Report of the 2021-2022 Library and Information Collaboration Committee (LICC)

April 8, 2022

Committee membership:
Daniel Cohen- CSSH - Vice Provost & Dean of the Library; Sean O'Connell - CPS - Undergraduate Programs; Lynn Reede - BCHS - School Of Nursing; Angela Chang – Khory; Ronald J. Willey -COE Chemical Engineering; Elly Jackson – COS – English; and Ted Miller - CPS

Background to the Charge: This Committee consists of full-time faculty members from across the University who collectively utilize the range of Library/Information Collaboration resources and services. In addition, the Dean of the University Libraries/Vice Provost for Information Collaboration shall serve as an ex officio member. To facilitate continuity of policies and responsiveness to faculty needs with respect to information resources, delivery, and utilization across the University, the Committee shall establish continuing liaison with the Senate's Standing Academic Policy, Information Technology Policy, and Research Policy Oversight Committees.

Executive Summary:
During the 2021-22 academic year the committee received 2 charges from SAC. These are detailed below. We met six times during the Academic Year, remotely via Teams. Vice Provost & Dean of the Library, Dan Cohen, collaborated with the committee to consider and address the charges and and actively contributed several emerging issues for committee consideration.

In five words, "the library meets its mission". In more words, we have a very complex and responsive library system. Our users depend on cutting edge electronic access to over 1.4 million e-books, 7,000 journal subscriptions and many media formats. In addition, the library staff manages approximately 700,000 physical volumes, many of which were moved off campus to a secure, humidity controlled, storage location during the pandemic.

Northeastern University has 11 campuses. An additional campus is on the horizon. The Snell library presently meets its mission with a staff of 70 based at the Boston campus, and via the web platform available at https://library.northeastern.edu/. All active students, staff, and faculty, over 40,000 individuals[1] have access thru their Northeastern Husky ID login in information. The Snell Library renovation is anticipated to begin in June 2022 and be completed by Spring 2024. Also, on the horizon is the integration of the Mills College collection and staff into our growing library system. The Mills College Library collection is focused in fine arts, humanities, and social sciences, with a rare book collection that rivals many larger universities.

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[1] Undergraduate 22,314, Graduate 19,528, Faculty 3,359, Staff 3,036, Research professionals 346, https://facts.northeastern.edu/#hr (2021), accessed 4/11/2022.

Finally, the LICC asked one question in the Fall 2021 senate faculty survey. "Q5.2 - Are there any additional library resources that you desire related to your research or teaching needs? This is beyond resources that you have requested already directly to the library" Consideration of the faculty responses to the survey question are included below.

Charge 1. In collaboration with ITPC, RPOC, LICC, the Provost's Office and NU ITS, evaluate the university's integrated services that support the research data lifecycle, including protocols for data management and related data curation activities, and solutions for research data storage management.

> **Committee Response:**
> We "investigated" the nature of this charge and concluded that it is specific to research proposal requirements to preserve data. The library has a faculty Digital Repository Service (DRS). The IT department also runs a secure data service and the university is part of a high-performance computing cluster for big data sets. The constraint for the library serving a roll of data management is scale. The library's DRS storage capacity is limited meet the research community data curation current and future requirements. The high performance center (HPC) is another cluster to consider potential storage. This charge appears to be an ITPC requirement. The University needs to publize what options researchers have. Maybe this begins with researcher's internal proposal processing form containing a check box "does this proposal involve data lifecycle management" and if the box is check yes, provide the researcher with a University liaison who is not associated with the library but can represent the University and provide guidance to the researcher. Regardless of the live use of data, the DRS can act as a preservation (and access) home for the long-term storage of data, within size constraints.

> **Resolutions**: None.

Charge 2:   In collaboration with NU Alumni Relations and others, assess alumni library collections access needs to develop strategies that more closely align alumni lifelong learning and professional growth with NU learning and research activities through affordable library resources.

> **Procedures:**
> We discussed and asked about specific questions about what alumni have available and what is not available from the Snell Library.

> **Findings:**
> The cost of providing 500,000 alumni without a level of purchase is prohibitive. For example, providing access to a data base used in science and engineering would involve expending an additional $2 million dollars annually. The collections budget is approximately 7 million dollars annually. Thus, to devote 30% of this to one of the large data base limits purchase and access to resources for active students, researchers,

faculty, and staff.

Recommendations: Priorization of how to expend library resources needs to be directed by Dean of Libraries with the CFO.

Resolutions: None.

Charge 3: Charge 3 was identical to Charge 1. We received Faculty Senate permission to remove Charge 3.

Library Usage Statistics:
- 10,000 students and faculty physically enter the library during a 24-hour period during the week.
- 1,000,000 entries during the past academic year, as students especially returned to the library as the pandemic ebbed. We expect the normal 2 million visits to resume next academic year.
- 60,000,000 individual sign-ons to the NU library site.
- 100,000 volumes retrieved from secure storage.
- 500,000 downloads from subscription services.
- Northeastern is a proud member of the Boston Library Consortorium[2] providing our users access to an additional 4,000,000 volumes.

Snell Library Renovation: The top-to-bottom design phase is coming to a close and construction is anticipated to begin in June of 2022 of our 32-year-old facility to meet the needs of our learning and research community.

Mills College Merger: Dean Cohen has visited the Mills College library in Oakland California. Their rare book collection is world class (especially strong ca. 1500-1800). Most of their collection are hard copy volumes, while most of our collections are digital. Thus, we complement each other well. Eventually, Mills will digitize portions of their collection and it will become available to the entire Northeastern community. For those who recall library numbering system, a little challenge exists. The Mills collection is on the Dewey Decimal Classification System while Northeastern is on the Library of Congress Classification System; this will take some time to merge. However, our overall digital library platform is already being worked on, so that all students and faculty at the Oakland campus will have the most modern web interface and materials available to them.

Summary from the senate survey
510 faculty responded to the broad faculty senate survey issued in November 2021. "Are there any additional library resources that you desire related to your research or teaching needs? This is beyond resources that you have requested already directly to the library." Approximately 11%, or 57, responded "YES" to this question; 288 answered "NO",

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[2] UMass System including Amherst, Dartmouth, Lowell, UMass Med School, Bentley University, Boston College, Boston University, State Library Massachusetts, Internet Archive, Marine biological laboratory Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Library, Northeastern University, Tufts University, University of Connecticut, University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont, Wellesley College,Wesleyan University, Williams College

and165 had "no response".
The qualitative themes were identified and reviewed by the committee. First, of note, several responses were actually praises shared and very much appreciated by the library staff.

- Several responses noted that the library does not have a subscription to the New York Times.
  - o Response: for a user base of 40,000, the annual subscription fee is $85,000 per year, expensive for a single acquisition. We also note that there is a subscription to the Wall Street Journal for the entire community and the Boston Globe is available through our online databases.
- Many noted the books moving offsite during Covid.
  - o Response: Some of the collection is anticipated to return in December 2022 pending the construction of new shelving during the renovation on the lower level of Snell Library.
- Make E-textbooks available to students .
  - o Response: The library has a program to provide open access textbooks in 200 subjects, and works with faculty to replace expensive textbooks with open ones, where possible.