

LMIS Minutes for October 11, 2013

Present: Amy Fisher, Martin Jackson, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Emily Menk, Bryan Smith, John Wesley

Guests: Peggy Burge (Humanities Liaison Librarian) and Katie Henningsen (Archivist & Digital Collections Coordinator)

Bryan Smith convened the meeting. He began by making a motion to have members of the committee rotate secretarial duties. The motion was seconded and approved. He then made a motion to approve the minutes for September 20, 2013. The motion was approved.

As part of the LMIS committee's charge "to continue to support initiatives to raise awareness and use of archives and special collections", Peggy Burge, Humanities Liaison Librarian, and Katie Henningsen, Archivist and Digital Collections Coordinator, were asked to provide the committee with an update on student research skills, use of the Archives and Special Collections, and to discuss possible changes to the existing space to facilitate library activities, humanities classes, and curricular development.

Peggy Burge discussed student literacy with regards to discerning the differences between various kinds source materials (scholarly, popular, primary and secondary sources) as well as the results of the research practices survey. The survey indicated that, although student research skills were improving, there is still work to be done in helping students to recognize and utilize different materials appropriately and effectively in their studies. Katie Henningsen noted that, since the beginning of the fall 2013 semester, 220 students have worked in the archives and special collections as either part of a class or on their own initiative. Henningsen also discussed the kinds of research skills and strategies and opportunities afforded by working with primary source materials. Amy Fisher mentioned a research activity developed in consultation with Henningsen and Eli Gandour-Rood that allowed students in her STS 301 course – Technology and Culture – to explore the history of the typewriter in a dynamic way, using not only traditional print materials, but also artifacts such as turn-of-the-20th-century typewriters. Both Henningsen and Fisher expressed concerns with the existing teaching space for the archives and special collections. Because of the number and size of classes taking advantage of archival materials, many classes spill out of the Shelmidine room into the hallway, creating conservation challenges as well as disruptions for other library patrons.

Henningsen also discussed initiatives to make faculty and students more aware of the variety of resources available in the archives and special collections. *Behind the Archives' Door*, a bi-monthly public lecture series, features the work of faculty and students in the collections. Also, there are a number of student workers in the archives and special collections, providing valuable work-study opportunities for students. Again, she noted that the existing space does not make it easy to facilitate the number of researchers and students interested in working with the collections.

Last spring, Jane Carlin and Katie Henningsen along with members of 2012-2013 LMIS Committee and other faculty undertook an evaluation of the existing space. In conjunction with

the group's recommendations, Henningsen reported that some of 2nd floor secondary source materials and shelving had been shifted to other parts of the library to make a larger and brighter space with more seating for use by the archives. This area, however, is outside of the formal special collections space and open to all library patrons. It had been recommended last spring that glass walls be installed to partition the space from the general stacks, to create more privacy, reduce noise, and to provide more protection for rare books and artifacts. A proposal was drafted, asking for funding to renovate the space. Because of other construction projects on campus, the archival renovation project was placed in hiatus, and Henningsen was unaware of the current status of the proposal to modify the existing space.

Nick Kontogeorgopoulos made a motion for the LMIS committee to support the Archival and Special Collections' renovation project. The motion was seconded and approved. After some detailed discussions with regards to procedure, it was further decided to respectfully ask Jane Carlin to work with Associate Dean, Sunil Kukreja, in consultation with Tech Services and Facilities, to create a budget and assess the financial feasibility of modifying the space in Summer 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy A. Fisher