Advisory Council for the Research Libraries
3:30pm, February 7, 2017
Room 207, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building

Meeting Notes

Present: Cathy Davidson, Duncan Faherty, Julia Foulkes, Uday Mehta, David Nassaw, Joan Scott, Jean Strouse, Annalyn Swan, Sally Webster

Apologies: Tom Bender, Farrah Griffin, Stephen Kotkin, Carla Peterson

NYPL Staff: Jason Baumann, Carolyn Broomhead, Denise Hibay, Bill Kelly, Matt Knutzen

Welcome and updates from Bill Kelly:

- Reopening of the Rose Main Reading Room and Bill Blass Catalog Room went well. Researchers report a high level of satisfaction when using the rooms.
- Kevin Young, the Director of the Schomburg Center, took up his position in December. Louise Bernard, the Director of Exhibitions for the Research Libraries, took up her post in January. A Research Coordinator, Rebecca Federman, has been appointed to support research services in the Schwarzman Building, in particular for services in the Blass Public Catalog Room and the Rose Main Reading Room.
- The Library is planning for the temporary closure of the Mid-Manhattan Library during its renovation. We are developing swing spaces in the Schwarzman Building, to be used as locations for circulating collections and services, during this period. Circulating collections will be served on the ground floor of the Schwarzman Building, utilizing spaces currently closed to the public. Some books will be stored in the central stacks in the building. We will be distributing information to Library users so that they are aware of all the service options in midtown. Research staff will be working with our colleagues in facilities and security to ensure that the building remains conducive to research.
- We are also planning for the relocation of SIBL from the 34th street Altman building to space in the new Mid-Manhattan Library. The new location will be fitting the role that SIBL has become: a key resource for small business leaders, job seekers and researchers using electronic resources. One entire floor at the renovated Mid-Manhattan will be devoted to the Business Library. SIBL’s historical collections and access to government documents will be integrated into the collections and services available at the Schwarzman Building. Pressing priorities for NYPL’s research libraries currently relate to improving the infrastructure and systems that supports research: the catalog, online book requests, and software that will allow collaboration with ReCAP partner libraries. Additionally, the Library is working to preserve our at-risk audio and moving image collection items, which will degrade and become unusable over time. In order to protect and provide access to these items, the Library will stabilize, digitize, store and develop a delivery system for them. These issues are being tackled by institutions nationally, and we are in conversations about the best ways to preserve our cultural heritage.
MaRLI
Denise Hibay gave an overview of the Manhattan Research Libraries Initiative (MaRLI). The program developed following the financial crisis of 2008, when libraries were thinking about ways of collaborating in order to increase access to collections with limited financial resources. Recognizing that a single library can no longer collect the entire range of materials alone, NYPL, Columbia University, and New York University began discussions about a range of partnership options, including increasing reciprocal borrowing. NYPL has long participated in Interlibrary Loan networks, as well as the METRO referral program, which offers one-day privileges to libraries in New York City and Westchester. There was increasing interest in providing extended access for researchers whose work would benefit from resources held solely by one of the partner institutions, which became the foundation of the MaRLI program.

NYPL’s goal was to provide a level playing field for researchers in New York. By participating in this joint borrowing program, NYPL has expanded access to the resources held by NYU and Columbia for any NYPL patron who has an established research need that cannot be met by NYPL’s collection alone. Use of the program by NYPL patrons has been heavier than by either Columbia or NYU, where interest was high initially but then declined. Any NYPL library card holder can apply for the program using an online form. The application is reviewed by an NYPL research librarian, and acceptance is based on a demonstrated long-term need for research materials not held by NYPL that are available in the NYU or Columbia collections. Use of the program has been surprisingly low, with usage of NYPL collections through Interlibrary Loan surpassing borrowing through the MaRLI program.

The MaRLI partnership also facilitates joint collection development between the three institutions, something that benefits the patrons of all three libraries. By entering into joint purchasing agreements with electronic resources vendors, the libraries of NYU and Columbia and NYPL can secure favorable purchasing licenses. When the three institutions make purchases together, the group usually negotiates three licenses for the price of two.

Next Meeting:
Kelly suggested that the next topic under consideration by Advisory Council could focus on acquisitions policies. The Library is in the process of developing a set of principles that will inform acquisitions guidelines, especially for its special collections. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17.
MaRLI Update

_Distributed prior to the February meeting_

MaRLI was launched in March 2011 by the library directors of Columbia University, the New York Public Library, and New York University to expand access to collections through a reciprocal borrowing program and collaborative collection development activities to better serve their users. There has been a long history of cooperation between these libraries; the earliest collaboration between Columbia and NYPL dates back to the 19th century.

NYPL has participated in sharing and lending programs since the early 1970s in order to better serve our readers and support national networks of scholarship and preservation. Locally, NYPL has participated in the Metropolitan New York Library Council, which supports referrals and facilitates access to more than 250 New York City area libraries. Nationally, NYPL participates in interlibrary loan networks and lent 5,525 items to academic libraries in FY16, and in turn, borrowed 1,952 items for Research patrons from other libraries.

**MaRLI Reciprocal Borrowing**

Through the MaRLI reciprocal borrowing program, NYPL patrons whose research requires extended access to collections uniquely held at Columbia or NYU are able to apply for borrowing privileges at these institutions. Faculty and doctoral students at Columbia and NYU are also eligible to apply for borrowing privileges at NYPL for materials that are not available at their institutions. Applicants for the program are vetted by librarians. Privileges are granted for one year, but patrons can renew. From NYPL’s collections, only 20th – 21st century monographs in good condition are eligible for borrowing. Materials from the Art & Architecture Division are not eligible, and, at the Schomburg Center only monographs published after 1970 are eligible for the program. Staff reviews all volumes at the point of circulation to confirm they are in good condition, meaning that all of the pages and cover are secure, and that it is not in a protective enclosure. As seen below, the majority of patrons registering for the program have been NYPL patrons applying to access the collections of NYU and Columbia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NYPL</th>
<th>Columbia and NYU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>984</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>252</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,257</td>
<td>390</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>321</td>
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The majority of materials that have been borrowed through the MaRLI program have been from the collections of NYU and Columbia. NYPL patrons are the heaviest users of the borrowing program.

**Volumes Borrowed in FY16**

| Volumes borrowed from NYPL | 1,294 |
| Volumes borrowed by NYPL Patrons from Columbia | 4,615 |
| Volumes borrowed by NYPL Patrons from NYU | 5,069 |
Analysis of MaRLI circulation in FY15 showed that 73% of volumes borrowed from NYPL were recent materials published in the past 20 years. Most of these were in the humanities and social sciences, or were new foreign language volumes. Less than 2% of the materials were from LPA, Schomburg, and SIBL.

Analysis of the volumes borrowed from Columbia and NYU by NYPL patrons showed that the highest circulation was in the Library of Congress classification ranges P, D, H and B, representing Literature (primarily, theater and cinema), History (World, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand, etc.), Social Sciences, and Religion and Philosophy. In FY15, 70% of volumes borrowed from Columbia by NYPL patrons were published during the past 25 years, and 76% borrowed from NYU were from the same time period.

MaRLI Collaborative Collection Development
From the very beginning, the consortium has been focused on identifying opportunities to transform our approach to collaborative and distributed collection development within a landscape of shifting publishing models and proliferating publishing formats, while remaining mindful of enduring institutional priorities and commitments. Constrained acquisitions budgets, rising serial prices, and a growing shift to academic e-book publishing were challenges that no one library could manage alone. Yet, our focus on preservation and long-term access, as well our aim to increase value by expanding the resources available to each institution, meant that MaRLI was more than just a buying club seeking the greatest discounts.

Our approach has been to license three electronic copies and to acquire at least one print copy. NYPL serves as the primary print repository, and the other partners acquire the print selectively. Joint licensing activities fall into three broad areas: expanding access to e-journal content, especially in selected foreign languages; developing new cost-share and licensing models to support the transition to e for the scholarly and university press monograph; and working with vendors to promote the development of foreign language e-books, while also identifying opportunities for distributed, shared print collections.

To date, we've licensed the following package, which has allowed NYPL to begin an investment in the academic e-book while also maintaining its ongoing commitment to print.

- Oxford University press Online (UPSO)
- Torrossa (Italian e-journals and e-books)
- CAIRN (French e-journals and e-books)
- Digitalia (Spanish e-books)
- Brill e-books
- DeGruyter e-books (in negotiation)