Strategic Initiatives Committee Meeting, Tuesday, May 24, 2011. Present: Judy Ganson, Cheryl Conway, Molly Boyd, Phil Jones, and Monika Szakasits.

Judy mentioned that one national trend we should take into consideration in creating our goals was the development of print repositories for physical copies of complete periodicals runs. Groups and consortia are working together to develop large-scale plans for print repositories among a group of participating libraries to ensure print copies will remain available while eliminating duplicate copies to free up space. Physical space has become a premium in libraries. We are currently working with GWLA on annual reviews. The Association for Southern Research Libraries is another group the administration is looking at, and we are also participating in the WEST California digital initiative. Print repositories might be goal stated under key collaborations initiative. Monika reported that the Law Library is also currently working with peers on print repository projects for primary sources.

Judy suggested that we review a report done by Research Information Network (RIN) for the Research Libraries of the UK (RLUK) called “The value of libraries for research and researchers,” which has an interesting chart that illustrates the shift in emphasis from traditional library behaviors or characteristics to emphasize final outcomes or end benefits obtained through the behaviors or characteristics. The report can be found here: http://www.rin.ac.uk/our-work/using-and-accessing-information-resources/value-libraries-research-and-researchers.

Wording of the initiatives

- The wording for the first initiative was modified to read: “Adopt assessments that are based on outcomes aligned to the University’s overarching goals and regularly modify—or discontinue—programs based on these assessments” based on feedback obtained during the forum.
- Phil will investigate whether the word “fiscal” or “financial” should be used in the third initiative: “Implement practices and programs that make the Libraries more fiscally and environmentally sustainable.”
- The word “enhance” can stand; it is preferable to “advance.” Judy said the exhibit organized to complement the provost’s Tenure and Promotion reception is a good example of “enhancing” the faculty’s endeavors.

Initiative 1: Adopt assessments that are based on outcomes aligned to the University’s overarching goals and regularly modify—or discontinue—programs based on these assessments.

- ARL statistics form “outputs”; provide a snapshot of the state of the library, but we need assessments that do not merely measure quantitative points, but that also measure qualitative.
- Possibly look at LibQual comments and look at peer rankings in specific areas.
- Phil suggested a possible goal of assigned the full ACRL report to someone to extract from it the assessment suggestions and examples that might be applicable to our library. Design an assessment program based on recommendations in “The Value of Academic Libraries” (ACRL report). We need to develop a robust assessment program that demonstrates a return on investment; the value of the libraries to the campus community.
- Another possible goal is to send a representative from the library to the ARL library assessment conference in October, 2012. We may already have some significant progress by then that could
be presented at the conference. The guest editorial by Oakleaf in the May issue of *College & Research Libraries* describes the need for research into the area of assessments designed to demonstrate the value of libraries. [http://crl.acrl.org/content/current](http://crl.acrl.org/content/current).

- Whatever goals we create, we need to provide a review point, some benchmark at which we can assess the program’s effectiveness and continued operation.
- Monika reported that the Association of Law Library ABA reports are shifting and shrinking. Physical volumes are no longer counted; how electronic sources are accessed and archived are becoming measures of robust collections. The new status of law libraries is difficult to classify. We might craft a goal with language indicating the law library is developing assessments along the shifting ABA standards. The new dean of the Law School may also have input into strategic initiatives for the law library and may shift that focus. Defer for now.
- It is more difficult to assess non-support of programs and departments; the accreditation process is shifting focus. A possible goal might focus on current and future accreditation reviews; use shifts in accreditation to help the library assess its value to departments. Review what accreditation committees review for our own assessments. There is a list of accreditation agencies on the Institutional Research Web site as a footnote.

**Initiative 2: Extend the Libraries’ role in scholarly communication and the curation of data.**

- Open access is not the issue, but what the faculty does with research. It should be identified and placed in an institutional repository.
- Institutional repository is not a library goal, because it is not a library project, but a campus-wide project already in the works. We are participants and hope to be key participants, but we are not the drivers. A goal might be to enhance our participation and leadership in the project, but it is a complicated issues with many factors external to the libraries. The campus-wide committee has not been appointed yet; that committee will eventually produce a report with suggested actions, at which point we will be able to move on it, but until it does its work, we are premature. It will occupy and consume a great deal of our resources, but there are too many variables to specify goals now. A better approach would be to work with particular departments or groups to develop specific programs that do not rise to the full scope of a campus-wide institutional repository, but still preserve that function. Working with Bobby McCallum of UITS regarding D-Space and open source software, BePress and digital commons. These are slow moving projects because the SEC schools are all working together to ensure interoperability between schools. An example of smaller project on the same theme as institutional repository is the honors’ theses database. A possible goal might be to get that operational so that students could upload their own honors’ theses and other campus resources, such as digital copies of *The Traveler*.
- Monika reported that there were per pay programs that preserve these types of records such as BePress. The Law Library is currently publishing the Law Notes online. Librarians also work with faculty by helping them to create keywords, synopses, etc. of research before posting online in resources like the LSN, a part of the Social Sciences Research Network.
- A possible goal here might be to choose software to create a database of campus art and other institutional images.
- There is currently no plan in place to coordinate digital plans, to drive digital projects.
- Patricia had mentioned author rights issues in the Forum and ownership of patents; all these types of issues are subsumed under the larger ongoing Institutional Research project and will be deferred until their findings and reports come out later.
- Possible collaboration with University Relations on database of campus facts, like Jimmy mentioned in Forum.
- There are videos put out by UNLV for GWLA that illustrate the issue of libraries moving beyond the service mentality, focusing instead on grant writing, co-teaching with faculty. A possible goal would be to host a forum or colloquium structured around a discussion about traditional vs. embeddedness opportunities with campus faculty and students. This national trend does not necessarily have the support of campus faculty yet; find out what students and faculty want. Team librarians with faculty, also called “liaison librarians.”
- Monika reported that other university law librarians teach IL research classes; here they do not. They also reviewed journals and sent clippings of relevant research topics to faculty related to their research. It is a matter of discovery and shaping, not a passive exercise. We must communicate with faculty to hear what their needs are, then develop programs based on feedback from constituents. Discard “pie in the sky” programs if faculty are not interested. Set a goal by a specific date to conduct forums in science, social sciences, humanities, and possibly law to explore areas of collaboration with faculty. Involvement of faculty will get ideas sparking.

Cheryl will contact department heads and Ben to ask for suggestions for goals specific to individual departments or groups.