UAMS Library Advisory Committee Meeting

11:30am-1:00pm, April 1, 2014
Library, 3rd Floor, Videoconferencing Room

Minutes

Attendees included Zoran Bursac, Karen Davis, Mark Estes, James Graham, Neena Grissom, Bill Gurley, Daphne Hyatt, Jonathan McDougal, Josh Phelps, Jacqualane Scales, Maria Schuller, Jan Hart and Mary Ryan.

Budget – The Library’s budget request for 2014/15 included a $175,000 increase in the Library’s base budget to cover the annual increase in costs for journal/database subscriptions. The decision about the budget request has not yet been made. There is also a good chance that the Library, along with many other campus units, will have to take a 3% cut in the current base budget. If so, items which might be cut by the Library include the statewide subscription to DynaMed (a clinical information resource), a position which is expected to become vacant through retirement during the coming year, and travel for professional development/training. The possibility of implementing a library fee for students was discussed, but there was a consensus that other methods should be used to balance the budget.

Renovations Update

- The lighting design for the circulation desk canopy has been finished and parts orders.
- The covering on the staircases will be replaced beginning in late May. The current covering is coming off the stairs and is a tripping hazard.
- Journal stacks were removed from 2nd floor east and the carpet has been repaired. Since there is no ceiling lighting in that area, a quote for installing lighting has been requested.
- A request has been submitted to Dr. Heard for permission to purchase and install 12 modular rooms in the NW corner of the 3rd floor for special testing and individual study.
- Staff are still tying up loose ends, cleaning up storage areas and sending unused items to M&R, rearranging some furniture for more efficient and effective use of space, etc.

The mobile app for UpToDate was recently made available and several clinicians at UAMS have already started using it.

The new service enabling UAMS faculty, staff and students to pick up and drop off public library materials at the UAMS library is a popular service. Staff are now investigating other services from the public library that might be made more easily accessible at UAMS.

The software system which currently provides the Library’s online catalog, acquisitions and circulation modules is being replaced by an open source system which will save the Library over $50,000 annually in the future. The maintenance fee for the current system is about $35,000 and was going to rise to about $60,000 next year. The new system will be hosted by a 3rd party vendor, which will cost about $7,000 annually and will save time and effort for staffing and upgrades.

New books are now being shelved behind the circulation desk to prevent theft.

NIH Public Access Policy – Reference librarians Susan Steelman and Jessie Casella have been working with researchers to deposit their articles in the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central (PMC) online repository of journal articles. Researchers with NIH funding must deposit their articles into PMC within one
year of publication in order to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy. The UAMS compliance rate is currently 91%, which is well above the national average. Most new journal articles are now being deposited, but some researchers have articles from several years ago that have not yet been deposited.

Because of the pending implementation of the new student information system, lending rules and fine structures for books and other library items were reviewed. Billing and processing fees will be eliminated, and the maximum fine for overdue materials will be lowered from $100 to $30. The cost for replacing missing materials will still be charged. The lending periods will be changed from 2 weeks with two renewals to three weeks with one renewal.

The recent LCME student survey results contained several recommendations related to the Library, including free interlibrary loans and printing, unlocking the ALC door in the daytime, longer hours (especially midday Sunday), more study space, warmer temperatures throughout the Library, a sink in the vending machine room, and more information resources, especially test question banks such as UWorld. These recommendations are currently being considered. The students made many positive comments about the Library and the staff.

The spring History of Medicine lecture will be presented on April 7 by Dr. Sam Taggart, whose book on the history of public health in Arkansas was published recently. The lecture is being cosponsored by the College of Public Health.

Two new exhibits produced by the National Library of Medicine are now on display in the Library. One is about science as seen in the Harry Potter series of books, and the other is entitled “From DNA to Beer: Harnessing Nature in Medicine and Industry.”