University Libraries New Service Model
Team Report

Biology & Life Sciences Planning Team

January 21, 2010
Biology and Life Sciences Planning Team Membership

- **School of Integrative Biology:**
  - Fred Delcomyn (former Director of SIB)
  - Bettina Francis (Entomology)

- **School of Molecular & Cellular Biology:**
  - David Clayton (Associate Director for Undergraduate Curriculum, MCB)

- **Life science faculty outside the School of Life Sciences:**
  - John MacMullen (Ass’t Professor, GSLIS)
  - Romana Nowak (Professor, Animal Sciences, ACES)

- **Library faculty:**
  - Greg Youngen (Vet Med Library), Team Leader
  - Pat Allen (Funk Family Library)
  - Diane Schmidt (Biology Library)
  - Scott Walter (Assoc. University Librarian for Services), Admin Liaison

- **Library staff:**
  - Ruby Jahr (Biology Library)
Biology and Life Sciences Planning Team Charge

- Engage and consult with members of academic communities with regard to the delivery of Library services meant to support research, teaching, and learning in the biological and life sciences.

- Identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration in the design and delivery of Library services to support research, teaching, and learning in the biological and life sciences across the Urbana Campus.

- Establish a liaison to the Health Information Services Planning Team.

- Address the specific recommendation from Spring 2009 to close the Biology Library in Burrill Hall.

- Provide a report of its discussions and planning recommendations to the University Librarian and Dean of Libraries.
Biology and Life Sciences Planning Team

Findings:

• By and large, traditional information needs in the life sciences are being adequately met through existing collections and services.

• Through the survey, we have identified several new (nontraditional) unmet needs and opportunities for Library involvement in life sciences research and education programs.

• We do not recommend complete closure of the Biology Library at this time, however a downsizing of collections, staff, and footprint in Burrill Hall is possible.
Biology and Life Sciences Planning Team Survey:

- IRB approved online survey
- Consisting of 19 multiple choice and open-ended questions
- Nov 23 – Dec 18
- 240 respondents:
  - 50% faculty/staff/postdocs
  - 32% grad students
  - 13% undergrads
Identified Unmet Needs in Life Sciences

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Biology Library Recommendations

Based on:

- **Usage Statistics** (Circ/Shelving, Ref, Gate Counts)
- Previous LSD reports – primarily March ’09
  - ...the Life Sciences Division feels that merging the Biology Library collection and services with the Funk Library as part of the process of creating a Life Sciences hub [is preferable to] drastically shrinking and splitting the collection ...
- User feedback (Survey)
- Space needs of IB and MCB
- Potential utility cost issues for remote libraries
Biology Library Options:

1. Reduce the library presence in Burrill Hall, but do not eliminate it

2. Explore opportunities for combining all the science libraries (except Grainger) in this part of campus into one facility

3. Close the Biology Library completely, relocating all collections and services to other libraries.
The New Biology Library

- Relocate the bulk of the collection to other locations such as Funk ACES, Main Stacks, and Oak St.

- Work closely with other interested life sciences groups in the redeployment and transition of the vacated space to include the following:
  - An office for the Biology Librarian
  - A non-circulating course reserve collection
  - Adequate group and individual study space for Biology Students
  - A pick-up and drop off point for material requested from other libraries
  - A number of public access computers, scanners, and wi-fi connectivity

- There will be needs by other groups that can be negotiated as part of the Biology Library’s remaining presence (computer labs, instructional space, meeting rooms, etc.)