University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Admin Group meeting
Thursday, June 23, 2011
Present: Dean Carolyn Allen, Juana Young, Judy Ganson, Jeff Banks, Anne Marie Candido, Ben Carter, and Molly Boyd; Larry Malley and Mike Bieker of the University Press.

Larry Malley and Mike Bieker of the University Press
The University Press is moving into electronic publishing of their materials by entering a consortium with fellow presses. The Press views this move as a business improvement caused by a shift in technologies. This move is a reaction to the changes in scholarly publishing industry wide and a paradigm shift, in which bookstores are dying. However, Amazon online sales are increasing. The University Press currently records 30% of print sales through Amazon, which gives a digital preview of the full book. To take the digitization process one step further provides electronic titles available for purchase. Google Books has long digitized the University Press books, but “own” those copies of the electronic books; they also can sell them electronically. These changes have caused a shift in what types of books the university presses will print and market; now an emphasis on text books and trade books. Essentially the hard bound book business is now obsolete.

The NYU Press started the “Electronic Access Consortium” in response to the shrinking of the library book market of more than 50%. Through their group, libraries will subscribe to the digital consortium and will get electronic access to digital versions of all of the participating university press books. To participate in the EAC, the University Press is converting its backlist to PDF and then to HTML or UPCC formats to make them available electronically through the consortium.

However, the University Press views this as a strategy to expand the potential market with e-books, not as a publishing end. The reason the University Press exists is to manage the peer-reviewed content for scholarly works, not to build a list of best-selling works. They will not agree to contracts that require them to limit digital content to a single format or grant exclusive content to any platform.

They will check back with the consortia as to how this will affect university libraries, particularly those of the parent institutions. There is some concern that The University Libraries’ access to our University Press books will be limited or more expensive, due to fees for the consortium. We are not necessarily interested in paying for the other university press books in the consortium.

Personnel Updates
Faculty service awards. The Libraries will put in writing the process or procedure accompanying the distribution of faculty service award certificate, perhaps through the Faculty Concerns Committee page. The certificates are created by the Human Resources department and given to department heads to distribute at departmental levels.

Faculty hiring plan. The faculty hiring plan includes the business librarian, the geosciences librarian, the librarian in residence, and a half-time position for general reference. The faculty hiring plan is a request to the provost to fill positions as funding becomes available; it is not a request for, or approval of, funding.

The posting for the business librarian is under review. The position should report to Collection Management. The Systems position description is still in draft form. Managing the Millennium software and access is a primary job responsibility.
Director of Development job posting. The search committee includes Bruce Pontius, Mark Power (chair), Brenda Brugger, Juana Young, Tim Nutt, John Tolleson, and Jamie Banks. The position announcement will be sent to a targeted market for people in libraries or with a library background, and will be posted on ALADN (Academic Library Advancement & Development Network).

Facilities Update
Furniture is under review for the new open areas on Level 4 of Mullins and chairs have been ordered for the Chemistry Library, which will get seven additional computer workstations. The bulldog chairs on all levels that need replacing are no longer available. Sheri is conducting a chair survey with sample chairs provided by the vendor to get public feedback on which chairs would be most comfortable and useful in those spaces.

Staff Concerns Committee
Reappointments and new recommendations have been made. These are: Julie Thacker, chair; Julie Thacker (chair), Diane Baker, Lee Holt, Jimmy Ray Jackson, and Catherine Wallack, members.