction for the Library is unclear and he would like to know the time frame for some of the projects. He believes that guidance is going to depend on which direction the Library is going and how long it is going to take to get there.

J. Violette stated that the move to electronic access is going fast; 67% of all libraries have licensed agreements for electronic indexes. These have only been available for 5 years. So she sees much of this happening immediately. J. Violette also stated the 40% of our circulation staff's time is spent on reserves. If we could get these reserves on-line it would allow staff more time to assist users.

S. Skekloff stated that we need to put in writing the criteria for the difference between a scholarly journal and a popular journal and also the need to help users evaluate the information they retrieve. For example on the Internet "Joe Public" can write a page on the web about anything.

C. Truesdell stated that once we have a vision of the library we can start determining the time frame; without a vision we can't move forward too much.

H. Oloomi stated that we spend time and money and then by the time the system is used it is only 1/2 as good as the ones available at that present time.

C. Truesdell stated that the librarians spend a lot of time going to meetings nationally to know what new technologies are in the works to prevent this from happening.

J. Violette feels we should take advantage of what IU and PU have developed. She suggested that what the Library needs from the committee is what the committee feels is most important and what issue they should address first.

C. Scott stated that money needs to be distributed fairly. Different departments have different types of needs and who is to make that decision.

S. Sarratore stated that any plan has to be flexible, faculty come and go and many of them have very different views.

J. Violette would like to see an approval purchase plan investigated. C. Scott asked for a further explanation of how they work. J. Violette described a typical approval plan. She suggested we take a portion of the budget and put it aside for this. S. Skekloff agreed that the approval plan would give us a step up. L. Griffin stated that if this is used faculty need to know what has been bought and make their assignments accordingly. His point was that regardless of how books are selected if students are not "led" to them through assignments, they will not be used. C. Truesdell stated that if this is used they would not be taking money from anything; the Library would be using the money normally allocated for an approval plan. D. Oberstar asked if once the plan is created would there be the option to preview it. L. Griffin stated that different companies work different ways. S. Sarratore suggested that we could use this plan to supplement others.

J. Cochren called the meeting to a close; he stated that a vision without dollars is a fantasy. He also stated that the goal of the meeting was to educate and he believes that it was successful and was a beginning of a discussion that would continue throughout the year.