Advisory Group for Research Services and Scholarly Resources (AGRSSR) Minutes March 11, 2009 Library West Conference Room, 429

Members Present: Joe Aufmuth, Denise Bennett, Jack Waters for Steve Carrico, Robena Cornwell, Michele Crump, John Ingram (Chair), Beth Layton, Ann Lindell, Peter McKay, Angela Mott, Marilyn Ochoa, Bobby Parker, Patrick Reakes, Dan Reboussin, Betsy Simpson, Patricia Morgan for Christopher Vallandingham and Carl Van Ness

Members Absent: Sam Huang & Ben Walker

I Approval of February 2009 Minutes

Minutes were approved & can be posted online.

Additional Agenda Items? None was noted.

II Budget

John thanked the selectors for turning in their preliminary identification for reductions at the 5% inflation factor and 10% possible budget reduction factor. The budget has come up in several AGRSSR blog posts, and one of the questions that seem to come up was if changes could be made later & the answer is yes. Judy has not given up on having DSR pay the entire Elsevier bill, and if not the entire bill to adjust the amount of money that comes to us so inflation isn’t a factor.

John asked if there were any more questions about budgeting and the process? Robena asked regarding the 5% inflation impact on continuations; are they going to be canceled without notice to the selectors? Michele assured the group that nothing will be canceled and that the selectors make all those decisions.

Jack Waters is working on a list of possible cancelations. Dan asked if there was a spreadsheet that could be made to show which subscriptions that we get in print are not available electronically. Michele updated the group that doing something like that was a very big project and due to time constraints this wasn’t possible at this time; however we can run a report that shows what we have in print plus electronic.

Jack updated the group regarding where we stand on our budget currently; we are down to a balance of $350,000 and are on track to spend about $1.664 million for print serials.
There is no deadline for domestic orders yet. Michele will check with Paul Lightcap and let every one know what he says; last year the deadline was mid March.

At the June CSUL meeting they will address core collection processes for electronic books & monographs. The deans and directors will have to make a decision on which schools will be the principle acquirers. UF is purchasing a large component of the Springer ebooks and they will be working with us to get user analysis and to also decide which ones we actually use. In John’s opinion the Kindle reader is helping move towards the transition from print to electronic books.

III  Catalog Searching Questions – Angela

According to a recent OCLC study, each ILL borrowing request costs about $3.50 in staff time; in 2008 we canceled 6,006 borrowing requests because we already owned the books or periodicals. This amounts to about $21,000 in wasted time for the staff, in addition to frustration for the patrons. Angela was asked by her unit to bring this up to the AGRSSR group for some possible solutions.

Angela used the website to show everyone how the database is working and if we don’t have something electronically but we do in print, the database isn’t showing that information. After the patron has searched the electronic database & hasn’t found the article they put in an ILL request. Most of the time, we have this journal in print and the patron doesn’t know it, therefore causing ILL to cancel the request. Perhaps we can have it read; “sorry no electronic holdings were found, but please check to see if we have this in print”. It was also brought up that perhaps we could say, “check the library catalog before sending an ILL request” next to “submit an ILL request.” Michele will find out how we can change the verbiage on this page. It was also suggested that perhaps we could have the database show that we have both electronic and print journals when the initial search request is performed.

Could there be a task force to decide how to fix this problem? Michele said that there is a group that is working on this, and Angela asked if Michelle Foss could be invited. Michele said that she’d invite her to the next meeting.

IV  Consolidation of Journal Data/Digital Services Questions – Denise

Denise said that this was discussed in budget portion of the meeting already, but wanted to update that sometimes we’re paying for journal titles in package form, in print & in electronic. There is lots of background information that isn't available on how we’re paying for titles. It would be useful to have a comprehensive database that shows all this information, instead of having to search for everything.

Michele updated that there is a Serials Solution ERM which will offer a means to answer those type of questions, though it may not include print & should be able to run reports from that. All the information isn’t entered yet but they are working on it. John asked if there is an end date when the ERM will have all the data entered? Michele said that there
isn’t a timeframe because they are just now developing this working group (task force). In the meantime, Jack does have his own database that shadows the spending & it will show who is paying for a specific title.

What is the role for AGRSSR to prioritize tasks for digital services? John said that the AGRSSR will play a role in making the recommendation for what goes into the queue for DLC, but we are not at that point yet. DLC has lost two employees and there are some issues with transfer of data still to be worked out, not to mention our budgeting process has been interrupted. John asked that we don’t forget about this; it is something we will discuss in the future.

John also updated the group that Laurie Taylor will be invited to the April meeting officially.