From Article IV 3(f) of the Academic Articles: The University Committee on Libraries reviews policies and practices relating to library resources and services and provides oversight of the development of the libraries. It constitutes a principal interface between the campus units responsible for providing information resources and services, and it also serves as a communications link between the libraries and the University community.

During the academic year 2008-2009, the committee met roughly once a month. There were three main themes discussed by the University Committee on Libraries:

(1) Renovation
(2) Next generation discovery tools
(3) Acquisition, preservation and retention of library collections

An overview of these issues is discussed below. More details can be found in the minutes for the various months.

The overall health of the library appears good although clearly the next few years will be difficult what with budget constraints, space constraints and a rapidly changing library environment.

### 1. Renovation

The library has begun renovation of the first and second floors and UCL is one of the many groups with input into the process. As the year began the architects were about to be chosen and the university settled on Shepley Bulfinch Richardson Abbott. The committee held several discussions on various aspects of the renovation project. More details can be found in the minutes of the corresponding meeting.

- **October.** The committee heard from Denise Shorey, head of the library’s committee charged with determining the kinds of services to be offered on the renovated floors. The library sees a need to provide flexible and usable space for a variety of student and faculty uses, including group study, quiet study, research using library resources and work space for library departments. There was considerable discussion at this meeting as to how to meet the needs of the various stakeholders, faculty, undergraduates, graduates, staff and there were suggestions as to how the library could elicit data and opinions from these various groups.

- **February.** The committee received an update on the progress of the renovation process and a precis of the discussions that had gone into the planning to date.

- **March.** The committee met with the architects. Several suggestions were made for improvements, most of which seemed not to be in the purview of the architects, although the relevant groups to deal with the problems were identified. The architects were aware of the problems raised and felt they could be adequately handled although the drawings were not yet to the point where these issues will be incorporated.

- **April.** Younger reported to the committee that the schedule had been extended due to emerging program needs, including a music library, a scholarly research (deep reference) collection and the new University guidelines for staff space requirements and open workspace design. The committee expressed the hope that the approval of the Trustee’s to begin work would be obtained by the fall.

- **May.** Younger reported to the committee that a new timetable is in place for the renovation project which envisions work beginning in summer 2010.

### 2. Next generation discovery tools

The library is aware that the current search function associated with the catalog is inadequate and is taking steps to move past the current system to something better. The issue arose last year at the May meeting. Notre Dame is not the only institution experiencing such problems.
In September Younger discussed several of the ideas being discussed and developed in response to these problems. Younger stated no perfect discovery tool is available in the short run. The Library’s internal assessment of available discovery tools selected Primo through Ex LibriS as the best combination of having the most desired functionality and stability.

The December meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Primo. The committee was pleased with the expectations for Primo: an integrated catalog with several area academic libraries, a better “hit list” for searches, speed enhancements, etc.

Two committee members (from the College of Science) reported favorably on their experiences with an early version of the software. The vendor will entertain requests for additional features so more focus groups with faculty and students are planned before the formal roll out in the fall of 2009. The soft roll out took place in spring 2009 with the full roll out on schedule for fall 2009.

3. Acquisition, preservation and retention

The major portion of the committee’s time this year was that occupied by the interlocking issues of acquisition, preservation and retention. Previous years committee’s have also visited this issue in various guises. It is an issue that will continue to occupy both the library staff and this committee for the foreseeable future.

One thing that became clear during the year is that different disciplines have radically different issues when it comes to the needs of their collections. The sciences, and to some extent, the social sciences are moving rapidly to electronic storage of material and have minimal preservation needs for printed journals. Arts and Letters have greater preservation needs and they contain the majority of our special collections which have the most retention needs.

- **September.** Younger instilled a sense of urgency to the retention issue by announcing that Hesburgh Library had reached capacity. In May she announced good news in learning the stacks are not as full as had been thought and there is now 5-7 years of growth at the current rate of acquisitions. The library is developing, in collaboration with various stakeholders a range of strategies for housing its collections.
- **October.** Associate Dean Ed Edmonds, Kresge Law Library Director, updated the committee on the state of the copyright lawsuit against Google and discussed copyright issues in general and how they impacted the library, especially in the area of acquisitions. Younger discussed several different digital repositories to which the library might subscribe or join.
- **November.** The entire meeting was devoted to a report by Gay Dannelly, Associate Director for Resources and Collections Services, on the work of the University Libraries Task Force on Collection Preservation and Retention. A detailed discussion ensued involving the points raised in Dannelly’s presentation.
- **December.** Younger reported that the Hesburgh Libraries had joined with OIT to investigate digital management as it relates to libraries.
- **February.** Younger discussed pros, cons and costs associated with various preservation schemes.
- **April.** Younger continued the discussion of the issues involved in maintaining sustainable collections.
- **May.** In May the discussion turned to data on duplicate copies presented by Gay Dannelly and Julie Arnott in response to questions raised by the committee in earlier discussions of duplication issues.

4. Other issues

- Younger reported in April that next year’s budget is in good shape given the challenges of the economy. The provost has indicated that he views the library as an extremely important resource for the university that is vital to any hope of improving our standing amongst our peer institutions. Again this year, the provost provided additional recurring funds for the library acquisitions budget.
- Staff acquisition remains a concern of which the library is well aware. An Asian studies specialist needs to be found and the current bibliographer in Byzantine Studies, Classics and History is leaving and needs to be replaced. Funds appear adequate to meet these needs, but it is difficult to find people with the relevant skills. As a stopgap measure other library staff are filling these positions with the assistance of faculty members.
As a perusal of the membership list reveals, the terms of the current representatives are not uniformly spaced. Student representatives expire each year, but only one faculty representative’s term expires this year. Then two expire in 2010 and the remaining seven all expire in 2011. The committee recommends that steps be taken by next year’s committee to even out the expiration dates in order to insure more continuity on the committee.

University Committee on Libraries 2008/09

Dennis Doordan, Architecture (Arts and Letters/Fine Arts, expires spring 09)
Edmund Edmonds, Kresge Law Library (ex officio)
Kasey Swanke, Graduate Student Representative (expires spring 09)
Sherri Jones, Hesburgh Libraries (expires spring 11)
Mary Keys, Political Science (Arts and Letters/Social Sciences, expires spring 10)
Mikolaj Kunicki, History (at-large, expires spring 11)
Semion Lyandres, History (Humanities, expires spring 11)
Joseph Powers, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (Engineering, expires spring 10)
Jennifer Mason McAward, Law School (Law, expires spring 11)
Andrew Sommese Mathematics (at-large, expires spring 11)
Malcolm Phelan, Undergraduate Student Representative (expires spring 09)
Laurence R. Taylor, Chair, Mathematics (Science, expires spring 11)
Barry Keating, Finance (Business spring 11)
Paul Turner, Office of Information Technology (ex officio)
Jennifer A. Younger, Director of Hesburgh Libraries (ex officio)