Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries Committee
Cornell University Library (CUL) Annual Report
July 2022

Budget Update

The appropriated budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is set at the same level as the 2021-22 budget; there will be an increase to endowment funding for materials.

Staffing and Organizational Changes/Update

Elaine L. Westbrooks, former vice provost and university librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, began as Cornell's Carl A. Kroch University Librarian effective July 1, 2022. See: https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/03/elaine-westbrooks-named-carl-kroch-university-librarian.

In November 2021, the Smithsonian Institution appointed Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty as director of Smithsonian Libraries and Archives. Evangelestia-Dougherty came to Cornell as an Associate University Librarian, in 2019. Cornell's Asia Collections; Rare and Manuscript Collections; Africana Library; Digitization and Conservation Services; Research, Education and Engagement for the Library's rare and distinctive collections; and the Curatorial Collections Council are currently reporting to Xin Li, Associate University Librarian, on an interim basis.

Craig Wiggers became Cornell's new Director for Library Finance and Administration in November, taking over for Ezra Delaney who retired as Senior Director for Library Finance and Administration on September 1.

Within Library Technical Services, we hired Mary Campany as Authorities Metadata Librarian (effective February 2022), Babette Hodis as Generalist Cataloger (effective July 2022), Christopher Peppel as Rare Materials Specialist (effective July 2022) and Ana Caliz Casanova as Supervisory Cataloger (effective August 2022). We have a number of other on-going searches across various technical services units.

We began reviewing and updating languages used in job descriptions and classifications for non-Librarian staff in Technical Services functions as they contain dated terms due to a lack of review for many years.

FOLIO

CUL has just completed its first fiscal year on the FOLIO Library Services Platform. As the first ARL library to go live with FOLIO, this first year presented challenges for staff training and bringing operations up to full capacity. Training of technical services staff took place from March through June 2021 and presented many challenges. A major one was that documentation for FOLIO was not well-developed due to on-going development changes and limited implementors at the time that we went live. The challenge with training, combined with missing system features led to significant decline of productivity. Now, a year later, some of the initial problems we had with FOLIO have been resolved, while others still

await resolution. Staff have become acclimated to the new workflows necessitated by FOLIO and productivity has improved. We successfully transitioned into a new fiscal year on July 1st, 2022.

Related to the shift from the Voyager application to FOLIO are all of the downstream changes. Two of the biggest are Reporting and Automation. In Voyager, reports were mostly created using MS Access, by way of its client graphical user interface. We've moved away from MS Access in favor of an SQL client called DBeaver. One of the benefits is significantly increased skill and sophistication writing raw SQL for report writing that is starting to pay dividends in the kinds of reports we are able to write and the way we can distribute them, including via Tableau and R dashboards that were not possible before. Similarly, the migration forced us to modernize the middleware we use to Automate many workflows and procedures.

Inclusive Descriptive Practice Task Force

A group representing colleagues from Library Technical Services, Law Library Technical Services, Archival Technical Services in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections and the Kheel Center, CUL-IT and other units have been working on a group to support inclusive metadata practices across Cornell. At present, four subgroups are working on focus areas: one on creating guidelines for the use of historical context statements and content warnings; another working on videos to aid users in searching for records with transliteration; one group working on issues related to controlled vocabularies, including drafting a recommendation for a public-facing method to collect feedback on problematic vocabulary in the public catalog and developing a workflow to employ when a report of problematic language in either names or subject headings is identified; and one group identifying methods of moving from historical practices to best contemporary practices.

Law Library Technical Services Update

The Law Library has its own technical services staff. For the Law Library's Information Management department, fiscal year 2021/2022 was dominated by two events: our migration (along with the rest of Cornell's libraries) to the FOLIO library services platform, and a large-scale stacks reorganization project completed in support of the Law School's repurposing of the library's ground floor.

The stacks reorganization project began just a few weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic upended everything in March 2020. The project was put on hold until staff were able to return to working on-site in fall 2021. The temporary pause allowed the Law Library to negotiate a more reasonable time frame to complete the work, additional hours for part-time staff, and employment of a Law School- funded temporary staff member and student assistants to assist with the project. Over 42,000 volumes were withdrawn, 15,000 were moved to remote storage, and the remainder were relocated within the library. The database maintenance required for this undertaking was time-consuming and labor-intensive, made even more so by the fact that staff were performing their tasks in an unfamiliar system that required previously automated tasks to be done manually. Some of the larger-scale database tasks were automated for us by staff in the main library. The project was completed in spring 2022.

Licensing

Cornell signed several new Open Access agreements this year, including its first major transformative/read-and-publish agreement in 2022 with Cambridge University Press. The agreement,

negotiated by NERL, allows any Cornell author publishing in a Cambridge journal to opt for open access with no additional article processing charge. Details here: https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/04/library-deal-stimulate-open-access. With another NERL brokered agreement, Elsevier will flip articles authored by participating institutions' authors from the backfile (1986-2000) to OA. In addition, Cornell joined the MIT Press Direct-to-Open and the University of Michigan Press Fund to Mission OA monograph programs. We are still learning how to best handle and administrative and recordkeeping aspects of these agreements.

Negotiation Team

In fall 2019, CUL charged a standing Collections Content Negotiation Team with the role of reviewing and negotiating the terms of major licenses and other agreements with content vendors to make the best possible use of the Library's financial resources. The Team includes staff from Collection Development and Technical Services and is working to develop a systematic, data-informed approach to identifying, prioritizing, and planning for pending license negotiations. This Team also serves as a resource for other staff working with licenses and agreements.

Submitted by Jason Kovari, with contributions from Adam Chandler, Jesse Koennecke, Jean Pajerek, Kizer Walker and Xin Li.