**Library Committee End-of-Year Report, 2011-12**

The Library Committee discussed a variety of topics at the monthly meetings, including the following:

**Budget:** the Committee reviewed and approved the proposal department and program acquisitions allocations for 2011-12. An increase in funding meant that the recent trend of decreasing monograph funding was reversed, which Committee members and the library appreciated. Later in the year, the proposed 2012-13 budget was discussed and endorsed. In addition to the collection budget, the Committee endorsed the replacement of the FRANCIS server after five years and the switch to a hosted solution at Innovative Interfaces rather than maintaining the server on campus.

**EBook Use:** this topic was discussed at several meetings. The library continued to offer EBL, a patron driven model of ebook acquisitions, and added ebrary, a leased ebook package that has a higher concentration of university press books. Between the two packages, the library offers 150,000 ebooks. The Committee also learned from a student conducted survey that Williams students are slightly more active in reading ebooks than the national experience as determined by a Pew Internet study found. In both instances, fiction is more heavily read than books related to coursework.

**Video Streaming Service:** the Committee reviewed and discussed a new library pilot program through Swank in which feature length films are available via streaming for course reserves. Two classes tried out the system in the fall and were very pleased with the experience. This spring a second group of six courses has access to streamed films. Reference librarians are working with faculty in these courses to implement such enhanced features as play clips, assignments, and quizzes embedded with the streamed film. The pilot project will be reviewed this summer for possible continuation.

**New Sawyer Library:** progress on construction of the new library was reviewed briefly at each meeting. Two visits were made to Stetson and the construction site, and the Committee also had a tour of the Library Shelving Facility.

**Scholarly publishing:** the Committee discussed ways in which faculty and researchers can increase access to their publications beyond those who can afford the journal subscription. In a joint Mellon-funded project of the Library and OIT, Williams is developing an institutional repository that will provide a way to make publications and instructional materials available and searchable. The intention is to support a wide variety of formats such as slides and other visual and audio materials.

A related issue is to ensure that faculty are aware of the opportunity to retain their right to use and share their publications (copyright) in ways that they wish by modifying their publisher contract. A simple author addendum, acceptable to most publishers, allows scholars to retain non-exclusive right to use their articles in such ways as posting on Glow, their personal websites, and an institutional repository. The library is creating an author addendum so that copyright can be retained; an FAQ will also be created that will be shared with faculty through library liaisons and will also be posted on the library website.

**Assessing the User Experience:** in the spring, the library used a national assessment survey, LibQual, to learn from users about their experience and expectations of the libraries. There were 354 completed responses; the data is still being processed and analyzed. 139 users, primarily students and a few dozen faculty, provided useful comments as part of the survey process. The most common positive responses were appreciation of the library staff and for the general level of service provided. The need for improvement was cited in providing better physical facilities, particularly group rooms in Sawyer and additional seating in Schow, and a desire for longer hours of service on weekends and in January.

**Future Agenda items for 2012/13:**

* Continue to monitor the building project including review of furniture samples.
* Review proposed acquisitions budget including consideration of monograph allocation system.
* Track development of institution repository, author addendum, and records management initiatives.

**Library Committee Members:** Marjorie Hirsch, Stewart Johnson, James Mathenge, David Michael (fall), Emily McTeague, Margaret Moore, David Pilachowski, Stephen Sheppard, Dinny Taylor, Nana Taylor (fall), Bob Volz, and Chris Winters

Reported by Marjorie Hirsch, Committee Chairperson