

Public Services Advisory Committee
Meeting
January 16, 2007

Present: Ann Barrett, Geoff Brown, Ian Colford, Jane Duffy, Sandy Dwyer, Mark Lewis, Sharon Longard, John MacDonald, Gwendolyn MacNairn, Bill Maes, Mike Moosberger, Fran Nowakowski, Gwyn Pace, Michelle Paon, Helen Powell, Karen Smith, Tina Usmiani

Regrets: James Boxall

1. Digital Initiatives Group and Strategic Direction #2: led by Michael Moosberger
 - Mike reported that the Digital Initiatives Group (DIG) - which consists of himself, Jane Duffy, Vivien Hannon, Kathryn Harvey, Oriel MacLennan, Ann Morrison, Helen Powell, Michelle Paon, Phyllis Ross and Tim Ruggles would be meeting on January 25th.
 - Mike further reported that he has met with Bill Maes to discuss resources (\$\$\$\$) in the event the Group is unable to obtain funding/resources from external sources. Bill has indicated to Mike that he will consider providing funding for digitization projects in 2007-2008.
 - Mike distributed a planning document to assist librarians in putting together a proposal which would then be submitted to the DIG for consideration
 - Mike advised the Committee that the RFP for the book scanner has gone out as of January 11th with a deadline for responses of January 26th. The purchase of the scanner is a joint initiative with UCIS. Once the responses to the RFP have been received Mike is hoping that a decision on vendor can be made fairly quickly so that the equipment might possibly be in place by April 1st. Once received the scanner will be located in the office #5103 (next to Mike's office).
 - Mike has already received a number of requests from various departments regarding the use of this equipment (e.g Dal News)
 - Mike indicated it is not the intention to digitize only special collections, consideration will be given to proposals for digitizing any material felt to be important and which would provide greater access to the University community.
 - Discussion of the planning document ensued.
 - The issues of copyright and equipment were raised. It was suggested that the document be revised to include information regarding copyright (and who to contact if you have questions) as well as suggestions on what type of equipment may be needed.
2. Information Literacy Goals and Strategic Direction #1: led by Fran Nowakowski and Jane Duffy
 - Jane and Fran advised the Committee that at a strategic directions planning exercise held last Fall the following issues were identified:
 - there is a need to streamline teaching and to make instructional resources more accessible
 - there is a need to address and target user groups with specific needs
 - librarians want to have more of a sharing/searchable repository for teach materials
 - discussions have take place about the possibility of using a WIKI to search the S drive
 - Regarding the issue of targeting other groups, Jane advised that Dominic and Gwendolyn are looking at ways to do more for international students
 - There will be an assessment/consultation of public services librarians (probably at the end of February). The goals of this consultation will be:

- to check in on information literacy
 - what are the goals for the next year - sharing resources?
 - what is the purpose of the Information Literacy Committee now? What should it be?
 - where is information literacy within priority of public services librarians
 - Jane indicated the consultation will be an opportunity for librarians to go through a checklist of where they are with information literacy prioritizing/goals.
 - Fran indicated the outcome of the consultation would be a list of coherent, specific goals for 2007-2008. She also indicated that the Information Literacy Committee can't do the work on their own but would need help from all.
 - In response to Jane's query re further comments, Ann indicated that she felt distance students were another group that could be targeted in addition to international students. Ann suggested that the Information Literacy Committee take ownership of distance education students. This suggestion was followed by a discussion and resolution that Distance Education warranted a venue dedicated to it alone.
 - Following were identified as services to distance students that need improvement:
 - better means of communication
 - need the name of a specific person they can contact for assistance (e.g. reference contact)
 - Gwendolyn suggested online tutorials need to have context appropriate for needs of distance students - need to work with technology available
 - It was noted that distance students have an impact on the collections budget, e.g. e-books
 - As a result of this comment it was noted that we need to publicize the number of e-books in our collection
 - Gwyn pointed out that we are unable to provide e-books via document delivery (this is a licensing issue)
 - Geoff reported that licensing of our e-book collection is still evolving
 - It was suggested that the University should be approached to provide space/funding for video conferencing facilities (technical support, equipment, software, classroom, etc.)
3. "Mambo" and new opportunities for Web-based public services: John Macdonald
- John reported that the Web Implementation team (especially himself and David Mifflen) were not happy with Collage and wanted a change.
 - The version of Mambo we are using is called JOOMLA!
 - A new CMS was re-considered now because of the move from one server to another
 - Four main issues were considered when switching from Collage
 - security
 - editing
 - functionality
 - maintenance
 - Benefits of Mambo
 - lots of add-ons and plug-ins to make it work the way we want it to
 - any editing changes are updated immediately
 - can add
 - news feeds (RSS)
 - WIKIs
 - blogs
 - John hopes to have all information transferred from Collage to Mambo this week. Once the switch over is complete demonstrations will be held (possibly next week). Web editors will also receive training once this has happened.
 - WIT will be meeting this afternoon and will discuss who needs to have access to the editing function.

- It was suggested that once the names of the web editors is determined that each editor should then be informed of the areas of responsibility for the editing of each page.
- The long term plan for WIT was queried. Fran indicated that this would also be discussed at the meeting this afternoon. The Team feels it was founded specifically for the purpose of implementing the new CMS. If the group is still to exist what direction should it take?
- Bill asked John where the University was going with Collage. John indicated that the University will stay with Collage but that Mambo works better for the Library. Collage focuses very much on the University branding however John and David have been able to duplicate this branding in Mambo.

4. Other Business

- Jane reminded the Committee that in the Fall of 2006 a list of professional development initiatives had been created. Jane will have a schedule of events for 2007-2008 prepared in February and will distribute to the Committee.
- Ann asked for an update re the LIBQUAL survey. Jane reported that the LIBQUAL team will be meeting on January 30th and a decision will be made as to when we will run the survey. We have until early May to have the survey completed. The majority of the work involved with the survey will come after the fact when analysis of the results will take place.

5. Next Meeting: February 20, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.