

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

**LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
2020-2021 Annual Report**

Members

Martha Carlin	FAC	History
Cary Costello	FAC	Sociology
Michael Doyle	Dir	UWM Libraries
Anne Dressel, Chair	FAC	Nursing
Thomas Holbrook	FAC	Political Science (Chancellor Rep)
Suyu Lin	AS	Assessment & Institutional Research
Lindsay McHenry	FAC	Geosciences
Conal McNamara	Student/G	
Shama Mirza	FAC	Chemistry & Biochemistry
Kathryn Olson	FAC	Communication
Hanyong Park	FAC	Linguistics
Alan Price	FAC	Mathematics & Natural Sciences
Jason Puskar	Assoc Dean	Graduate School Dean Rep
Hilary Snow	AS	Honors College

Charter

A3.4 Libraries Committee

- (1) Membership. Seventeen members as follows: eight elected faculty members, at least one from each division; two appointed academic staff members; three students, one of whom is a graduate student. The academic staff members are appointed by the Chancellor upon recommendation of the Academic Staff Committee. The Chancellor, the Director of the Libraries, the Graduate Dean, and a representative of the UWM Alumni Association are ex-officio members.

(Document 2169, 12/17/98; UWM Administration approval, 12/30/98)

(Document 2330, 5/14/02, UWM Administration approval, 5/31/02)

(Document 2364, 11/21/02, UWM Administration approval, 11/28/02)

- (2) Functions.
- a) Represents the interest and authority of the university faculty in archives and library affairs and in the establishment of policy.
 - b) Makes recommendations for faculty action.

- c) Advises the Director of the Libraries concerning administrative operation of the Archives and Libraries.

(Document 1016, 3/17/77; UWM Administration approval, 3/30/77)
(Document 1308, 4/22/82; UWM Administration approval, 4/29/82)
(Document 2319, 12/20/01; UWM Administration approval, 12/28/01)
(Document 2364, 11/21/02; UWM Administration approval, 11/28/02)
(Document 3090, 3/16/17; UWM Administration approval, 3/22/17)

Meetings

During semester I, 2020-2021, the University Libraries Committee (ULC) met four times (9/4, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11); during semester II, the committee met three times (2/5, 3/5, 5/7).

Major Accomplishments/Actions

- Elected Anne Dressel as chair for 2020-2021.
- Drafted and sent a letter to Provost on Oct. 23, 2020 supporting funding for the Libraries.
- Provided guidance to the Libraries on a project to review parts of the physical collection for transfer to offsite storage or withdrawal.
- Received report from Susan Foran, interim assistant director of Libraries for Collection & Resource Management, on journal and database cancellations for FY21.
- Received report from Tiffany Thornton, User Services librarian, on the Libraries' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan. Suggested several changes to the DEI plan draft and expressed strong appreciation for the work of the planning group.

At each meeting Associate Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Michael Doylen provided updates on priorities, initiatives, staffing, and the budget, including those below.

COVID-19

- Overview of the Libraries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its roadmap for reopening. Throughout the pandemic, the Libraries provided uninterrupted access to resources and services, both on-site and online. The branch locations and the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons at the Golda Meir Library reopened on August 24, 2020, with safety precautions in place. The Golda Meir Library's Distinctive Collections reading rooms reopened by appointment on October 5, 2020. The Golda Meir Library's general collections, carrels, open study areas, and service points reopened on June 1, 2021.

Facilities

- Libraries met its goal of securing \$2.8 million to renovate 12,150 GSF on the 3rd floor of the Golda Meir Library for a new Archives Department. Funding sources are \$1.5 million in gifts and \$1.3 million in State support. The project will go out to bid for construction in August. Construction is scheduled to begin in October.
- Campus Facilities made repairs to the stairwell in the Golda Meir Library addressing long-term water incursion issues.

- Libraries developed plans to construct six group study rooms with shareable technology at the Waukesha library during summer 2021.
- Libraries applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Preservation Planning Grant that will allow them to hire consultants and design for replacement of a failing HVAC system in the American Geographical Society Library rare book room.

Budget

- Received a COVID-related, temporary 7.5% expense reduction (\$690,179) to the FY21 budget. Libraries managed the reduction through decreased hiring of student employees, staff furloughs, vacant positions, and decreased support for staff professional development. It avoided spending reductions on collections and resources beyond those already planned for FY21.
- Received a 5.3% expense reduction (\$476,932) for FY22. Provost extended permission to use \$200,000 to off-set spending reductions on collections and resources.
- Received full funding for 2021-2022 Ed Tech proposals, including core research databases for undergraduates (\$47,400), Film Platform Collection (\$21,500), Digital Commons (\$41,400), and a joint proposal with CETL on OER initiatives (\$87,000).

Personnel

- Staff hires: Georgia Brown, associate academic librarian (fixed term), and Viridiana Rocha, library services assistant-advanced.
- Staff retirements: Carolyn Bobke, library services assistant-advanced; Holly Klemmer, library services assistant-advanced; Diane Osborne, senior academic librarian; Jovanka Ristic, senior academic librarian; and Kim Silbersack, administrative program assistant II (building manager).
- Kathy Bowes, senior academic librarian, passed away in April 2021.
- Began recruiting for a permanent assistant director of Libraries for Collection & Resource Management, with finalists visiting in June 2021.
- Received permission from the Provost to launch other searches as the budget permits. They include searches for an associate academic librarian in the American Geographical Society Library, a library services assistant-advanced at Washington County, and a building manager at the Golda Meir Library.

Collections

- Elected not to renew a subscription to Elsevier's ScienceDirect Complete/Freedom collection when it expired December 31, 2020. Instead, the Libraries renewed subscriptions to a smaller number of Elsevier titles and provide access to others via ILL.

Programs

- Numerous virtual presentations, including the 51th Annual Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture with a team that included UWM faculty Julie Ellis, Paru Shah, Sandra Underwood, and Lynne Woehrle; and the UWM Authors Celebration; the Holzheimer "Maps & America" Lecture; and many workshops and talks hosted by the Digital Humanities Lab.
- Promotion of the Open Textbooks Project with CETL during International Open Access Week.

The committee thanked out-going members Martha Carlin, Conal McNamara, Hanyong Park, and Hilary Snow for their service.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Dressel, Chair
University Libraries Committee