

LIBRARY SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Annual Report

August 2024 - May 2025

Charge:

The committee shall advise on all aspects of the university library and recommend improvements in the resources, services, and operation of the library so as to foster an excellent innovative culture of education and research

Committee Members

Clare Whitney (School of Nursing),
Danielle Sattaur (Graduate Student),
Hanna Nekvasil (Geosciences),
Jason Torre (Library),
Kimberly Kennedy (Library),
Michelino Puopolo (Anesthesiology),
Nancy Tomes (History),
Nicholas Wilson (Sociology),
Phil Doesschate (DoIT),
Robert Crace (Creative Writing MFA),
Ruby Pan (Graduate Student),
Xu Du (Physics),
Yongjun Zhang (Sociology)

Topics

1. Torrential Rainstorm of August 18/19, 2024

The committee was briefed a few times during the year about the effects of this rainstorm and the efforts to remediate it. The Chemistry, Health Sciences, and Main Libraries were affected. Some materials sustained water damage and the growth of mold in portions of the collection are still being dealt with. Fortunately, the contractor for the Chemistry building renovation accepted responsibility for issues with that collection and insurance is picking up the tab. Significant staff library resources were diverted from regular preservation efforts to deal with this.

2. Facilities

The damage due to the rainstorm of August 18/19, 2024, caused the committee to focus on the facilities issues in the aging main library. The HVAC for the library is past its useful lifetime and is becoming more difficult to repair and maintain. Excessive humidity in the main library has been a problem for years and has caused mold to grow on collections housed in various areas of the library. Facilities has been working with the leadership of the library and the campus to have the HVAC System replaced. This project is supposed to start sometime in 2025.

3. **Digital Repository for Stony Brook Researchers**

Dryad was adopted as the campus' Digital Repository in the Fall of 2022. The Dryad Digital Repository provides a platform for users to share their research data with the public, which facilitates compliance with open access policies and publisher policies. Jessica Koos briefed the committee on its adoption by the university community. A couple hundred data sets have been deposited by people affiliated with Stony Brook.

4. **WorldCat FirstSearch**

WorldCat FirstSearch was dropped as a cost saving measure last Summer. It was restored after concerns were raised by the faculty. The savings achieved by cutting it is relatively minor but gives some measure of the amount of belt-tightening that the library has had to do to keep the core functions of the library running.

5. **Collections: Meeting Faculty and Student Needs**

The need of faculty and graduate students to use other libraries to meet their research and academic needs is a topic of concern. Some faculty have commented in surveys that they use accounts they have at other institutions or borrow the library accounts of colleagues from other universities. Members of our committee have commented that they do the same. The issue seems to cross disciplines.

This issue can be seen as an equity and access issue. Faculty and students who do not have access privileges at other libraries are at a competitive disadvantage against those who have such privileges.

Journal access became a more pressing issue as the Elsevier Science Direct contract ended and Stony Brook joined a SUNY wide journals contract about 4 years ago.. The Stony Brook community has access to fewer journals under the SUNY contract..

Some Faculty comment that they don't have access to articles they referee through the institution. Some faculty have commented that the lack of easy access slows their efforts to apply for new grants. The committee sugg

The Libraries have taken some steps to deal with the issues of access. Jamie Saragossi and the Dean of Libraries have met with us to discuss these topics several times over the past two years. Jamie to discuss efforts to contract Article Galaxy Scholar. This service will give access to some high-demand journals not subscribed to by the libraries and access to others on a pay-as-you-go basis with the university picking up the cost. The service was launched on a pilot basis on April 30th. One reason for running this as a pilot is to help assess the costs of running this service.

The committee is optimistic about the Article Galaxy initiative and is impressed with the efforts of the library to establish this new service.

6. **ARL Standings**

Stony Brook ranks in the bottom decile of institutions in the Association of Research Libraries. It stands at #114 among 120 institutions in the ARL and at a similar level to Albany and well behind Buffalo at #75. Its collections and staffing levels are well below the average of its peer public institutions.

Some consideration was given to setting a goal of moving to the third quartile by 2030 as a way to address access concerns. The Dean of Libraries estimated that it might take several million dollars in base funding each year sustained over multiple years to improve Stony Brook's standing to such an extent. The consensus of the committee is that setting specific functional objectives to address identified needs would have a better chance of serving the needs of the community and have a better chance at increasing

Examples might include expansion of electronic book resources, preservation, and Special Collections. Special collections might include items relevant to Long Island.

The committee started work on a survey instrument at its April meeting. The consensus of the committee our May meeting was that we should use the survey to figure out what might be done to address the needs of the various constituencies.

7. **Funding**

The Dean of libraries reported that the Provost has agreed to increase funding by about \$200K for the next fiscal year.

He discussed need for an advancement person to seek funding for specific projects and mentioned a proposal to implement an undergraduate Library fee.

8. **Artificial Intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), Innovation and entrepreneurship, and makerspace technologies**

A space has been set aside in the Melville Library adjacent to the bookstore and coffee shop which is intended to serve as a community hub to include faculty, staff, entrepreneurs, start-ups, and local businesses with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to foster and drive innovation through hands-on experiential learning. This space will house specialized labs focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), Innovation and entrepreneurship, and makerspace technologies.

A few individuals have been recruited to staff the function.

9. **University Libraries Strategic Plan 2024-29**

The committee consulted on the development of the plan. The committee supports the goals and specific objectives enumerated. They have reviewed progress on the plan.