Guiding Principles, Social and Applied Health Sciences Planning

Planning Team Charge:

The University Library has charged the Social and Applied Health Sciences planning team to identify and recommend an effective and cost-efficient model for providing consolidated library services and resources across the social and applied health sciences, incorporating other New Service Model (NSM) activities wherever possible. The idea proposed by the Library is to consolidate the current ESSL, BEL and AHS libraries into the spaces currently occupied by the ESSL and BEL libraries in the east wing of the first floor of the Main Library. The academic disciplines represented in the service and collection development programs of the three “libraries” involved—Education and Social Science, Business and Economics, and Applied Health Science libraries-- are numerous, including the following disciplines:

Scope:

- Asian American Studies
- Anthropology
- Business
- Community Health
- Economics
- Education
- Gender and Women's Studies
- Kinesiology
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Recreation, Sport and Tourism
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Speech and Hearing Science

Principles:

- We seek to sustain an enduring value of the University's libraries, with a focus on student services and a personal approach to facilitating student and faculty learning and access. It is important to this group to reflect the ways in which students understand the service offerings in a library. This includes planning for spaces, services, and information resources that are available in the shared space. We seek to make this space the “third place” where students in the social, behavioral, and applied health sciences feel comfortable, secure, and welcomed (after their dorm, and their classroom(s)); as well as a place where students come for resources and services in their subject areas.

- Our planning recognizes that research libraries of the 21st century are defined by services and professional interactions built around information resources that support learning and scholarship.
• Library services across the social, behavioral, and applied health sciences are shaped by common resource and service needs across these disciplines, as well as unique needs within individual disciplines. Our goal is to identify the most effective ways to support curriculum and research needs across and within these disciplines.

• Accessibility of library resources and services for people with physical or cognitive disabilities is integral to library planning.

• The team seeks to identify a compelling fit between and across content areas of disciplines through its review of curricula, research areas, and trends that are identified by faculty and students in the departments involved. The “fit” in an academic sense needs to be tied to overlaps in curricula, research, and other kinds of scholarship.

Background statement:

The concept of the Library as a place where scholars at all levels engage in group or individual problem-solving or work on new intellectual discoveries retains critical importance, alongside the growing demand for virtual interaction and access to digital information. The functions of the library as a place include - spaces for individual and group study, for interaction with other scholars in pursuit of answers to research problems, and use of information content of all types in their research and learning. The manner in which these functions are accomplished in the 21st century differs significantly from the 20th century design of the University of Illinois Library.

Scholars and students in the social, behavioral and applied health sciences require multiple services — access to rich and deep content, instruction in the use of information resources, and expert consultations around core and emergent areas of research. The Internet, availability of networked resources, and online learning environments have fundamentally changed the ways in which libraries provide access to content, and the ways in which scholars integrate that content into their research. We seek to define an environment that gives priority to user-focused spaces — group study, individual quiet study, consultation with library subject specialists, and technology-enhanced scholarship.

Our planning is aimed at enhancing the use of library content, and re-focusing the use of library space to better support academic inquiry across the social, behavioral and applied health science disciplines. The team must determine the most effective method of integrating physical and digital collections, and library services. The planning team is seeking input from stakeholders in the related disciplines, and it will make a report to the University Library by December 13, 2010.

3 November 2010