

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Annual Report on Libraries/Report on Scholarly Communications
Date: October 9, 2000

Recommended Actions:

1. Approve the report.
2. Encourage Regent university libraries to continue and extend, where feasible, collaborative efforts.
3. Encourage dissemination of materials on the facts and implications of the concerns in scholarly communications.

Executive Summary:

The Interinstitutional Library Committee is requesting approval of its FY2000 Annual Report. This annual report also contains a report from the Interinstitutional Task Force on Scholarly Communication, established by the ICEC last year.

The annual report is divided into three broad sections that focus on the rapidly changing and complex environment challenging the Regent universities and their respective libraries and faculties.

The first section, Scholarly Communications, provides background information on the formation of the Interinstitutional Task Force on Scholarly Communications and its charge. The report then describes the activities of the Task Force in FY2000, primarily the development of a web site and the publication of a brochure describing the crisis in scholarly communication and what faculty and library staff can do to remedy the escalating costs of academic materials. The section concludes with a description of FY2001 goals and proposed activities.

The second section, Cooperative Interinstitutional Library Programs, includes reports on statewide cooperative activities, core programs for collection

development, cooperative reference and instructional services, distance education, interlibrary loan, information technology, and preservation.

The third section, Institutional Reports, includes material about individual efforts of library staff, in conjunction with faculty, to bridge the physical and virtual libraries. Topics include descriptions of efforts to save funds, development of strategic plans, and consortia agreements with other institutions. For example, the Regent libraries collaborated on important statewide access initiatives, under the leadership of the State Library of Iowa, and participated in regional and national initiatives to improve the national scholarly communication system.

This report reiterates the theme of last year's report, i.e., that there are serious economic concerns confronting libraries. The report emphasizes that the Regent universities, individually and collectively, could lose their competitive edge with peer institutions as financial resources decline. Critical issues involve the rapidly increasing cost of acquiring print and electronic resources and the infrastructure support required for the electronic environment.

According to institutional representatives, the keys to responding successfully to this situation include: (1) continued cooperative efforts and budgetary effectiveness among the Regent universities, which are described in the report; (2) faculty/library staff/central administration partnerships; (3) involvement with other institutions that are similarly concerned about the escalating cost of scholarly communication; and (4) continued budgetary support for acquisitions and electronic infrastructure.

The Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination and the Board Office recommend approval of this report.

Background and Analysis:

Regent university libraries are a major asset for the citizens of Iowa. Because they contain specialized collections of print and non-print materials unique in the state, and in some instances, the nation and world, their well-being should be a matter of deep concern to all Iowans, not just those who work and learn on the three institutions.

To maintain their role as research universities and a comprehensive regional university, the Regent institutions must maintain access to significant scholarship and information for faculty, students, and staff. Both the volume and price of scholarly materials have increased nearly threefold in the last decade, making that task increasingly difficult.

Scholarly Communications

Library personnel and faculty representatives of the three universities held two “summit” meetings in 1999 to discuss the growing economic constraints on scholarly communications. As a response to the issues and needs of libraries, the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC) appointed a Task Force on Scholarly Communication in 1999. The rationale for the Task Force, framed in terms of actions, are:

- 1) increased awareness regarding the economic impact on scholarly publications.
- 2) expanded institutional and joint participation in national initiatives to resolve the scholarly communication concerns, including, for example, exploring alternatives for controlling and protecting copyright.
- 3) further encouragement of joint consortia purchases of core undergraduate electronic resources.
- 4) further identification and implementation of measures for evaluating progress in meeting interinstitutional and institutional objectives.

The charge given to the Task Force by the ICEC was to “explore ways that the libraries of the three Regent universities can more effectively use professional journals, in light of escalating costs and such developments as electronic publication.” Members include representatives of the faculty senates of each university, and personnel from the library, as well as Board Office staff.

The activities of the Task Force during FY2000 included developing a brochure on the crisis. The Task Force has created a website that includes material from the brochure as well as key readings and proposed solutions. The website is: <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/library/scholcomm/homepage.html>. Members of the Task Force gave some attention to issues related to copyright. Finally, the Task Force shared its concern about the effects of reduced acquisition budgets with the ICEC.

The activities of the Task Force for FY2001 include dissemination of the brochure on the three campuses. The brochure has been distributed (at ISU) and is to be shared with SUI and UNI faculty very soon. The Task Force is encouraging discussions at departmental and college levels as well as in the faculty senates. One way that is being used to reduce the costs of journals is to ask faculty serving on editorial boards or as officers in professional societies to influence publishers. The Task Force is engaged in identifying faculty who are editors and professional organization leaders and asking them to meet. Finally, the Task Force has promoted several new collaborative efforts with/among the Regent universities, the State Library of Iowa, and university presses.

Cooperative Interinstitutional Programs

In FY2000, the Regent university libraries were involved in six ongoing program initiatives. They were: (1) state-wide cooperative activities; (2) collection development; (3) cooperative reference and instructional services; (4) interlibrary loan; (5) information technology; and (6) preservation. The following are examples of specific projects related to the six initiatives:

- Library Services Task Force. Created by the Iowa Commission on Libraries, the Task Force is to consider what Iowa will be like in the future and ascertain what Iowans will need from their information centers.
- State-wide Database Advisory Committee. Thirty-one librarians from public, special schools, and academic libraries, including public private, and medical school libraries, have been meeting since April 2000. Among their tasks are developing criteria for database testing and selection, and assisting the State Library in developing a request for proposals to solicit statewide pricing from vendors of electronic information databases.
- The Interinstitutional Collection Management Committee (ICMC) dealt with several serious issues carried over from last year, including two major journal cancellation projects and access to electronic resources. It explored potential joint electronic purchases.
- The three universities continued joint licensing of Statistical Universe, an important database providing both indexing and data for statistics from state and federal governments and international resources. The total savings to the universities is \$18,000 annually.
- During calendar year 2000, SUI and ISU had identified nearly \$1,000,000 in journals to cancel. To minimize the impact that such cancellations would have, the three universities joined together in collating and assessing the proposed reductions. Despite these efforts, a number of journals unique to one of the institutions had to be discontinued. As an example, 939 titles cancelled by ISU alone are not held at SUI.
- Archivists at ISU and SUI co-authored presentations at three regional conferences on rural women, documenting the farm crisis, and archiving the history of Midwestern women.
- In FY 2000 the three universities, along with the SUI medical and law libraries, transacted 8,105 interlibrary loans. With the exception of the SUI law library, all Regent libraries also participate in the State Library of Iowa's Access Plus Program. Its purpose is to provide Iowa citizens with equal access to library resources by supporting no-charge resource sharing among academic, public, and governmental libraries.

- A new Task Force on Library Information Technologies has been appointed by the Interinstitutional Library Committee. Its members have visited each other's campuses and are sharing information and finding new ways to cooperate in matters relating to informational technology (IT).
- The university libraries continue their joint contract with a commercial bindery company. The turn-around time for material is the fastest in the industry -- two weeks.
- The universities are exploring methods to be used in preserving library materials.

University Reports

As part of the Library Report, each university details some of its activities from the year in review. Highlights of FY 2000 for the libraries include the following:

- The University of Iowa
 - Online Access. The library made significant progress in providing students and faculty with online access to such scholarly resources as Early English Books Online (over 125,000 books printed before the year 1700), numerous core journals in the sciences, medical databases, and clinical needs of the University of Iowa Healthcare.
 - SUI established a partnership with the Graduate College of Information Technology Services (ITS) to implement an Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) option for University graduate students. For example, it gives students flexibility to use multimedia in the presentation of their work and makes their research web accessible.
 - The TWIST program (Teaching with Innovative Style and Technology), which is a cooperative venture of library staff and faculty, continues to grow into a large and successful collaborative program. In this project, funded by a grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, librarians work with faculty in the College of Liberal Arts to improve student learning through the development of information literacy skills.
 - The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences participated in two statewide initiatives sponsored by the National Library of Medicine. It also acquired access to MDConsult, a major single web-based resource.
 - In 1999-2000, SUI implemented InfoHawk, the library's new automated library system for acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, and serial control.
 - The university libraries continue to provide access to the catalogs of the CIC institutions (Big 12 and the University of Chicago). This partnership is developing a Virtual Electronic Library Project.

- Iowa State University
 - Electronic Information Resources. ISU has experienced a 50 percent increase in the total number of cataloged electronic titles (mainly serials) and Internet resources.
 - Through a Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust grant, ISU has completed the second year of a three-year project, Undergrad Commons. The goal of the project is to promote research about the undergraduate curriculum through the integration of electronic resources into core undergraduate courses.
 - ISU continued to provide technical support for SILO (State of Iowa Libraries Online). Close to 600 Iowa libraries use SILO as both a resource database of their joint holdings and an interlibrary loan system.
 - Through the e-Library, all users can now view their personal borrower information anytime and from any place. Web statistics indicate that this fledgling service is already heavily used.
 - Purchases. To meet the new processing demands of the Horizon and Solomon systems, the library purchased 135 PCs to upgrade staff workstations.
 - The library became a founding partner in BioOne, an organization that will provide Internet access to leading research journals in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences.

- University of Northern Iowa
 - Rod Library continues to expand access to remote electronic resources by subscribing to seven new full-text databases and indexes/abstracts, including *International Index to the Performing Arts* and the *Wall Street Journal Online*.
 - The library began a project through UNI UnCover Gateway that provided access to eight million articles found in more than 18,000 periodicals within the UnCover database.
 - The Library Instruction Program provided 341 sessions to 6,083 participants in FY2000.
 - The exchange program with library staff in Klagenfurt, Austria continued. The Rod Library also made efforts to assist public and academic libraries in Nitra, Slovakia, with the purpose of building a union catalog.
 - Four projects in Information Technology were funded with \$100,00 from student computer fees. They included the purchase of an ERL server intended to improve the speed of database information to persons at workstations.

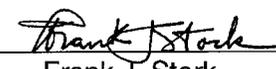
- The strategic plan of the library was reviewed and revised in conjunction with the University's strategic plan.
- UNI continued its activities in the Cedar Valley Library Consortium. The UNI Center for Multicultural Education library collection will become part of this online system.

As the report indicates, libraries have two components, "traditional" publications and resources in one location as well as the increasing delivery of materials through electronic means. The volume and price of both components of the modern university library are increasing rapidly. Technological as well as economic questions must be addressed.

A copy of the Interinstitutional Library Committee report is in the Regent Exhibit Book.

The Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination and the Board Office recommend approval of this report.


Charles R. Kniker

Approved: 
Frank J. Stork