Meeting with School of Social Work Executive Committee  
9 November 2010

The School of Social Work Executive Committee provided the following comments and input on the SAHS planning team activities:

Social Work has never had its own library as part of the University Library system. Faculty in Social Work who have worked at other institutions with Social Work libraries noted the following positives with having a separate library:

- Close proximity to books and journals in the collection;
- Ability to “browse” the complete printed book and journal collection, and knowledge of the LC or Dewey call number ranges for their areas of research;

The members of the Committee acknowledged that with the significant increase in access to online journals, government documents, and Google indexing of scholarly and public information, their approach to research is changing; the ways in which they counsel their students to perform research is changing as the critical information that they use is increasingly digital; While they prefer to use print they acknowledge that the most comprehensive information is available digitally;

The Committee expressed general support for the consolidation plan; Strong interest in the idea of having a librarian embedded in the School for a regular percentage of time; in their view this would be a benefit of consolidation—more librarians would be available to coordinate in the provision of on-site and embedded services to departments and colleges;

The committee expressed support for the concept of having interfiled circulating book collections and interfiled print journals—available in one space;

The Committee expressed a need for Library support in making the transition from primarily print-based research models to primarily digital-based research, using search engines to identify resources, evaluating search results, etc.

Social Work research involves the use of government information, much of which is online and now much more easily discovered than when it existed in print only;

The group expressed a strong interest in the consolidated social science virtual presence—having a social science research portal;

The Committee expressed a need to have access to interdisciplinary journals in the areas of pediatrics, psychiatric services, and geriatrics;

School of Social Work would benefit from a conversation with Mary Beth Allen, AHS Librarian, about how to access health-related literature.