

University Library Committee

February 28, 2012

Present: Daniel Badoe, Chris Brown, Cynthia Bryant, Tammy Howard, Brian Hugenard for Deborah Ballou; Susan LaFever for Deanna Nipp-Kientz, Chelsey Mixer, Deborah Setliff, and Stacy Tomas

Agenda: Dr. Chris Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order. Deborah Setliff made a motion to accept the agenda as printed, and Daniel Badoe seconded the motion. The agenda was accepted.

Minutes: The November 3, 2011 minutes were distributed via email. There was a 50 percent increase over the 2009 fiscal year. Winter semester comparisons show a 120 percent increase. This increase in population is reflected in the library's service points, particularly at the IT help desk and in Math tutoring. The IT help desk has 120 laptops available for checkout and during the fall semester, there were 10,000 circulations of those laptops. It has been very helpful to have IT in the Library.

Dr. Bates also gave an update on Library collections. He presented figures showing book checkout has been decreasing for several years even though our student population is increasing. The library spends approximately \$158,000 on books; but he asked why we should continue to invest in books when their use is declining.

The library budget history from fiscal year 2008 – 2012 shows an overall collections budget of \$1.215 million including Technology Access Fee (TAF) and Alternative Delivery Fee (ADF) funding. For fiscal year 2011, ongoing commitments (Journals, E-journals, and Monograph Serials) took \$1.126 million of the budget, leaving only \$88,000 for books. In Fiscal 2012, those commitments required \$1.194 million, leaving only \$20,000 for books. Dr. Bates showed that the library has had to cut serials titles (journals and monographic series) about every three years since 1992, which totals 1,284 titles being cut. We can't continue to cut titles every three years: we need to find a different model for acquisitions.

Dr. Bates gave several examples of the cost of databases. ScienceDirect cost \$201,118 per year and includes 81 titles. Biological Abstracts cost \$29,518. He also showed the library receives quite a few free databases as part of cooperative efforts through Tenn-Share, Tennessee Electronic Library, and the TBR. An example is Academic Onefile.

The library needs to be looking at what titles are used, how much those titles cost, the number of searches, and the use of databases. The library currently subscribes to 133 databases and 33,137 journals. Why should we spend money on products that are not being used? Why are they not being used? At what point do journals runs become important? We must have more clearly defined reasons for buying materials and databases.

Ideas to be thought about include: buying individual articles instead of subscribing to an expensive database. The library could set aside a pool of money specifically for this. Instead of subscribing to a print plus online issue of a journal, subscribe to the online version only.

In the last few weeks, Dr. Bates has presented this information at Deans Council. The Deans suggested he begin working with the Library Liaisons and departmental chairs to investigate a new way of doing things. Dr. Bates asked the University library committee to encourage their departmental liaisons to participate in this process. The library will continue to cover the cost of all serials products for one more year (2013). At the same time, we will begin work on a new process for allocations.

The library is purchasing J-Stor for approximately \$30,000 and buying a discovery product that will allow users to search across all library products at once. The funds to purchase these two items are coming from the Library's endowment account.

Tammy Howard asked if there was an easy way to look at Elsevier to see what journals we have access to. Dr. Bates says this depends on the database. You should go to the "A-Z List of Journals" on the library website to see if we have coverage for a particular journal title, and it will also show what database(s) that title is included in.

People often don't know we have a particular journal title, and therefore they are not used. This should be part of the new process: making sure everyone knows what we have. We should be maximizing what we have and maximizing what we need.

Chris Brown asked if accreditation standards look for a minimum number of journal titles. Dr. Bates said it is based more on access, than physical holdings.

The library needs to do an annual evaluation of our collection.

