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2020-21 Academic Year Report

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2020-21 Academic Year Report: Wardman Library

Successes

Maintained full library services

- The library shifted its circulation and interlibrary loan services to a curbside pick up fulfillment as well as shipping books to students who were unable to come to campus.
- Research support continued through virtual sessions that included one-on-one appointments as well as 27 in-class instruction sessions and over 50 workshops.

Developed new services to address remote environment

- In addition to the curbside pick up service, the Library offered scan delivery for course reserves as well as other content in our collection.
- Laptops, wifi extenders, and document cameras were some of the technology the Library made available to students and faculty during the academic year.
- We developed a Moodle and Reference ticket service so librarians could quickly address Moodle or research-related questions.

Opened the Library for students

- During the spring, the Library was opened by reservation to on-campus students and then to all students by reservation.
- This provided us an excellent rehearsal for the summer and fall.

Maintained staff engagement throughout the year

- The Library staff met regularly to continue its strong communication practices across Teams, Zoom, and in-person (following health/safety guidelines).
- Two staff worked in the library each day to ensure regular library services.
- All staff participated in least one professional development workshop or training session.

Poet Commons continues to grow

- Staff were able to complete the digitization of the Acropolis and Greenleaf Review.
- Our proposal to (voluntarily) have senior works submitted and archived to Poet Commons was approved.
- Over 800 digital objects have been added to the Repository--resulting in more than 15,000 downloads from over a 100 countries.

Challenges

Student engagement

- Participation in library workshops was consistently low during the academic year.
- With no direct communication opportunity to students, it was very difficult to market our programs and services to students.

40% Operational budget cut

- The cut meant a number of our database and e-journal subscriptions were canceled.
- Collection development (books) was paused and re-started at a reduced rate in April 2021.

Streaming video

- While streaming video offers more equitable access to students (vs a DVD), the cost is considerably higher.
- A deeper discussion is needed on what warrants an actual library license of a film vs asking the student to "rent" the film.

Staff vacancies

- The special collection vacancy puts the library at risk of losing all the progress made.
- The Director and paraprofessional vacancies will increase burden on other staff whose work will exceed their current job descriptions.

Next steps

Normal summer opening and work

- The Library will return to normal summer hours for in-person services.
- Staff will restart in-building projects such as a large-scale collection withdrawal project and the creation of an instructional space.

Continue preparing for the full reopening in the fall

- The Library will need further direction on facility-related guidelines when the campus reopens for the fall.
- The Library will need dedicated support when it comes to guideline enforcement.

Development of workshops

- Azeem will continue to develop student workshops to support research and information/digital literacy.
- Sonia and Azeem will continue to develop faculty workshops to support teaching and instructional technology.

Leadership and staffing transition

- Nick will serve as interim director and will need support as he transitions to this role.
- Sonia will serve as the library's liaison for the Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Laura and Emily will need to take on tasks which were specific to Cindy's position.