Geology Library Planning and Implementation Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2009

Attending: Jim Best, Tina Chrzastowski (Team Leader), Steve Marshak, JoAnn Jacoby, Jenny Johnson, Lura Joseph, Sheila McGowan, Bill Mischo.

JoAnn Jacoby presented the Excel spreadsheet and **PowerPoint graphs** she created from the Geology Library serial collection use data. Data were collected from Voyager’s beginning, approximately the last 7.5 years.

The committee reviewed the data, which suggests that there are a few very high-use journals and many more with low use per volume. Approximately 100 titles have 5 or more uses while approximately 200 titles have 2 or more uses (both average per volume per serial title over the last 7.5 years). Serial titles with fewer than 1 use, on average, per volume, account for approximately 25,000 volumes. The Geology Library staff does regular pick-ups of serials used in-house and charge and discharge them to collect use data. The committee discussed the data at length, and Jim Best suggested that somewhere in the range of fewer than 2 uses per volume per serial should be considered for Oak Street. Lura will identify certain types of serials (those with a local focus, field guides, congresses, not indexed) that should be considered for retention in the onsite collection regardless of use. At the other end of the spectrum, Lura is looking at high-use titles in order to determine their availability online.

Monograph use data were also discussed. Of the current 30,000 monographs in the Geology Library, approximately 12,000 of them have not circulated in the past 7.5 years. An additional 3,000 monographs have circulated once during that time.

Based on the fact that the Geology Library recently had nearly 100,000 volumes and the current count is approximately 74,500 volumes, the committee is approximating that 30,000 serial volumes can be sent to Oak Street (those used 2 or fewer times per volume per serial title since 2002) and 15,000 monographs can be sent to Oak Street (those used one time or fewer since 2002), leaving an approximate collection of 29,500 volumes, depending on the size of series, the number of online subscriptions that can be purchased, and other factors. This number will fluctuate as the evaluation proceeds.

The committee recognizes and appreciates Lura’s desire to review the collection materials as they are selected for Oak Street. These projections, based on use, are only projections and will be subject to further analysis as needed. Lura will also make judgment decisions based on discussions with faculty.

Steve Marshak reported that the Natural History Building (NHB) is still being studied for structural integrity; however, it is expected that the final report (due in March) will show that most of the building is sound with some termite damage found in some sections. Steve reiterated the belief that remodeling will begin in NHB on the fourth floor, followed by the third floor, and finally followed by the second floor, where the majority of the Geology Library space exists.
The estimate is for the Geology Library space to be affected by remodeling in approximately two years. This time frame was presented as very workable considering a possible move of this collection to Grainger Engineering Library, should those negotiations prove fruitful. Steve noted that School of Earth, Society and Environment (SESE) faculty desire a visible and defined web presence to locate and access the geology collection, such as the portal being built for the former Physics and Astronomy Library. He also suggested that a sign in the building denoting a Geology collection was desirable to maintain a physical identity along with a virtual identity.

Finally, the committee considered more widespread sharing of our meeting discussions and the coming draft report with other School of Earth, Society and Environment faculty and staff. Steve noted that there will be an SESE Executive Committee meeting on October 30, and he will discuss this topic with that group at that time. Tina suggested that our draft report be ready for review by mid-November, and she offered to begin that process to meet that deadline.

Our next meeting, scheduled for November 4, is being rescheduled due to a conflict. Tina will find a time and reschedule that meeting. Our November 18, 2009 meeting is tentatively being dedicated to a map discussion; Jenny Johnson will be presenting information on maps and Oak Street from the Map and Geography Library perspective.