

Annual Report of the SLA Library Committee, 2006-07

April 18, 2007

Prof. Robert F. Sutton
President, SLA Faculty Assembly
CA 543B

Dear Bob:

The 2006-07 academic year was a transitional one for the University Library, bringing staff reassignments (due to anticipated retirements and evolving staff interests) and administrative restructuring (designed to coordinate more centrally the Library's operation). The year also marked the transformation of the SLA Library Committee to an ad hoc assembly of all the departmental library liaisons—a change approved by Faculty Assembly in 2006 (see last year's annual report).

In September 2006, I (as Library Committee chair) joined the Library's new team leader for Liberal Arts and Music, Bill Orme, in attending a two-day working symposium, "Scholarly Communication in the Humanities," at IUB. Sponsored by the University Libraries, this event featured as keynote speaker Paul Courant, the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Courant is author of a number of works on libraries and their future, including "Scholarship and Academic Libraries (and Their Kin) in the World of Google," <www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue11_8/courant/index.html>, which we discussed at the IUB symposium. The consensus of the symposium's participants was that large library systems such as IU's face significant challenges as well as opportunities in striving to become more effective clearinghouses of digital information. How, for example, can libraries best assist faculty in making their research available to the widest possible audience without compromising intellectual property rights?

Such questions were on the agenda when the SLA Library Committee convened for a spring meeting on March 23, 2007. Bill Orme distributed information on IDeA, the IUPUI digital archive, which is emerging as an important open-access repository of research by the University's faculty. The committee enthusiastically encourages SLA faculty to explore IDeA at <<https://idea.iupui.edu>>. Bill Orme also reported on SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, which assists academic authors in retaining legal rights for online dissemination of their work even after the work has appeared in traditional print form. The SPARC web site is <www.arl.org/sparc>.

In other business, the committee heard a report from Bill Orme on the Library's recent restructuring and staff reassignments. The committee also discussed its own future. The members agreed that though they exercise no actual budgetary oversight or other authority vis-à-vis the Library, the committee continues to serve a useful function in keeping the departmental liaisons informed of developments at both the University Library and in the rapidly changing world of libraries generally. Finally, the committee agreed that in the future, it should meet once a semester unless unexpected business warrants additional meeting(s).

[Continued next page]

As committee chair, I would like to thank Bill Orme for his work as Liberal Arts team leader. I would also like to extend special thanks to the former SLA team leader, Dolores Hoyt, and salute her upon her retirement. She has served the Library and IUPUI well for many years. We look forward to her continuing involvement in campus life.

Finally, I thank the 2006-07 liaisons and committee members: Marta Anton, Gabrielle Bersier, Didier Bertrand, David Bivin, Martina Dalinghaus, Jeanette Dickerson-Putman, Tom Fedor, David Ford, Giles Hoyt, Mike Hughes, Tim Lyons, Liz Monroe, Scott Pegg, Gail Whitchurch, Pat Wittberg, and Reiko Yonogi.

In gratitude for your own valiant service as president of the Faculty Assembly,

Peter J. Thuesen, Committee Chair
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
pthuesen@iupui.edu