

Annual Report of the SLA Library Committee, 2005-06

April 18, 2006

Prof. Susanmarie Harrington
President, SLA Faculty Assembly
CA 343E

Dear Susanmarie:

The SLA Library Committee met three times during 2005-06: November 4, January 27, and March 31. Our most important actions this year were three:

(1) *Reconsidering the Committee's Composition:*

The SLA Faculty Bylaws charge the Library Committee with maintaining contact with the University Library "to ensure representation of the interests and needs of the School of Liberal Arts" and "to provide the Dean and the faculty with up-to-date information on ordering procedures, library policies, liaison, and budgetary resources." In recent years, however, these duties have often been performed at the departmental level by the library liaisons, most of whom are not members of the Library Committee. The Committee concluded that this duplication of efforts is unnecessary. Moreover, we felt that the library and SLA would be served better by a committee composed of all the departmental liaisons, who by convening as a group could more easily be informed about the library's ever-changing print and electronic resources.

(2) *Recommending a Bylaw Change to Faculty Assembly:*

In light of the aforementioned considerations, the committee introduced a motion in Faculty Assembly on March 31, 2006, to amend the SLA Faculty Bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.g.2, thus:

Old Wording:

The Committee will consist of eight members: five faculty, a representative of the Library designated by the Dean of the University Library, a designated Agenda Council representative, a non-voting School administrative officer designated by the Dean, and a student. Of the five faculty members, a minimum of three shall be drawn from the existing pool of designated faculty library liaisons.

Revised Wording:

The Committee will consist of all the designated library liaisons from the departments and programs of the School of Liberal Arts, a representative of the Library designated by the Dean of the University Library, a designated Agenda Council representative, a non-voting School administrative officer designated by the Dean, and a student.

After brief discussion, Faculty Assembly approved the change by unanimous voice vote.

(3) *Examining the Question of Access to Online Resources:*

In addition to the committee duties described in section (1), an additional purpose of the Library Committee, as mandated by Faculty Assembly, is to “monitor policies concerning access to library collections in all different media, both on and off campus.” This task has become particularly important as more and more research resources have become available online. The Committee discussed this issue in all three of its meetings this year. As associate library dean Dolores Hoyt explained to us, vendors of online databases vary in their willingness to offer discounted subscription rates for the IU system as a whole. Consequently, some online resources are purchased by the system collectively, some by the campuses individually, and some by only one campus—typically IUB, which has the largest research library. Online databases are nevertheless a relatively economical way for younger libraries such as IUPUI’s to expand their holdings and even boost their collections retrospectively. (To take one example: Evans Early American Imprints, a database the University Library has recently been considering for purchase, contains full scans of every book published in America from 1639 to 1800—some 37,000 titles.) The Committee concluded that the issue of access to online resources should therefore remain at the top of its agenda in the coming years as the options for electronic research continue to evolve.

I am grateful to the other members of the committee for their service: Kevin Cramer (History), Cornelis de Waal (Philosophy), Tom Fedor (Geography), Reiko Yonogi (Japanese), David Ford (Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Programs), and Robert Sutton (Classics, and Agenda Council Representative).

Last but not least, Dolores Hoyt (Associate Dean, University Library) deserves a hearty thanks for all her work on behalf of the committee and the School of Liberal Arts. We are well served by her stewardship of the library’s liberal arts collections.

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

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