



Committee: GFC Library Committee

GFC Standing Committee Report for July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

Date: September 11, 2020

To: Jodie Gallais, University Secretariat

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

RE: Annual Report from GFC Library Committee, 2019/20

The GFC Library Committee was very active this past academic year, 2019/20, with seven regularly-scheduled meetings having been held, on: September 25, October 23, and November 26, 2019; then on January 22, February 25, March 24 and April 28, 2020. No Joint Meeting of the members of the GFC Library Committee, Professional Librarians and Subject Area Liaison academic staff member representatives took place this past year, although there was considerable liaison over the development and adoption of an Open Access Rights Retention Policy, via an Open Access Advisory Group. The December 9, 2019 meeting of the General Faculties Council saw the adoption of the Policy following approval of the motion:

“That General Faculties Council approve the attached Open Access Policy, effective immediately with the friendly amendment to 3.1 where “shall freely” was replaced by “are encouraged to”.

Since the passage of the above Motion, a communication programme has been developed, to better apprise members of the University Community of this new Policy, and to encourage deposition of University Authors’ publications in the Institutional Repository of the University Library, [“OPUS”](#).

Other significant themes of the GFC Library Committee meetings dealt with: possible re-development planning of Library spaces, including the creation of a twenty-four hour study space on L10N; development of the new Library Academic Plan (LAP), 2020-2023; running of a further LibQUAL survey, scheduled for March, 2020; academic programme development in information literacy, through the use of the Library Curriculum Committee; and the commencement of a review of the Library under the auspices of the Academic Quality Assurance Committee process.

The University’s difficult budgetary situation posed additional challenges for the Library, from the staffing and collections perspectives in particular. For example, the 2019/20 acquisitions budget had been reduced by \$150K (on a \$2.5M budget). In addition, a further reduction of \$100K for the

2020/21 fiscal year was also instituted. These reductions will eventually lead to a likely need for the cancellation of one or more of the CRKN “Big Deals”, relative to online journal database subscriptions.

Staffing in the Library has also been affected by the budgetary situation, with four staff members having retired within the past few months, and none of these positions having been filled for the time being. A permanent reduction in staffing at this level will likely call for an alteration in the offering of certain Library services and/or curtailment of hours during which Library services are offered.

The COVID-19 Pandemic situation has also been challenging for the offering of Library services, with the LINC building having been closed since mid-March, 2020. While it has been possible to continue to offer a range of services via online means, the Library remains closed to patrons for the time being, although a number of Library staff continue to work out of the Library, to deliver critical patron services. Library Administration continues to work with the University Re-launch Coordinating Committee (RCC), seeking safe ways in which to return to something like normal operating conditions, as circumstances allow for this.



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