

Report of the 2020-2021 Library and Information Collaboration Committee (LICC)

April 1, 2021

Committee membership:

Daniel Cohen- CSSH - Vice Provost & Dean of the Library; Shuishan Yu - CAMD – Architecture; Sean O'Connell - CPS - Undergraduate Programs; Brian O'Connell - COE – First Year Engineering Program; Lynn Reede - BCHS - School Of Nursing; Sarah Sellke - Khoury - Graduate Campus - Silicon Valley

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.

Overall Vision:

Over the academic year, Dean Cohen has outlined for the Committee the rapidly changing learning and research environment that the Library is operating within, which has only evolved even faster during the year of the Covid pandemic. The information and library needs of the university and its broad and growing international community are increasingly digital and expansive, able to be accessed from anywhere and involving multiple forms of resources, media, and data. More services around the use and analysis of these materials is also essential.

The fast-moving transformation to meet these needs is underway. As noted below, the Library is constantly altering the mix of subscriptions, purchases, and acquisitions. Furthermore, the staff posture has been changing—especially during this year but in service of the longer-range vision—to be readily available to all community members around the clock and in all locations. In Boston, the chance for a once-in-a-generation refresh of the Snell Library space is an incredible opportunity to reimagine the way that the library and its staff and resources are encountered and valued by students and faculty members.

Charge 1: The Committee shall investigate policy issues involving strategic planning and infrastructure/resource adequacy to ensure broad, deep, and maximally available sources of scholarly information for the entire Northeastern community, and to guide services around the creation of new knowledge by that community.

Procedures:

Dean Cohen provided updates regarding the impact of COVID-19 resource development on the Library budget, increase in virtual consults, library services available to NU global locations.

Findings:

1. COVID-19 impact: Online and NUflex support and resources including virtual 3D clinical labs and considerable other digital resources have severely stretched the budget. Virtual consults from March 2020 to March 2021 were in excess of 2500, vs. 1100 consults during the previous 12 months. Number of online consultations in 2020 significantly outpaced in-person consultations in 2019.
2. Access to library services from global locations: 2.5 FTE librarians are dedicated to global services. An informal faculty survey by Silicon Valley location LICC member Sarah Selke found that faculty was satisfied with access to library resources. Students from global campuses were offered over 40 webinars in 2019 that are posted on the campus's library pages and with 1000 streams of library orientation resources. SHARES international consortium links global students and faculty to access partner physical library.
3. Budget request: Additional global online budget to include 1 additional librarian and 15% increase to fund library collections to meet significant growth in global enrollment, an emphasis on digital (and thus more expensive than print) resources, and continued projected increases in periodical costs post-COVID.

Recommendations:

1. Increase Snell 2020-21 Budget: Being considered by Provost in addition to faculty assessment of library resource needs.
2. Continue to monitor for opportunities to engage and provide all campuses with desired library resources, learning and platforms.

Resolutions: None.

Charge 2: The Committee shall assess information resources within and beyond the library system and shall review and recommend services that aid in the full lifecycle of student and faculty learning, research, and publication.

Procedures:

Faculty and student feedback received from the library was considered to identify gaps and opportunities for student and faculty resources.

Findings:

The library formulated an Online Student Advisory group this year, to explore how services are working, and how well resources were accessed under Covid. Current access to library services is robust and continuing to be responsive to student and faculty needs referencing library science best practices to offer new technologies and innovative resources.

Recommendations: Continue to collaborate with the newly formed Online Student Advisory group and monitor other data sources for opportunities to offer enhanced and innovative library resources to support student and faculty learning, research and publication.

Resolutions: None.

Charge 3: The committee shall consider and recommend new platforms and mechanisms

that forge new collaborations and discoveries, especially across the colleges, schools, and campuses of the university.

Procedures:

NU through Dean Cohen is an active member and contributor to the Boston Library Consortium of 20 major New England research libraries. Continue to receive library renovation updates and provide input when possible going forward.

Findings:

1. Boston Library Consortium: BLC Board continues to add member libraries and continues to seek opportunity to leverage Consortium purchasing volume to decrease costs.
2. Snell Library Renovation will begin in 2021 with goals to make library more conducive to research and collaboration in spaces with resources for success.
 - a. Dean Cohen presented plan to President in December. MGA is the project architecture firm.
 - b. Next 6 months: Move from generalized block plan to design
 - c. MGA interviewed diverse faculty, NU leadership, students to determine space use needs (e.g., research, study)
 - d. Summer 2021 will begin construction over 3 years floor by floor beginning with central staircase to meet fire code and increase library capacity
 - e. Replacement of beyond use and failing infrastructure
3. Appreciating the library's strategic priorities and expense of alumni access to full Snell Library resources and the value of alumni to the NU community, is there opportunity to engage alumni across life-long learning through improved library access? Current virtual resources are available at <https://library.northeastern.edu/gateways/alumni> and also in the Snell Library at the Alumni Resource Center.

Recommendations:

1. Continue BLC membership and identify new opportunities to optimize budget and collections.
2. Continue to engage LICC over the span of the Snell Library renovation.
3. In collaboration with NU Alumni Relations and others, assess alumni library collections access needs to develop strategy that more closely aligns alumni lifelong learning and professional growth with NU learning and research activities through affordable library resources.

Resolutions: None.

Charge 4: Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Procedures:

No additional charges were determined by the Senate Agenda Committee.