

Report to NDSU Faculty Senate

May 12, 2022

Senate Library Committee Annual Report

This report describes challenges facing the NDSU Libraries and initiatives currently underway during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Library Committee Member Fall 21-Spring 22

Bob Hearne, AFSNR
Andrew Stark (Chair), AHSS
Charles Stevens, BUSN
Danling Wang, ENGR
Estelle Leclerc, HP
Justin Wageman, HSE
Bakhtiyor Rasulev, SM
Hallie Pritchett, Interim Dean of Libraries
Morgan Hovde, Student Government
Matthew Scott Dale, Student Government

Challenges and Initiatives

The library faces several challenges in the first year after COVID restrictions. These challenges were noted in our final meeting and include budget reduction, decreased gate counts, and funding. Positive initiatives were implemented by Interim Dean Hallie Pritchett and staff during the 2022-2023 school year. The initiatives are as follows:

1. Launch of the new Libraries website in August.
2. Completion of a new Strategic Plan 2022-2024 to bring the library into alignment with the new NDSU Strategic Plan; our new Strategic Plan launched in January.
3. As part of the University's Phase I budget reduction, the library will be cutting \$65K from the materials budget in FY23; the Dean and staff will be working with the Provost to determine what the Phase II budget cuts look like and how they'll affect the Libraries.
4. An extended soft launch of the Data Visualization Lab started this fall. A Smart Board and VR labs are in the process of being moved to the DVL. We will have an open house early next fall semester. Science Librarian, Bob Tolliver, and graduate student, Charlie Nixon, run the lab; they have been doing some workshops and working with some faculty and their classes.
5. A Digital Fabrication Lab will be piloted at Barry Hall in the Business Learning Center in the fall.
6. The library received funding for the TFAC Action Plan to create a podcasting/multimedia studio in the Main Library. Work will begin ASAP, but its opening depends on how quickly hardware is received due to the ongoing supply chain issues.
7. The launch of 2 exhibits:
 - a. A Photographic Journey: The Life and Work of Leo Kim at the Memorial Union Gallery. Photographs from the exhibit are now displayed throughout the Main Library.
 - b. The Architecture of Denby M. Deegan, Surrounded by Enemy, at Renaissance Hall. The library is currently working with architecture faculty members to create a traveling exhibit celebrating the life and work of Mr. Deegan that will be launched this fall.
 - c. A new exhibit in the Main Library in February entitled We Gather at NDSU, a Land Grant Institution.

8. Launch of an NEH-funded traveling exhibit created in part by our Government Information Librarian Susanne Caro entitled Disasters: The Stories We'll Share. Three panels are permanent, while the 4th panel is available for the host site to customize.
9. A partnership with the Fargo Air Museum will allow the museum's collection of photographs and paper documents to be preserved and shared with the community.

Observations and Recommendations

Moving forward, the biggest challenges will continue to be budget and funding. Grants have been a success and it is advised to continue finding alternative revenue streams. As students needs change, pivoting to digital spaces, marketing of popular "hands on" engagement like 3D printing and VR, and engaging faculty to embed the library in curriculum will generate student involvement and increased use. Collaborative use in many different disciplines is positive and will help drive interest, but faculty involvement and marketing should be prioritized. An increased budget for the library will help marketing, engagement, research, and the ability to continue funding

Generational changes and changes to digital technology have impact physical material check out and this will continue to be an issue in the future. Reimagining material engagement with student projects and faculty research should continue to remain a priority in addition to departmental projects and exhibitions. Support and increased awareness for the library and staff can be bolstered through student government, clubs, and organizations in the form of volunteering, fundraising, and student work positions. Student led exhibitions, activities and engagement will encourage and empower students to be more "hands on" in supporting the library and research.

Tours of the Libraries, marketing, engagement, and student driven research into what student want out of the NDSU Library will help faculty and staff strategize long term support and investment in ideas, content, exhibitions and activity. Engagement with the Fargo-Moorhead community, reimagining K-12 school involvement, and outreach with a broader marketing campaign may help awareness of content, exhibitions, activities, and research materials. The Fargo Forum, The Cass County Historical Society, the Hjemkomst Center, the Plains Art Museum, the Rourke Art Museum, the planned science museum, and community leaders' involvement will lead to greater collaboration and community support.

The community doesn't necessarily know what the library has to offer if they are not told through media about the content, research, exhibitions, and stories coming out of NDSU. The development of more online materials, a larger social media presence and student involvement in "fun" activities could help drive awareness and engagement with the Library and the NDSU community.

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