Literatures, Languages and Textual Analysis Planning Team

Background:

As part of the New Service Models discussions in Spring 2009, a number of ideas were discussed relating to the development of new ways to configure library services and collections to support the study of languages, linguistics, world literature and emerging forms of textual analysis and inquiry. These proposals varied in their specifics, but go back at least as far as March 2005 to a proposal “Our Shared Vision: A New Library for the New Century” (presented by Tom Kilton and Kathleen Kluegel) to create a “Language and Literature Library [that] would contain the merged circulating collections of the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library and the English Library with a central service desk.” That report concluded that such an arrangement “would provide an integrated collection which overcomes some of the artificial or arbitrary boundaries of our collections.”

The Literatures, Languages and Textual Analysis Planning Team is being asked to begin its work by developing a broad-based understanding of the existing and emerging information needs of students and scholars engaged in the study of languages, linguistics and literatures; and then to make recommendations on how to best support these areas of study in the current environment. These recommendations need not be limited to the units identified above.

Charge:

The Literatures, Languages and Textual Analysis Planning Team will:

1) Identify Library services and resources essential to research, teaching and learning in the disciplines and communities involved in the study of languages, linguistics, world literature and emerging forms of textual analysis and inquiry
2) Bring relevant groups and individuals into the Team’s conversations to develop a broad-based understanding of the existing and emerging needs of information users in these areas of study
3) Submit a report of the Team’s discussions and planning recommendations to the University Librarian by December 15, 2009. This report should:
   a) identify a public service program appropriate to those engaged in these areas of study;
   b) articulate how that program may be delivered, both within the Main Library and through digital means outside it;
   c) provide a high-level description of the functional space requirements, including a comparison of the advantages of different adjacencies to existing Library programs and units;
   d) recommend a collection profile that complements those of other library units and programs;
   e) identify opportunities for greater collaboration with campus programs such as the Center for Translation Studies, the Illinois Informatics Institute, I-CHASS, and the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, as well as with other initiatives in the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois Press, and Dalkey Press.

Following review and acceptance of these recommendations within the Library, an implementation team drawing some members from this planning team will be convened to plan the specific steps needed to implement the recommendations.
Members:

Library Faculty:
- John Wagstaff, Music and Performing Arts Library (Team Leader)
- Kathleen Kluegel, Head, English Library
- Caroline Szylowicz, Modern Languages & Linguistics Library, Kolb-Proust Archive
- Bruce Swann, Classics Library; Acting Head of Modern Languages and Linguistics
- JoAnn Jacoby, Coordinator, New Service Model Programs (Administrative Liaison)

Staff:
- Robert Cagle, English Library (AP, Cinema Studies Bibliographer)

Faculty from outside the Library:
- Curtis Perry, Professor and Department Head, Department of English
- Charles Wright, Professor of Medieval Studies in the Department of English School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
- Doug Kibbee, Director, School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; Professor of French
- Lilya Kaganovsky, Associate Professor, Slavic; Comparative and World Literatures; Cinema Studies –not confirmed
- Carl Niekerk, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures; Comparative and World Literatures
- John Unsworth, GSLIS and l³

Submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration: June 1, 2009

Approved by the Executive Committee: August 10, 2009