

Arts & Humanities Council Meeting of October 1, 2020

10:00-11:30am

Facilitator: Jeremy Ott

Participants: Stacy Reardon, Ruth Haber, Abby Scheel, Adnan Malik, Frank Ferko, Jianye He, Toshie Marra, Claude Potts, Mohamed Hamed, Dana Gordon, David Faulds, Justin Underhill (Visualization Lab), Manuel Erviti, Virginia Shih, Sheehan Grant

Minutes: J. A. Barragán-Álvarez

1. Announcements

Justin: Art History, Academic Coordinator for D-Lab; giving art historians new ways for recording art data; LNU (Munich) and U Málaga are working partners

Abby: Tracking of digitizing materials for e-reserves, Susan Edwards will get a report on digitizing materials for classes

2. Welcome/introduction to Dana Gordon, Director of Development

Dana is the new Director of Development for Library; worked with SF Opera, her job is to find donors, match them with projects and content experts to raise money for the Library; interested in finding out what projects the council members are working on and excited about, and the challenges of Zoom meetings with donors and making presentations; views herself as conduit to donors, wants to make things less complicated for us.

3. Needed: Arts and Humanities Council representative on the Public Services Council (J. Ott) (3 min.)

Need to replace Steve Mendoza on PSC; Sheehan Grant and Manuel Erviti have served previously. Thoughts on serving: Sheehan Grant – talk about how service works in terms of engaging users, a good clearing house to policies and procedures, suggestive group on policy as well. Anyone interested, write Jeremy Ott by Thursday, Oct. 7. No volunteers at the meeting.

4. AHA update: The role of the monograph in Arts and Humanities research (S. Reardon)

- Why monographs: endurance of the argument - they allow for in-depth study of the research; tenure requirements; primary sources are often texts - humanists work with text as sources, rely on the book as the primary research tool;
- Results from Ithaka survey: 95% of respondents felt that the monograph was important to research in humanities; Social Science is at 91%
- Scholarly work is published in peer-reviewed Journals and monographs almost evenly split, which is more unique from other disciplines;
- S. Edwards study “Big Data for Big Questions” found the use of monographs cited in bibliographies at 50%; more pronounced use of monographs in dissertation level, especially in places where print continues to rule, especially foreign languages;
- Survey of faculty in Social Sciences (lots of crossover from A&H) also revealed an even split in the use of monographs and journals;

- 2018 Lit. Faculty Survey by Reardon found that 85% faculty rely heavily on the monograph; learned that the library focuses on latest currency of scholarship, but some faculty members focus on the long-run of the scholarship;
- Qualitative numbers (circulation stats from faculty in Feb. 2020) show which departments are using the collection, the usual suspects from A&H faculty as the heavy users;
- Beyond Berkeley: results from Penn State survey found that A&H relies heavily on monographs and book chapters;
- Importance of print: limited/smaller presses means print is only option, book must be purchased soon after or else the edition can be out of print, given that they may not be reprinted; print allows for other ways of lending through ILL, and HathiTrust relies on us having the printed book in hand; e-books are not easily preserved in the long-term due to variety of formats and publishing platforms that can easily change or go away, and publishers change access to them; competitiveness of the collection makes Berkeley attractive to the students and faculty;
- Usability: Digital v. Print (again from Ithaka Survey) - faculty like both print and digital, but prefer print because reading cover to cover is easier than digital; Survey of Faculty in Social Sciences (coming from Area Studies, so very relevant to A&H) found that some areas are already not being maintained as well as faculty members would like, concern for faculty retention;
- A&H is privileged in Ithaka Survey on how important faculty consider the librarians (76%). Opens the floor to share:
 - Jeremy Ott: Lots to be concerned about, especially in regards to budget cuts, this is something that can be discussed further throughout the academic year.
 - José Adrián Barragán-Álvarez: for Bancroft monographs are very important; they provide a view to how relevant monographs are to faculty; for Latin America print really is the way to go; conversation needs to continue in the group.
 - Claude Potts: As students begin to learn languages (esp. French, Italian, Spanish), they read full text novels and monographs in that language; in literature, the primary source and the criticism are in monograph format, and the library is really the laboratory for research in A&H
 - Mohamed Hamed: publishing in the Middle East is in constant flux, institutions and presses are changing and there is often little continuation in journals, so monographs are the standard;

5. Review of the discussion of what we want from the Council in 2020-2021 along with the integration of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from our August meeting, and creating firm next steps for DEI.

Summary from previous meeting (J. Ott):

- Want to continue the same as we've been doing regarding general Council content, especially learning what everyone is doing via these meetings;
- Suggested changes: reduce meeting time from 90 minutes to 60 minutes; consider what will the group do when we want to meet every other month; perhaps meetings could be

completed early, depending on the agenda. The Council will take these suggestions into its planning and adjust according to the needs of the agenda.

- Proposes allowing 15 minutes at the end of meetings to highlight DEI issues related to the council.

Break out into groups to discuss how to move forward on DEI.

Group 1: Claude, Manuel, Toshie, José Adrián: The group had a hard time limiting discussion to a simplified format of 15 minutes, believes a broader discussion needs to happen for the expectations of the Council; we don't just want to check off boxes without true introspection; one thing suggested was to consider the statements from library orgs on the threat to print collection when there are so many cuts happening.

Jeremy Ott: What can the Council do that includes the voices of marginalized groups? The purpose of these 15 minutes is, in part, to think of ways to include these voices; this should definitely not be about checking boxes, and longer presentations can be considered.

Group 2: Justin, Mohamed, Sheehan, Virginia: One concrete presentation could be on the languages of the humanities and the representations, perhaps a visual representation of how diverse they are; addressing backlogs to get them to the public; also, think of how we can intersect with faculty and student needs in terms of collections and new ideas for collecting.

Group 3: Adnan, Ruth, Stacy: Perhaps the group could address diversity in collecting since dominant groups within a certain area get prioritized, especially in the American academy – so how can these be addressed for the smaller languages? Secondly, how to incorporate issues of folks who write in English, but aren't generally considered in collecting.

Group 4: Abby, Frank, Jianje: discoverability in subject headings; how do we make local changes? Issues remain.

Jeremy Ott: This conversation will need to continue.

6. Function Council reports (time did NOT allow for updates)

- Cataloging & Metadata Council (F. Ferko)
- Collection Development Leadership Group (A. Scheel)
- Collection Services Council (M. Hamed)
- Public Services Council
- Roundtable Update (A. Scheel)
- Web Advisory Group (M. Erviti)

Next meeting: Nov. 5, 2020