Present: Lori Mestre (chair), Mary Beth Allen, Diane Beck, Cindy Ingold, Jenny Johnson, Joe Mahoney, Nancy O’Brien (recorder), Zoe Revell, Lisa Romero, Bill Stewart, Beth Sandore, Yoo-Seong Song

Introductions were made, and new members Cindy Ingold, Jenny Johnson, and Lisa Romero, were welcomed.

Bill Stewart provided background about the work of the New Service Models Health Information Services Planning Team and its work. He noted that the AHS Library has served as a community and gathering space for the AHS College, due to the College’s four building being spread across campus and the Library’s ability to reflect the breadth of college scholarship. The AHS Executive Committee’s response to the NSM draft report was to assert the importance of the term “Library” as critical to the name of the final unit, and having either “Health Science” or “Applied Health Science” in the name. The College has a significant history of connecting and appealing to students from underrepresented areas. For some students from underrepresented populations, the Library serves as a comfortable meeting and study place.

Mary Beth Allen added that the NSM Health Team’s report emphasized the need for a more visible place for health information in the Library. Health has extensive specialized literature and information. The master’s in Public Health (M.P.H.) is one example of how important health information has become.

Beth Sandore reiterated the recommendations of the Library’s Executive Committee. (See <http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/health/followup.html> for more information.) This includes the appointment of a subset of the Health Information Services Planning Team on the Social and Applied Health Sciences Planning Team. The Library has a strong commitment to develop an optimal way to provide health information and social sciences information in the east wing of the Library.

Lori announced that Jenny Johnson would provide an overview of Geography services at the next meeting.

Lisa Romero described the collections and services of the Communications Library. She indicated that Gregory Hall was scheduled for some renovation and HVAC work on the west side in the next 18 months, consequently there was some concern that library services may need to be temporarily relocated to the Main Library at that time. The College of Media currently has no interest in evicting the Communications Library from the building.

There was extended discussion of possible names for the cluster of social science and health services and collections to be located in the east wing, first floor of the Main Library building. The Health Information Team had proposed Applied Health Sciences Library or Health Sciences Library as names for a separate health library. Some disciplines are not comfortable with the term “Applied” in the name since they have more of a research focus. One suggestion was “Social, Behavioral and Applied Health
Sciences Library” as a way to work toward compromise. A decision about a name can be left for further discussion until a final recommendation is made about the configuration of the proposed new unit. Cindy Ingold expressed concern that the final name would be an issue for some of the relevant teaching departments. This elicited further discussion. Joe Mahoney suggested that a focus group of students with options for several names might be productive.

Mary Beth asked for clarification about the functions and use of the east wing space and the budget for implementation. Beth responded that the provision of services should be the focus, not the budget. As a planning team we need to bring up questions such as this, but not all can be answered.

Bill asked about the architectural plan to gut the Main Library building and remove a significant portion of the Stacks space. Beth indicated that plan was a 20-30 year proposal and would not have an immediate impact on this group’s work.

Bill also suggested that vision should lead service decisions and placement. Yoo-Seong Song asked for clarification of the group’s goals and guiding principles. Lori responded that the framework for the group’s immediate work could be found on the reverse side of the distributed agenda, with recommendations for subcommittees to work on focused tasks. Beth indicated that guiding principles are consolidation of services and collections in a way that makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

It was suggested that while collections can be integrated into one administrative unit, services are more problematic. Lori called upon the group to think of next steps, including the proximity of services and collections. Some Team members indicated that facts (such as circulation, size of collections and so on) are needed to assist in making these determinations. Joe asked the group to revisit the purpose of this work. Integration and merging of collections and services are means, not objectives. What will the value be at the end of the process? For example, better services, newly created value, or other results should be considered objectives.

Lori indicated that JoAnn Jacoby is compiling statistics to assist in discussions.

Future meetings will be held in the Curriculum Collection of the Education and Social Science Library unless notified otherwise.

Adjournment: 5pm.