

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE 2013-14**

MAY 2014

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### INTRODUCTION

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Senate Library Committee has met regularly with the University Librarian and other members of the Library staff to receive reports and to provide advice on various aspects of the Library's policies and operations. Specific areas of thematic focus for the committee in 2013-14 included i) the Library and Archives Master Plan; ii) Information and Communications Accessibility; and iii) Digital Scholarship; Library Planning formed a fourth area of inquiry in the course of our discussions throughout the year. To address these matters, the Committee held meetings October 15, December 3, February 11, and April 16, for which reports were submitted to Senate according to the new protocol.

#### i) LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES MASTER PLAN

<http://www.queensu.ca/connect/lamp/>

The Senate Library Committee of 2012/2013 was one of the stakeholder groups engaged in the Library and Archives Master Plan (LAMP) project stages of discovery, analysis and exploration. At this first 2013/2014 meeting of the Senate Library Committee, LAMP Steering Group Chair Martha Whitehead presented key elements of the LAMP report compiled over the summer and posted in September, and invited comments and questions. The Committee provided suggestions for elements to include in the presentation of the Plan to Senate for information and comment on October 29, 2013. The current Senate Library Committee Chair, S. King, and the Principal's Delegate, D. Skillicorn, are also members of the LAMP Steering Group, and contributed additional background regarding the LAMP concepts during the Committee's discussion, which included the Plan's focus on addressing the distinct needs of different disciplines in their use of print collections, collections storage options, potential future technology offerings, research as part of the student learning experience and the need for different types of learning-research-study space in the Library and the Archives. In her updates to the SLC University Librarian Martha Whitehead reported on steps being taken to prepare for implementing the recommendations made by LAMP: a collections project is in planning to begin the process of establishing criteria and processes for applying different layers of access to print collections; discussions are also under way with the Faculty of Law about implementing some aspects of the LAMP recommendations for the Law Library as soon as possible, to enable the Faculty to increase study and learning space; and the McGill Queen's University Press

offices have relocated to Douglas Library, aligned with the long-term vision of a Centre for Digital and Print Culture.

The SLC expressed marked enthusiasm for the vision set forth by LAMP for the development of Library space and services in the coming years, and recommends that monitoring progress in the realization of this vision remain a Senate Library Committee priority.

## ii) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS ACCESSIBILITY

The passing of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act in 2005 established a new framework for the development of province-wide mandatory standards on accessibility in all areas of daily life, which includes access to QUL resources. Michele Chittenden, Coordinator of Library Services for Students with Disabilities, provided an excellent overview of the Library's work in meeting the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act framework of regulations, articulated under the headings Customer Service Standard, Queen's Accessibility Framework, Information and Communication Standards, Accessible Formats and Communication Supports, Accessibility Hub, and the Adaptive Technology Centre. The October 30<sup>th</sup> launch of the Accessibility Hub <http://queensu.ca/accessibility/> in which QUL played a significant role marked an important step in Queen's compliance with the AODA.

## iii) DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

Members of the SLC recognize the increasingly central role played by digital scholarship in both the research and teaching missions of the University. Sharon Murphy, Head, Academic Services, provided an excellent overview of ongoing digital scholarship activities and opportunities. Specific topics discussed included data management, scholarly communication, and collaboration with the research community. Prior to the meeting a report entitled "e-Research: a Queen's University Library Strategic Agenda" was circulated for the Senate Library Committee members to read. Senate Library Committee members offered observations on student and faculty experiences with digital resources and new forms of scholarship.

## iv) LIBRARY PLANNING

In December and April the SLC reviewed the six priority objectives from the Queen's University Library Budget Plan 2014-2015, which were developed in relation to the University's strategic framework and directions:

- 1) develop and enable the Library's strategy for developing and recruiting staff as key resources in the learning and research community;
- 2) transform QUL's virtual environment of information services and resources as one of the differentiating assets of Queen's online learning programs, and Queen's learning and research as a whole;
- 3) increase the availability and preservation of electronic resources for teaching, learning and research, and physical collections where appropriate;

- 4) plan and implement changes to collections required for a re-envisioned information network of learning/study/research spaces, services and research resources as described in the Library and Archives Master Plan (LAMP);
- 5) broaden the reach of Queen's research with expanded data curation services, in collaboration with and in support of emerging regional and national initiatives;
- 6) leverage web-scale technology opportunities to replace the aging Library Management System and make a paradigm shift in processes for acquiring and providing access to information resources.

The Senate Library Committee reviewed and supported each of the stated priorities; however, concerns were raised in February, and discussed again in April, regarding the acquisitions budget, which has not received an increase since 2007-08. Acquisition budget requests are included in the university's annual budget planning cycle and are considered in relation to other university priorities. Decisions to purchase resources are based on collection assessment and research and academic program priorities, but given inflationary increases in the cost of resources, a flat budget represents a decrease in purchasing power and a decrease in ability to acquire requested new resources. The recent drop in value of the Canadian dollar has exacerbated the situation, and spending was reduced in the last quarter of this fiscal year. The Library is addressing this challenge through a variety of strategies, including a demand driven acquisitions model, continued reliance on consortia licensing, and cancellation decisions based on factors such as usage, cost per use, overlap analysis and the overarching principle of relevance to research and academic programs. The SLC recognizes that this is an aspect of Library planning that should be a continued focus in the coming year.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senate Library Committee notes that:

- 1) the implementation of the recommendations of the LAMP report should remain a priority for QUL and for the SLC
- 2) The impact of financial constraints on the work of QUL should be carefully monitored, especially in areas such as Acquisitions and Staffing that are crucial to the research and teaching missions of the University.