The Library’s International and Area Studies (IAS) Implementation Team has been meeting since early October 2009. The team, comprised of faculty from various programs, departments, and centers affected by the proposal, and Library faculty and staff, is charged by the Library’s Executive Committee with “developing a service profile, a space program, and an implementation plan for the University Library’s International and area studies activities. This team is expected to build upon the work of the Library’s previous International and Area Studies New Service Model Team.” The complete charge may be found at http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/intstudies/IAS_charge.html With this interim report, the Team is honoring its stated commitment to dialogue and consultation with its various constituencies around the University, and comments will be welcomed. The minutes of previous meetings can be publicly accessed at http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/intstudies/index.html

In October 2009 the Team quickly organized into working groups addressing the following three areas: Services; Collections and Space; and, Staffing. Each of the working groups is meeting independently while the Implementation Team also meets as a whole to discuss policy issues and the efforts of the working groups. The Team has been working with the understanding that although budgetary allocations have not been spelled out, its final recommendations will form the basis of an implementation plan for the new IAS Library.

The Services Working Group conducted a survey of faculty in the area studies programs and centers, and found that the survey confirms the following: desire for area expertise and collections, desire for good physical and online services, desire for good work spaces.

The Team affirms that the new IAS Library is to be an aesthetically pleasing space with high quality services and facilities that people want to visit and use. It should become the hub of the area studies. Expertise in areas covered by the IAS Library will be provided by knowledgeable and trained librarians and staff in order to provide reference, instruction, collection development, and related services.

The current focus of the Team is on determining what new and/or expanded services can be offered through the consolidation and savings achieved by merging the former area studies libraries into a larger, more adaptable library. Collaboration with other units offering services through the Library and elsewhere on campus will also be explored.

While the work of the Implementation Team is ongoing, the direction that we are heading is indicated below.

- The component collections and services located in the new service point will retain their individual identities, through designations such as "the Latin American and Caribbean Library Collection," with distinct spaces for selected parts of each area’s reference collection in the new service point.
• A web portal providing access to resources and information about each part of the new unit will be developed that will incorporate shared and general information about services available to users and direct access to the web pages of each of the IAS units.

• Each collection area should have at least one full time area specialist librarian.

• The IAS Library will be established on the third floor of the Main Library, in space currently housing the Asian Library and the English Library.

• The space currently occupied by the English Library will become the primary service point for the IAS Library, housing a reference collection, current journals, relevant microform collections, service desk(s), high quality equipment to provide services, collaborative working space, and a seminar room.

• The space currently occupied by the Asian Library will become office space for staff and possibly seminar or small group meeting spaces.

• There will not be a circulating collection in the IAS Library.

• Some personnel will be reassigned to centralized technical services units in the Library.

• Most IAS personnel will have to share office space.

• Standard, consistent orientation and training will be provided to all IAS Library personnel to orient them to the new library, its operations, and services.

• Public access to the Main Stacks through the former Asian Library entrance will be removed; discussions continue about other ways to achieve services previously attached to third floor access to the Main Stacks.

• Hours will be extended into the evening and weekends.

• All professional staff will have scheduled hours at the IAS reference desk to provide in-person and virtual reference.

• A distinct Slavic Reference Services operation, based on Title VIII requirements, which may be integrated into the IAS reference services at times other than the Summer Research Laboratory will be maintained.

A timeline for changes has yet to be established, and will depend on final recommendations of the Implementation Team. The following are recommendations still under discussion.

• Identify new collaborative initiatives that consider the changing focus of the Title VI and VIII mandates, including K-12 outreach.

• Provide space for visiting scholars; study carrels.

• Expand Slavic Reference Service model to other areas.
• Improve electronic access to resources through strategic purchases and digitization of selected reference material

• Focus on what makes UIUC areas studies unique and capitalize on that rather than replicating services offered by other institutions

• Evaluate staffing needs to accomplish a robust service program and collection

• Improve Web sites with links to services for students and faculty

• Collaborate with Scholarly Commons to provide online instruction to area studies through the Library’s facilities

• Expand user communities by promoting services and collections while maintaining research focus for current users of area studies collections

• Establish a general reference collection that incorporates international or global studies in addition to collection-specific reference collections

• Provide more lead time for transfer of staff to technical service units in order to orient them to the culture of the existing units; this will provide time for planning, orientation, and training

• Investigate additional space options for Acquisitions and Content Access Management units in order to assure adequate, effective space for transferred personnel

• Collaborate with the Reference, Research, and Government Information Services unit to develop services related to international government resources

• Use standard systems such as Desk Tracker and Voyager reporting systems to record statistical data in order to demonstrate levels of services and operations in the IAS Library and its related technical services areas. Some of this data is required by the area studies centers for federal reporting

• Integrate the South Asian and Middle East collections in the Main Stacks in one standard Library of Congress classification sequence on the shelves

Plans for the spring 2010 semester include interviewing staff for feedback on services, challenges, concerns and opportunities; conducting a survey of graduate student interests and needs; and reaching consensus on final recommendations. The final report due on March 19, 2010 will be written and submitted after the working groups and implementation team have had time to discuss these items and other emerging topics.

Background information and minutes of the Team may be found at http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/intstudies/index.html The site includes a complete list of Team members.