

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
4pm, April 2, 2018  
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building  
Hansmann Room, 207

1. Welcome and Updates - William Kelly

Bill Kelly opened the meeting with updates on a variety of areas, including a new capacity study underway at the Research Libraries. He noted that there are more books onsite than ever before.

The launch of the Shared Collection opens up other opportunities for NYPL, including shared purchasing and collection development. Harvard will be joining ReCAP as a full member by the Fall. Usage of all ReCAP partner collections are up across the board, as is usage of the electronic document delivery service. The Shared Collection Catalog will provide the platform for a unified catalog, which is currently under development and will be improved iteratively over the next 3 years. This catalog will pull together the various catalogs across the Research Libraries into a single search.

A 3- to 5-year special collections review is now underway, which will include a census, condition check and security management. By the end of the project, every shelf in every research center will have been checked. Audio and Moving Image materials are also undergoing a review looking at the spectrum of digitization to storage to delivery. A new initiative to expand the scope of SimplyE for research use is currently in the early stages of development. Kelly finished his updates by reinforcing NYPL's commitment to continue collecting print alongside electronic materials, and that the institutional collaborations through consortia such as MaRLI were more important than ever.

2. SASB Master Plan Discussion - All

Questions about the Master Plan were brought forward and discussed by Council members. Members were primarily concerned with preserving research uses and environments within the library. An architect from BBB in attendance noted that the plan incorporated many enhancements to visitor circulation, and that the plan was designed to maintain most of the tourist use of the building in the lower central spaces. This keeps upper floors and building wings quieter, with less foot traffic. Internal statistics show that even at peak times, usage of the Rose Main Reading Room is approximately 65% of capacity, allaying concerns over perceived crowding there. Tourists are now directed to one small area in South Hall, which has resulted in significant improvements for researchers overall. Additional signage could help indicate appropriate uses of the reading room.

A reorganization of the Milstein Microfilm Room space is currently underway to address crowding there. New microfilm readers have been ordered.

One member of the Council noted that this group could provide better input on library services than spaces. Other researchers posed the question of services for the upcoming generation of researchers, international researchers and other targeted groups such as journalists. Kelly agreed that research services was an area where input from the Council could have meaningful impact, and that the future meetings would address those topics.