University of Michigan CCDO/TSBH Report

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University/Institution: University of Michigan

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Collections Report

Budget Update

We expect a base increase of about 1.9% for the coming year, not reflecting a potential reduction in the state allocation for the Ann Arbor campus.

Staffing and Organizational Changes/Update

Like many other institutions, the University of Michigan initiated a hiring freeze at the onset of the pandemic. Any unit wanting to fill a position needed to submit and justify their request directly to the Provost. The Library was, by exception, able to hire or modify a few key positions during the freeze. While the freeze and other financial restrictions have recently been lifted, we have been encouraged to remain cautious. The Library is currently working with a recruiting firm to fill two senior positions: AUL for Library Information Technology, and Human Resources Director.

As the country, state, and county modify pandemic-related restrictions, the University has shifted expectations towards an on-campus experience for students this coming Fall. The Library anticipates opening most of its buildings to affiliated users before the Fall semester begins on August 30. Access for the general public is still under discussion. We currently plan to limit access within the building which houses most Library staff in order to facilitate the processing of backlogged material, and to offer some social distancing for staff returning to onsite work. We expect that most staff will be working at least some of the time onsite, and we are now rolling out new formal agreements that support remote and hybrid work.

New Programs or Initiatives

The University of Michigan Library selected Alma as its next library management system. After several months of preparation, the Library will begin using Alma on July 15.

Anti-Racist Collection Practices - We have identified seven themes associated with anti-racist collection practices:
- Acquisition processes and workflows
- Cataloging processes and workflows
- Selector collection practices
- Technology infrastructure
- Resourcing of both staff time and library finances
- Collaboration -- including community outreach
- Addressing systemic issues, e.g. advocacy more broadly across the profession, or through various organizations

A comprehensive plan for addressing these themes is still in development; in the meantime, individual subject specialists have been encouraged to spend time and effort thinking about how to build collections that reflect DEIA aspirations, anti-racist collection practices, and social justice more generally. There is recognition that this work may require more detailed and active curation of collections.

Local, National, International Partnerships

The Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) continues its move towards deeper coordination of its aggregate collection. One activity for 2021 has been a series of Convenings that have moved from general concepts and principles, towards practical action.

The HathiTrust ETAS saw significant use on our campus, in part due to the extent of overlap with our print holdings. We leveraged ETAS to support online access to some course materials which we scanned, after determining that we could not license an electronic version. As described in a recent HT newsletter, our catalogers also used ETAS to update and correct a large number of bibliographic records as part of a clean-up project.

Collection Assessment Activities

Undergraduate Collection - Over the past year, a small group of librarians and undergraduate students using a service design framework tackled the question, "How might we make the undergraduate collections at U-M a community-driven service?". The group is now planning several prototypes to further develop over the summer.

Notable and Newsworthy Collection Development and Acquisition Models

Along with other members of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) we have entered into a 3-year Read & Publish agreement with Cambridge University Press as well as the community action model for PLOS Biology and PLOS Medicine.

Scholarly Communication Initiatives and Developments

We continue to explore open access models individually and as part of BTAA. This includes support for open infrastructure. The University of Michigan Press has adopted a "Fund to Mission" model that, with the support of other libraries, aims to transition the entire frontlist of our scholarly monograph program to Open Access within 3 years.

General Collections

In response to the significant shift to online instruction, we licensed more ebooks and streaming video. Early on in the pandemic we began using the OverDrive platform; we originally intended to use it mainly as a supplement to our print browsing collection, but found there were a number of titles being used for classes that were available via OverDrive but not from any of our other usual ebook platforms.

"Top of Mind"

Our transition to Alma

DEIA, anti-racism and social justice: how can we ensure that we prioritize this work sufficiently?

Transformative publisher agreements: how will the larger agreements be funded by our research-intensive university; and how can we best support smaller publishers?

Space: even with reduced net growth in our physical collections, we continue to run out of shelf space; we just received funds for some additional compact shelving, but this is only a partial and temporary fix.

Budget: in particular, our personnel needs far exceed our personnel budget