



Committee: GFC Library Committee

GFC Standing Committee Report for July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

Date: September 9, 2015

To: Jodie Gallais, University Secretariat

From: Christopher J. Nicol, Chair,
GFC Library Committee and University Librarian

RE: Annual Report from GFC Library Committee, 2014/15

The GFC Library Committee had an extensive business agenda during 2014/15, with five regularly-scheduled meetings having been held, on: September 24 and October 29, 2013; then on January 28, February 25, and March 25, 2015. In addition, a Joint Meeting was held on November 19, 2014, attended by the members of the GFC Library Committee, Professional Librarians and Subject Area Liaison academic staff member representatives who deal directly with Subject Area Professional Librarians, Library services Supervisors, and a number of Department Chairs/Area Coordinators. Members of the GFC Library Committee also attended the Library Retreat on July 7, 2015, where the main business theme of the Retreat was a summary and review of LibQUAL+ survey results covering four years, 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014. Several themes emerged from the Library Retreat LibQUAL+ discussions, which will form a foundation for Library planning and development activities in 2015/16.

Specific items of business which the GFC Library Committee dealt with this year included the following: (1) the creation of a revised set of Library Collection Guidelines, approved by GFC at its April, 2014 meeting; (2) the possible implications for collection development of the new CRKN Banding system, fluctuations in exchange rates, inflationary increases in database costs and the effect of the 5% cut to the 2013/14 acquisitions budget; (3) an update to the Library Academic Plan, which continues to focus on the Library Information Literacy and Instruction Programme, consolidation of services around the new ILS (Sierra) and Discovery Layer (Summon), and Library facility re-development; (4) emerging challenges associated with the new Tri-Council Open Access Policy, as well as future implications for a prospective Tri-Council Research Data Management Policy; (5) consortial initiatives pertaining to a shared print archive network (SPAN); (6) future collection developments within the Blackfoot Digital Library (BDL), where a new electronic platform was developed and launched.

Specific developments/changes arising from the above activities included: (a) conversion of half of the space on L9 North to high-density stacks, allowing for consolidation of a range of the print collection to L9 North from L10 North, increasing the amount of student study space on L10 North; (b) the launch of the new integrated library system (ILS), Sierra, complemented by a new Discover Layer (Serial Solutions' Summon product), allowing for enhanced search retrieval capabilities; and (c) enhancement of several areas of Library spaces through siting of a number of art works, some from the University's collection, other on loan from artists.

In the coming year, we will continue to face significant challenges due to the erosion of the purchasing power of the acquisitions budget. Serious efforts are underway to review and consult over specific database, serials and monograph access/acquisition strategies. The structure of the publishing industry and its approach to the provision of materials to academic libraries, however, is a significant challenge which can only be countered through the collaborative efforts inherent in our consortial arrangements with organisations such as the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) and the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL). Linking such consortial activities with concertia in other countries (which face the same challenges) would appear to be an appropriate strategy, but little of a concrete nature has occurred so far in this regard, efforts being confined for the moment to discussions with respect to an overall strategy.

The partial re-development of L9 North to high-density print collection storage is a first step in more extensive Library re-development, tied to the Destination Project. Through the budget process for striking of the 2016/17 fiscal year budget, we are hopeful that resources will be available to complete the L9 North high-density print collection storage project. With this in hand, we will be in a better position to give thought to the potential for re-development of L10 North, to better support academic programming, information literacy initiatives, while maintaining and possibly increasing needed space for quiet study.



Christopher J. Nicol, Ph.D., Chair,
GFC Library Committee and University Librarian