

Biology and Life Sciences Planning Team Meeting summary – 08 Oct 2009

Present: J. MacMullen, R. Jahr, D. Schmidt, R. Nowak, F. Delcromyn, G. Youngen, P. Allen, D. Clayton, B. Francis, S. Walter.

Future meetings & Deadline

- Future meeting schedule: 22 Oct; 5 & 19 Nov; 3 Dec. Mtg time: 11-noon - Locations TBA
- Final report due: Dec 15

Meeting report

Housekeeping items: Meeting summaries and related documentation for this team and other NSM teams are available at the NSM website: <http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/>

Pat Allen mentioned that the previous work done by the Life Sciences Division (particularly our report in response to the Provost's letter of January 2009) would be useful background information for the Planning Team. This document is available here:

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/lisd/plan03122009.html> Individual library reports are provided, along with future plans for collaborative work within the Division.

We can set up a wiki if anyone thinks that would be helpful for our collaborative work. To see an example, the Health Sciences has one here: <https://wiki.cites.uiuc.edu/wiki/display/lhispt/Home>

We began the meeting with a point-by-point discussion of our charge:

- **Engage and consult with members of academic communities re: the delivery of library services meant to support research, teaching and learning in the biological and life sciences**

The Team intends to solicit forward-looking views of what a Library serving the biological sciences should look like in the future as well as what people think about the traditional model they have now.

G. Youngen provided a document identifying the potential users of life science information on the Urbana campus. Discussions brought out several other groups to be included, as well as pointing out the difficulties in identifying groups with overlapping and multidisciplinary interests. There are also unclearly defined research groups that may be difficult to reach. (Revised document attached). Any effort to "engage and consult" with the entire user base of life science information on the Urbana campus is going to miss many of them. Given our short deadline, it was suggested that we might narrow our focus to the primary users of the Biology Library – still a very large potential audience

Secondly, the Team discussed the method for contacting individuals and collecting relevant input on the delivery of library and information services. The survey used by the LIS Library seemed an appropriate model for our data collection. We agreed that all potential users of the Biology

Library should have a chance for input. The questions should focus on issues like, “How do you use the Biology Library” and “What kind of (library/information?) support do you need”, etc. Faculty, staff, grad students and undergrads should be included.

A subgroup consisting of D. Schmidt, R. Jahr, B. Francis, and J. MacMullen agreed to meet separately to discuss the potential audience and draft a survey instrument for the Team review before, or at, our next meeting Oct. 22.

- **Identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration in the design and delivery of library services in the life sciences across the Urbana campus, including INRS and LHS**

G. Youngen reported on recent discussions and plans between librarians of the UIUC Life Sciences Libraries (AHS, Biology, Vet Med) and UIC’s Library of the Health Sciences (LHS)–Urbana library. Plans for collaboration in instruction and collection development have been discussed and are continuing. The issues of collection overlap and identification of LHS-U material within the UIUC online catalog will be topics for further investigation.

We are awaiting a selection of a new Head Librarian for the INRS. UIUC Libraries have a long standing relationship with the former Survey libraries (now INRS) that is expected to remain and even strengthen with the new leadership of the Surveys.

- **Establish a liaison to the Health Services Planning team**

The liaison has been established. G. Youngen will serve on both teams and relay information that may have impact on the other. Given our closely related topics and goals, overlap is likely and duplication of effort (especially surveys) needs to be avoided. Having one person in attendance at both meetings will help avoid that possibility.

- **Address the recommendation to close the Biology Library and integrate its collection and services with other library units**

We reviewed a series of statistical reports on campus library usage in the areas of gate counts, reference transactions, and material circulation. D. Schmidt has been compiling additional statistics specific to Biology that she shared with the group. (attached as [graphs](#) and in [tabular format](#))

Discussions on this topic will be influenced by the outcome of the survey planned in our first charge. The print and electronic collections of the Biology Library, the services provided by staff, and physical space it occupies are all areas of consideration by the Team. Our objective is a recommendation on the future role of the Biology Library by December 15.

Life Sciences Communities

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[Atmospheric Sciences](#)

[Biology](#)

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[Chemistry](#)

[Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering](#)

[Earth Systems, Environ, and Society](#)

[Geology](#)

[Physics](#)

Psychology

ACES

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[Agricultural and Consumer Economics](#)

[Animal Sciences](#)

[Crop Sciences](#)

[Food Science and Human Nutrition](#)

[Human and Community Development](#)

[Natural Res and Environ Sciences](#)

[Division of Nutritional Sciences](#)

Independent

Division of Biomedical Sciences

Applied Health Sciences

[Kinesiology & Community Health \(KCH\)](#)

[Recreation, Sport, & Tourism \(RST\)](#)

[Speech & Hearing Science \(SHS\)](#)

[Interdisciplinary Health \(i-Health\)](#)

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