Biology and Life Sciences Planning Team Meeting summary – 24 Sept 2009


Future meetings & Deadline

- Future meeting schedule: 8 & 22 Oct; 5 & 19 Nov; 3 Dec. Mtg time: 11-noon - Locations TBA
- Final report due: Dec 15

Meeting report

Discussion focused on our main charge, developing a recommendation on the future of the Biology Library. G. Youngen stated that the team is also charged with exploring options for meeting the information needs of faculty, researchers and students in the Life Sciences that may, or may not, include the Biology Library as it exists today.

P. Allen stated that the physical move of Biology’s collection should not be a major issue at this stage of the planning conversation. This is a topic more appropriate for an implementation discussion, not our current charge.

B. Francis expressed concern about the fragmentation of the existing Biology Library collection. Pieces could potentially end up in four different locations (Funk, Chemistry, Stacks, Oak St). Also, that the life sciences discussions will overlap with the health sciences planning team and should be monitored carefully. (Note: G. Youngen will serve as liaison to the Health Sciences team, thus fulfilling our 3rd bulleted charge).

S. Walter & G. Youngen described some of the issues the Library is facing regarding campus funding, duplication of effort in the branch libraries, and changes in the way libraries are used by students and faculty. Also about how libraries will continue to change as collections increasingly digitize and services evolve with IT improvements.

F. Delcromyn emphasized the importance of the Biology Library’s space for students, the convenience of its location, and expertise of the staff. He also mentioned the long range planning of a new life sciences building that could provide additional space for a library.

A common thread throughout the discussion was the importance of the library as a study space for the students. S. Walter questioned whether a library is the optimal use of resources (incl. staff and collections) for providing a place for studying.

D. Schmidt summarized the information she’s collected on use of the Biology Library. We have gate counts and other statistics on collection use.

Several members of the group mentioned the importance of obtaining feedback from the life sciences community on the future of the Biology Library. A survey will need to be developed. We need to
formulate the questions and identify the audience. What goals do we want to meet for information access and delivery to those in Burrill Hall and for others involved in life sciences research and education.

Next Steps: G Youngen requests input on questions on issues and audience for the survey. He will distribute a sample questionnaire before the next meeting, Oct 8.

- Identify the audience
- Draft the questions
- Select survey instrument (G. Youngen will follow up with S. Searing for their LIS experience and survey tools)