INTRODUCTION

The University of Texas Libraries continues its commitment to being a nimble organization able to effectively respond to changing demands, embrace new opportunities, and achieve tangible goals within the modern, research library ecosystem. UTL’s Discovery and Access Division represents areas including: Content Management (formerly known as Technical Services), Access Systems, Branch & Borrower Services, Digital Stewardship, Preservation, and Storage & Logistics.

Budget

The budget climate continues to be challenging as UT Libraries’ budget remains flat. We continue to accommodate inflation by reducing subscriptions and purchases.

Personnel

We continue to assess vacant positions on an individual basis to determine whether we refill or redirect the budgeted line. Recent hires in the Discovery and Access Division include: Head of Content Management, DAMS Coordinator, and a library specialist in Content Management.

New Projects

Alma Implementation

UT Libraries will be implementing the Alma library services platform in 2019 with expected go-live scheduled for January 2020. Primo will serve as the discovery component for this platform. UT Libraries’ Project Team has completed the onboarding phase culminating in data extraction to prepare the production environment for Alma. The Team has just entered the implementation phase of the project and expect to be working with input from across UT Libraries to configure the new production environment, perform testing, manage data cleanup, and conduct training in preparation for live launch with the coming of 2020.

Ongoing Projects

LSF Inventory System

UT Libraries completed its migration of the inventory system for the Library Storage Facility from the campus mainframe to a new, locally designed platform. This platform was launched in early 2019 and has been well-received in regards to its usability and functionality. Libraries IT staff using the Agile development methodology will work with stakeholders to integrate this inventory system with Alma in the coming months.

DAMS
UT Libraries’ Digital Asset Management System launched in 2018 and continues to be developed to include a public-facing discovery portal.

**HathiTrust**

The UT Libraries has identified approximately 100,000 items from across our collections for long-term retention as part of phase 2 of the HathiTrust Shared Print program. This adds to the 47,000 items designated for retention in phase 1 of the program.

**Facilities**

**Hall of Texas/Hall of Noble Words**

The Hall of Texas renovation was successfully completed and opened in March 2019. It has proven a very popular space and echoes the grandeur of a classic reading room yet is equipped with modern connectivity for laptops and Wi-Fi. The University has pledged funding to renovate the lighting fixtures in the adjacent Hall of Noble Words to spruce up its appearance echoing its tandem-relationship to the Hall of Texas. The Hall of Noble Words renovation should begin this Summer.

**Welcome Center**

A new Campus Welcome Center is being built on the first floor of the Perry-Castaneda Library per an initiative of the Provost’s Office. This construction project required relocation of staff areas resulting in the move of the Content Management Unit to a remodeled section of PCL’s 5th floor. The Welcome Center is scheduled to open in late Fall 2019. The UT Libraries will work with the Welcome Center on collaborative programming and is excited that the first UT experience future students have will occur within the Libraries.

**Fine Arts Library**

The 5th floor at the Fine Arts Library was refreshed to include more stack ranges, more robust Wi-Fi, additional electrical outlets, and new carpet and paint.

**Other**

**Provost’s Task Force on the Future of Libraries**

This past year UT Libraries has been engaged in conversations with our campus through a Provost’s Task Force on the Future of the UT Libraries. The Task Force is Co-chaired by the Vice Provost and Director of UT Libraries and the Dean of the School of Architecture. Their report is due to the Provost in July.