Health Information Services Planning Team Open Session
Discussion of Draft Recommendations Report
January 22, 2010

**Background:**
The Health Information Services Planning (HISP) Team has been working during fall semester 2009 to plan for the future of health-related library services. A Draft Report reflecting the work of this team was made available on January 11, 2010. Faculty, students and practitioners were invited to submit feedback on this report, and to attend an open meeting held in the Main Library on January 22, 2010.

**Attendance:**
Approximately 15 people attended. Most were Library faculty or staff, or members of the Team. At least 1 student and 1 faculty member from the College of Applied Health Sciences who were not members of the planning team were in attendance

**Discussion:**
NSM Coordinator JoAnn Jacoby introduced the panel. She advised the audience that feedback on drafts can be sent to Team Leaders or anonymously through the NSM form, with a cutoff date on February 5, 2010. She then gave an overview of NSM's guiding principles and how they inform the HISP team's work, and thanked the team and session audience for their work and commitment to helping inform this plan.

Team Leader Linda Smith gave an overview of the HISP Team report. She covered the following points:

1. Identified the [website to view the HISP Team charge and full Draft Report](#).
2. The HISP team was charged to articulate needs and directions, assess overlap, involve relevant groups and individuals, identify exemplars, and recommend a plan.
3. Outlined Fall 2009 time-line of the team's start-up through submission of the draft report; identified target dates for responding to feedback and preparing the final report with recommendations for the University Librarian.
4. Reported the team's key findings:
   i. Campus: expansion of core and interdisciplinary health programs
   ii. Library must support both physical and virtual services
   iii. Campus 5-year outlook requires increase in HIS professionals
   iv. UIUC / UIC require collaboration to better serve individuals concerned with health information regardless of campus affiliation.
5. Presented 3 possible scenarios
   i. Become an integral part of a reconfigured Social & Behavioral Sciences Library in Main Library.
   ii. Part of Life Science Information hub in Funk ACES library.
   iii. Expansion of role of current AHS Library in Main Library
6. Recommendations:
   i. Urbana campus forms Health Science and Wellness Information Center – HSWIC (working title).
   ii. Integration of HSWIC in Social and Behavioral Science Library is the most sustainable.
   iii. Expand current [Health Information Portal](#).
7. Introduced the HISP Panel, opened up meeting for commentary. She offered an example of
feedback from the Dean of the School of Social Work, who complimented the report, but noted
that it did not give enough emphasis to behavioral health (including mental health or substance
abuse and treatment), which is a significant focus for many of her students and faculty..

Comments and questions:

- Team member Synthia Sydnor, who read from a prepared statement, indicated that she was
  surprised by the draft report, saying that it reads as though the committee came to its decision
  on Scenario 1 without a full understanding of HIS use by the students and community. The
  report discusses revision of core and emerging HIS areas, but these topics are relegated to an
  appendix. She recommended that the next draft should move those recommendations from the
  appendix to become a central focus of the main document. She also feels that the term
  “information center” in HSWIC working title deemphasizes the significance of the center (ex –
  her undergrads associated the term “health science and wellness information center” with
  Planned Parenthood). An alternate title could be: Health and Wellness Sciences Library.

- AHS student - representing student council: Felt that the current AHS library is too small and
  could be enhanced by additional subjects, wanted to know the proposed size of the Social and
  Behavioral Sciences Library. JoAnn responded that this is an open question – if this
  recommendation goes forward, the reconfiguration of the 1st floor spaces will be -addressed by a
  soon-to-be-charged Social and Behavioral Science team, which would include members of the
  current health planning team. Student compared AHS vs ACES libraries, and does not agree
  with combining the two. Linda Smith agreed that there is a need for further review to determine
  the needs for physical space as a function of potential uses of space, and that a larger shared
  space could provide a richer variety of study spaces, ranging from group study rooms to quiet,
  individual study spaces. The spaces currently used by BEL and/or ESSL are the areas being
  considered for scenario 1.

- Audience member Alex Scheeline wanted to know if students, McKinley staff, etc., were
  questioned as to use of HIS services on campus. Linda Smith responded they did not explicitly
  seek input, but had them in mind when addressing campus needs. She also noted that the
  potential for outreach in locating Health information services on campus will be a project for
  the future implementation team. JoAnn noted that McKinley has an ongoing collaboration with
  the Undergraduate Library in providing student-centered programming, like flu shots.

- Another issue is dual use of libraries as information and social resources, and the balance
  between needing a physical library presence vs. virtual access to resources. An audience
  member asked if there was consideration for providing a "social nucleus", and how much of this
  is a library function vs college?
  i. Linda Smith responded that the report addresses potential use of space outside the library,
     providing alternative spaces for student and community use.
  ii. Team member William Stewart explained that for the College of AHS, there is a sense of
     identity about the AHS library as an identifiable shared location for faculty and students in
     the College. With the diverse profile of students in the College, this sense of place is a
     particularly important element to maintain.

- Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Head of Kinesiology and Community Health, questioned the process of
generating the draft. Were team members invited to edit and comment prior to circulation? If not, will there be an opportunity for revision? Linda Smith answered that the penultimate draft was distributed to Team members before break (Dec 14th draft) and feedback received was considered in preparing the current draft. The team continues to invite feedback and will be revising the report based on input from individual team members and UIUC at large.

- Team member Mary Beth Allen read from a prepared statement. She indicated that she will be submitting extensive comments on the report. She believes there is more to be done to develop Health Information Services on campus, and that although many units on campus are involved in health-related educational and research programs, the College of Applied Health Sciences spearheads core health initiatives on campus. She does not believe a unanimous conclusion has been reached on which scenario is preferable and feels that an analysis of potential costs vs. benefits should be provided for each one to better inform the decision. The name of the proposed health center is important, and stakeholders must be consulted, not only identified. She also believes it should be called a library, and that the quality and amount of space must be equal or better than current AHS Library space.

  - Questions posed from this: How can we differentiate from Library of the Health Sciences, which is already "invisible" to campus community? How to make the name clear to people outside of Applied Health Sciences? What is in the UIC Library of the Health Sciences? The panel responded that it serves college of medicine/nursing, which are administered through UIC. It is open to the public, with medical/clinical resources that are not in the UIUC online catalog for access.

- William Stewart mentioned that the time-line set up for submission of the final report may need to be reconsidered. The AHS Executive Committee has discussed the report briefly, but would like to discuss further at their February 12th meeting. Based on this, they could extend the cutoff for feedback date. JoAnn suggested extending the timeline for submitting the final report until somewhat later in February, to accommodate this.