

TRLN ANNUAL MEETING 2008: DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Duke University Medical Center Library

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The Most Exciting Things That Your Library Did Last Year

Collection move – While Library space was reassigned for faculty offices, this project gave us an opportunity to review our entire collection and make decisions about storing, weeding, and keeping materials on the shelf. The first analysis identified what areas of the collection were most used, in terms of publication dates of materials. The book weeding project underscored the importance of regular weeding for a health sciences collection, making it easier to find the latest clinical and research materials. The analysis of the journal collection revealed how many back volumes could be stored due to electronic formats becoming available. When the collection was compressed onto the one stack level, we were able to remove quite a few stacks making room for more user spaces, including comfortable seating and study carrels. In exchange for the loss of the 2nd stack level, the Library will now have brand new group study carrels and a state-of-the-art and larger conference room.

Implementation of new technologies – The Library & Archives continued to pursue new software to provide better and more responsive services to our users. The Library has implemented a number of Web 2.0 approaches including the use of wikis, social bookmarking sites, blogs, and RSS feeds. The latest venture has been the use of LibGuides, which allows for rating of resources by users, as well as more flexible and easy to use template for creating guides focusing on particular user populations and topics. Medical Center Archives has continued to develop its institutional repository MeDSpace and has now added software that allows the display of images. Cytology as well as historical images have been loaded into this new software.

Point of care resource review – Information products used at the patient bedside, better known as point-of-care resources, are becoming more important and essential in the clinical inpatient and outpatient settings. However, these resources are very costly and like other electronic resources are likely to have annual price increases above the normal inflation rates. The Library conducted a thorough review of the products available on the market, developed review criteria, and invited faculty, students, and other health care providers to test the products that offered the features and functions needed for point-of-care information access. This study was of interest to colleagues in health sciences libraries across the country and the results of our study were shared with them and a poster was presented at the Medical Library Association Annual meeting.

The Biggest Challenges Facing Your Library in the Coming Year

Budget – The health care field's costs are rising at a higher rate than other sectors of the economy. In addition, NIH research funding has dropped over the past several years due to an almost flat federal budget. For academic medical centers, such as Duke, this means that funding is very tight and there is fierce competition for existing funds to sustain basic programs while trying to address cutting edge research and patient care needs. The Library is in direct competition with clinical, research and educational programs for these scarce dollars, while it faces steep increases in costs for electronic resources.

Data driven collection development – Given tight funding for information resources (flat or minimal increases), the Library must be smarter in how it selects materials and more effectively utilize data when making decisions. This is particularly true for the selection of books due to a very

small book budget; we need to evaluate the appropriateness of past decisions based on circulation data. We must also continue to seek faculty input on the importance of journal titles, identifying which are essential and those that could be cancelled to offset escalating prices.

Master plan for Library space – Being in a prime location on campus makes the Library a logical focal point for other activities within Duke Medicine. As the School of Medicine discusses a new education building and massive research facility, and the hospital goes through a large expansion, all right outside the library doors, we must think about the Library's future roles and how it can augment or complement these new spaces and whether library satellite locations should be integrated into these new buildings.

Other Developments

Space change – As mentioned above, the top stack level of the Library has been reallocated to faculty space. About 80 medical oncology faculty and their clinical and research staff will be moving into the space in November. This has led to renovations on the Library's mezzanine level for new restrooms, workspaces, group study rooms, and a conference room.

Role in NIH Public Access Policy – The Library has taken the lead for all of Duke University in providing information to Duke authors about the new law. These efforts have included creating a Website, developing training sessions and materials, presenting information at departmental and center meetings, implementing a local submission system, and working with administrators on policies and communication materials for Duke.

Tea with Trailblazers – The Library & Archives held another very successful tea recognizing African-Americans who blazed trails for others at Duke. This year's tea, held during Black History month, included three women speakers – two physicians and a nurse who made a difference for others following in their footsteps.

Bullitt-Trent Speakers Series – In collaboration with UNC Health Sciences Library, another series of fascinating lectures on history of medicine topics was held, featuring speakers from both schools.

Two staff members have been elected to key leadership roles in the Medical Library Association. **Connie Schardt** was elected president and **Beverly Murphy** was elected to the MLA Board of Directors. Both of their terms began as of May 2008.

Pat Thibodeau was selected as a mentor for the Leadership Fellows Program sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries.