Main Library Humanities Hub Planning Team

BACKGROUND

In the next two years, Content Access Management (CAM) will be vacating 220 Library. The availability of this prime space located in a high-traffic area down the hall from both the History Philosophy and Newspaper Library and the entrance to Main Stacks, provides the opportunity to bring humanities-related collections and services currently dispersed throughout the Main Library together on the 2nd floor.

CHARGE:

1. Engage in conversations with relevant campus communities and Library advisory groups to further define existing and emerging needs of students and scholars in order to inform all aspects of planning for a new unit bringing together the collections and services currently provided by the Classics Library, Literatures and Languages Library and other areas that may be suggested by the Team.

2. Working toward the goal of creating a second floor humanities “hub,” articulate a service profile that:
   - Supports the expanded focus on-campus and nationally on digital humanities and new approaches to humanities research such as large-scale text mining, visualization and spatial analysis;
   - Considers opportunities to incorporate specialized services and technology-rich work spaces provided by the Scholarly Commons;
   - Proposes an overall program for supporting humanities research that includes the broader array of Main Library service programs supporting scholarly work in the humanities, such as the History Philosophy and Newspaper Library and the Special Collections Division;
   - Streamlines access to collections and expertise by further co-location of material and people;
   - Continues or deepens the cooperative approach to providing on-demand reference through the Main/UGL Reference Hub;
   - Considers opportunities to deepen engagement with teaching as outlined in Information Literacy Considerations for New Service Model Teams <http://www.library.illinois.edu/export/nsm/Information_Literacy_Considerations_for_New_Service_Model_Teams.doc>.

3. Explore ways to array collections, services, and staff offices within a footprint that includes 225 Library (the current Literatures and Language Library), 200 Library (the Reference Reading Room, which currently houses the Literatures Language reference books and serials, along an interdisciplinary reference collection) and 220 Library (which Content Access Management (CAM) will be vacating). Adjacent spaces may also be included in latter phases of the planning. These spaces should
provide attractive and functional multi-use space within the library for scholars, including space for collaboration, as well as for individual contemplation and reading.  

4. Consider whether any other collections and services related to the humanities, in addition to those currently provided by Classics and Literatures and Languages, should be integrated in this footprint.  

5. Develop a staffing model for the new unit, including recommendations for the administrative responsibilities for leadership of this and possibly other related units in the Main Library building.  

6. Draft position description for a librarian whose duties include collection development and liaison responsibilities for Classics as well as related responsibilities.  

7. Make proposals for the name of the unit.  

8. Recommend a plan for the ongoing assessment of collections and services, focusing on impacts and outcomes and including metrics and other means of identifying whether the desired outcomes have been achieved.  

9. Submit a report with its recommendations to the University Librarian by **December 14, 2012.**  

Submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration: August 2, 2012  
Approved by the Executive Committee: August, 8 2012  

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1 This may be an opportunity to take advantage of a deferred gift to support a reading room or nook with comfortable seating for individual readers.