

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

University Standing Committee: University Library Committee

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2023 - 2024

Date Report Submitted: May 24, 2024

Report Submitted by: Dr. Maria Gallardo-Williams, Chair

Number of times committee met: 4

Name of Chair Elect: Dr. Sarah Egan Warren

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

None.

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE**

The University Library Committee (ULC) is a Standing Committee of North Carolina State University. In 2023-24, its 20 members included 14 faculty members, two staff members, and four graduate students. The Senior Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, Greg Raschke, also serves as an ex-officio member. At each meeting, Raschke provided an update on the Libraries' activities and operations within the university context, highlighting significant initiatives, achievements, and challenges and inviting questions and comments from the committee.

The ULC advises the Senior Vice Provost and the Director of Libraries on issues of library policy related to the allocation of collection funds, the allocation of library space, and the development of resources for instruction, research, and the general program of library service to the institution as a whole.

### **Public Access to Federally Funded Research and Data – Overview and Libraries Support**

In September, Susan Ivey, Director, Research Facilitation Service, and Hilary Davis, Department Head, Collections & Research Strategy, provided a presentation on the "Nelson Memo" of the Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) that was released by the White House in 2022. It called upon all federal departments and agencies to update their public access policies to make publications and research funded by taxpayers publicly accessible without an embargo by 2026. They also discussed the Libraries' many resources and services that support data management planning, open science, and open access publishing of articles, data, and other works. These resources include the Research Facilitation Service, the Open Knowledge Center, memberships in ORCID and the Dryad Data Repository, and the Citation Index of works by NC State University authors. University researchers are encouraged to connect their ORCID profile with their Unity ID in the Libraries' Citation Index to enable

comprehensive management of their citations over time. The Libraries maintains agreements with certain publishers that cover the costs for open access publishing.

### **Update on the D. H. Hill Jr. Library Comprehensive Study/Master Plan**

Patrick Deaton, Associate Director for Learning Spaces & Capital Management, summarized the contents of the recently completed Hill Library Comprehensive Study/Master Plan. Space in the library buildings for services, programs, and study seating continues to be a challenge. The Hill Library is expected to experience neighborhood effects of the opening of the Integrative Sciences Building in 2026 and the subsequent Brickyard renovation. Students interviewed for the Comprehensive Study emphasized the importance of access to quiet study space in the library. They also appreciate the variety of spaces that the Libraries offers. Future renovations of the Hill Library should address the following physical design/infrastructural issues, among other areas: loading dock utility/safety; internal connectivity; Brickyard connectivity; and dining experience and capacity. It is expected that these changes would take place 20-25 years from now, if funded.

### **Collections Budget Update**

The proposed FY24 collections budget was presented, totalling \$12,255,155, with no reductions anticipated but noting the ongoing impact of inflation. The Libraries' focus is on cost containment and maximizing access to content. The budget distribution, with a significant portion allocated to journals and databases, was discussed. Open access publishing agreements (including "Read and Publish") provide savings on article processing charges for authors. The committee approved the collections budget for the fiscal year.

### **NC State Esports Update**

Greg Raschke and Jill Sexton, Associate Director for Digital and Organizational Strategy, described the new NC State Gaming and Esports Lab that opened at the Hunt Library in January 2024. They also introduced the new Esports Program Director, Cody Elsen. As part of the NC State Esports program, this lab is a "pilot space," with a larger esports arena under construction in Mann Hall and expected to open in late 2026. This program emphasizes community building, research, education, and outreach.

### **Temporary Library Space for the College of Education and Department of Psychology**

With the closure of Poe Hall in November 2023, several spaces at the Hill Library were assigned for the use of faculty and staff from the College of Education (CoE) and the Department of Psychology. These spaces include an enclosed study area on the second floor of the east wing and a few conference rooms and research study rooms. The CoE's Media & Technology Resource Center (METRC), with three full-time staff, is operating out of a space on the lower level at Hill.

## **Integrated Library System (Alma) Migration Update**

Kristen Wilson, Discovery Systems Manager, Digital Library Initiatives, described an upcoming migration of the Libraries “integrated library system” (ILS) software from a product called Sirsi Symphony that has been in use for many years to a product called Alma from Ex Libris. Implementation is planned for 2026-27, with preparations beginning soon.

The ILS supports a range of core library functions including the following:

- Ordering and paying for materials
- Managing the catalog and inventory
- Managing library user data
- Checking out items to our users
- Allowing users to request materials

A new contract with Ex Libris was negotiated by the University Library Advisory Council (the directors of all University of North Carolina libraries), and it provides for cost savings of approximately 10% for each library as compared to current ILS costs.

## **Fostering a Successful Wolfpack**

Alex Valencia, Student Success Librarian, Learning Spaces & Services, shared information on the Libraries’ Student Success initiatives and outreach efforts. Student success is a major focus for the Libraries, and it appears as Goal 1 in our Strategic Plan. Valencia described how Libraries staff establish connections with students and offer them a variety of services and support at all stages of their relationship with the university, starting even before they are enrolled. Support for students’ mental health and wellness continues to be an area of emphasis. An extensive network of partnerships with other organizations and student support units on campus enables us to deliver a wide range of events, programs, and activities, ranging from curriculum-focused learning and research to digital media, making, virtual reality, and gaming.

## **Building Culture and Creating Community**

Jennifer Garrett, Associate Director for Organizational Design, Culture, and Talent, discussed the Libraries’ comprehensive approach to fostering a culture of belonging and support for its staff and for the university community. The internal talent management program led by Libraries Human Resources has focused on highly personalized recruitment, engagement, and professional networking and relationships. An updated “inclusive onboarding” process has been developed and implemented over the past several years to welcome, support, and engage incoming employees. Libraries staff across all departments contribute to a number of committees and activities aimed at employee engagement and well-being, including peer-to-peer sharing sessions for managers and supervisors, annual staff awards and recognition events, and the ongoing opportunity for anyone in the organization to post a “shout-out” on the website to express their appreciation of a colleague’s contributions.

With its focus on student success and community engagement, the Libraries also strives to provide a wide array of services, programs, and events for students and the university community, including those focused on underrepresented groups, student affordability (e. g., scholarships), and well-being. These programs attract a high level of participation and have been recognized with many local and national awards, most recently the Chancellor's Creating Community Award for Outstanding Unit at NC State (2024).

### **Libraries Hours for 2024-25**

The Libraries seeks to maximize access to our spaces and services, including through the 24-hour schedule (Sunday through Thursday) at Hill and Hunt during the academic year. This year's proposed hours included one small change from the previous year, a recommendation to open the Hill and Hunt Libraries at 10am instead of 9am on Saturdays and Sundays, based on a long record of low usage data between 9 and 10am on those days. The proposed Libraries hours for 2024-25 were approved.

### **Change in Loan Period for SHRA Staff**

Libraries staff presented a proposal to adjust the loan period for books for SHRA staff from 30 days to 90 days. This would match the loan period for EHRA faculty and other employees, at a time when the human resources classifications of large groups of university employees are shifting between those two categories. The change to the SHRA staff loan period was approved.

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION (if applicable)**

N/A