

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
November 18th, 2002
3:00 p.m.

Present: Karen Albertus; Miriam Gilbert, Chair; Mike Noth; Yangbo Ye; Kimberly Lewis; Feather Lacy (Staff Council liaison)

Library Staff: Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian; Larry Woods, Director, Information Technology & Branch Libraries; Kelly Avant, Secretary

Absent: George Bergus; Ken Cmiel; Carolyn Dyer

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Report from the University Librarian**

A. **CIC VEL**

Baker gave the Committee some background on the CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) and its VEL (virtual electronic library) project. Woods commented that the VEL should be seen as a concept or a range of services, rather than a thing. The Libraries' server that currently runs the VEL is old, and ITS is unable to put security measures on it, thus leaving the server open to potential hackers. Also, the OCLC software the VEL is using is outdated. To temporarily solve this security issue, the Libraries will be directing searches through WorldCat. The eventual implementation of ExLibris' software Metalib will create a portal through InfoHawk that the user won't even notice. Baker said that the future of VEL is being discussed within the CIC.

B. **Budget**

Baker reported that nothing new is known about the budget situation. The Libraries has been very conservative so far this year, and our budget is doing "okay."

C. **Space Consultant**

Woods reported that the new Art Library, when opened in Fall 2004, will contain 3 times the current space it now occupies, occupying the majority of the 2nd floor of the new Art Building.

Baker reviewed the progress of the space consultant. She recently discussed with Geoff Freeman and Carole Wedge their report sketch which contained general concepts. Some of the concepts being discussed are: consolidating service desks in Main; seating quality and lighting; group study space; and late night study space and graduate carrels at Main. Themes included: ease of use of collections, such as opening microforms and government documents to users; keeping things flexible; and reconceptualizing the 1st and 2nd floors of Main as service floors. Central to discussion is a possible storage facility. Freeman and Wedge are also working on growth projections. Baker hopes that in early spring they will make their return visit, wrapping up the consultation before the end of the budget year.

D. **Other Issues**

Gilbert asked for Baker's perceptions on InfoHawk, as she has experienced some delay waiting for search results. Baker thought that this is probably due to high-traffic times which can slow Internet connections. Baker said the InfoLink enhancement is up with all currently subscribed electronic journals now in the system. A future improvement will be made to the circulation and reserve modules of the system.

III. **Adjourned at 3:45 pm**

