Minutes of December 10, 2009

Open Meeting for School of Earth, Society and Environment
Discussion of the Geology Library Planning & Implementation Team Report

Background: The team distributed a draft version of the team’s report on December 4, 2009 to all SESE faculty and graduate students. In that email they were invited to send comments and to attend an open meeting held in the Natural History Building on December 10, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Attendance: Four geology faculty members and one geologist from the Illinois State Geological Survey attended. Also attending were team members Steve Marshak, Tina Chrzastowski, JoAnn Jacoby, Greg McFarquhar and Lura Joseph. Mary Schlembach from Grainger Engineering Library attended in place of team member Bill Mischo.

Discussion: A few themes emerged from the meeting; these include the integration and dispersion of materials from the Geology Library collection, the flow of materials, the use of other campus libraries and the need for a geology collection identity in Grainger Engineering Library.

Integration and Dispersion of Materials:

Specific questions arose about field guides, theses and dissertations. Lura answered that all these material types were considered important to keep within the collection proposed to move to the Grainger Engineering Library.

Flow of Materials:

Questions concerning interlibrary loan, book drop off locations, campus mail delivery and borrowing books from Grainger Library were posed. Answers included confirmation that there would be no change in interlibrary loan services and feedback from this group and others (recent Biology survey, Physics) suggest there may be a need for another book-drop off location in this area of campus (near Illini Union). It was also noted that campus mail delivery would continue to offices and that a good pick-up location for those scientists in the NHB might be the Chemistry Library. In addition, Mary Schlembach offered to investigate the option of facilitating the delivery of books to offices when faculty select a number of books and don’t want to carry them back to distant offices.

Use of other Campus Libraries:

Questions were posed about using other libraries nearby to NHB for reserves and for book pick-up and drop-off. Librarians responded that while the SESE collections would be housed in Grainger Library, using nearby libraries would be fine for book pick-up and drop-off. It was also noted that the campus mail option will deliver books to campus offices. The reserves question was also answered affirmative with the consent of the librarian of that unit. The Library’s goal is to find the best way to serve the SESE scholars and we understand that there will be some trials and tests before we reach the best service model. Feedback is welcome at any time!
Geology collection Identity:

A question concerning the labeling and identification of the former Geology Library collection was raised. It was noted that this issue is addressed in the report and is still to be addressed. The report’s proposed timeline strongly suggests that this issue, and others yet to be decided, happen quickly in order to inform the project’s progress. In a related matter, a New Book display was suggested as separate from the Grainger Library New Book display. While it might be difficult to manage this request, other options considered were to display new book covers in the NHB corridors and to highlight the Voyager catalog ability to create new book lists by subject and time period.

Other Questions

JoAnn Jacoby was called upon to explain the overall motivation of the New Service Model (NSM) projects. JoAnn noted that New Service Models are designed to build on the Library's traditional strengths, including the depth of our collections and the quality of our services, but make sure they are attuned to current needs. The intent is to engage our users in focused conversations on how we can make the most effective use of our resources in an environment in which the ways that students and researchers access and share information have changed radically since the establishment of our departmental library model. For more information, please see the NSM webpage at http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/