

Public Services Advisory Committee
Meeting
February 20, 2007

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

Guests: Linda Bedwell, Karen Neves

1. Special topic in Emerging Services: social networking software and academic libraries
 - Jane welcomed Linda Bedwell and Karen Neves to the meeting and thanked them for coming.
 - Karen began by giving the Committee an overview of the *Friendster* web page as well as *myspace.com*.
 - *Friendster* began in 2002 in California and was the first “social” networking web site.
 - Karen then moved on to demo the *myspace.com* web site. *Myspace* began in 2004 and soon overtook *Friendster* in popularity (*myspace* is the 6th most accessed site on the web.)
 - On June 27, 2006 *Friendster* won the patent on social networking so we will have to wait and see what impact this will have on *myspace* and *facebook*.
 - Linda then gave the Committee an overview of *facebook*
 - *facebook* was created by a student at Harvard University and was initially intended for that institution’s use
 - *facebook* is academic oriented
 - there are currently 14,790 people in Dalhousie’s network
 - *facebook* is the 7th most used site on the web
 - it is most popular on university campuses
 - Jane encouraged Committee members to think about social networking and whether we (the Libraries) want to use either of these tools.
 - Karen pointed out that if we chose to use *myspace* we could have an institution account as opposed to *facebook* which would need to be individual accounts

ACTION: Jane Duffy indicated that social networking is under discussion in a number of local arenas. It is an opportunity for emerging services that will be discussed further in the Emerging Services "Learning Labs", the first of which is scheduled March 16. Members are encouraged to continue sharing ideas on the InfoLit listserv.

2. Academic Integrity and the Role of the Academic Librarian at Dalhousie University
 - Jane indicated a challenge for PSAC will be to formulate recommendations on the Libraries’ involvement in the academic integrity process.
 - Gwendolyn referred to the existing online tutorial on academic integrity indicating that it is a very good tool and could be modified as necessary. She further suggested that in September there could be a link from “How Do I Find” on our web site.
 - Fran indicated that academic integrity is a major concern in distance courses and as a result she, Joyline, and Margie created an online presentation using Horizon Live targeting this group. The following topics were covered: RefWorks (Fran), Citation and Business Materials (Joyline), and Writing (Margie). The archive of this presentation was then made available for future use.

RECOMMENDATION: create a modular interactive academic integrity tool with an archive to be included

- it was suggested that a way is needed to address ESL students to make them understand academic integrity as we understand it. Special attention should be paid to graduate students to ensure they know how to apply academic integrity.
- There isn't a "one size fits all" and that we need to modify existing tutorials or create new ones. We should also be collaborating with the Writing Centre to assist international students with their writing assignment once they have completed the research. The Committee was informed that the Informatics class within the Faculty of Computer Science has hired 2 markers - one to check the course content and one to check writing ability.
- The Libraries should be encouraging the re-invigoration of the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee.
- The Libraries teachings have always included ethical use of research information and encouraging students to give credit to authors of materials used in their research papers but ultimately it is the responsibility of faculty members when they are marking these papers to determine if plagiarism has occurred.
- Ann indicated that questions are being asked at the reference desks and we need to be flexible and be an integral part of the academic integrity process.

ACTION: Jane will work with this information, draft a policy and distribute it to PSAC for discussion at a future meeting.

3. Web Implementation Team

- Jane reported that WIT is almost wrapped up and asked Fran to brief the Committee on the status of the new web page.
- Fran distributed a matrix of outstanding items and spoke to the document.
 - John MacDonald is working on some key issues, e.g. formatting htm documents to php documents and posting them on the new web site, providing access to web editors, sub-menus, and getting pages on the new look.
 - David has indicated that all servers are ready to go and once John has everything ready the site can be deployed.

ACTION: - conduct a post-analysis of the process, to see what we have learned and what we could do better next time, etc.
- hold session on project management

Next meeting: March 20, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.