Library Advisory Committee for Law – November 1, 2017

Present: Nicholas Bala, Alexander Gorlewski, Amy Kaufman, Shira Levine, Courtney Matthews, Cherie Metcalf, Nathalie Soini, Leslie Taylor, Martha Whitehead
Regrets: Sandra Morden

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Law Library Updates**
   The library is preparing a series of displays in the Lederman reading room, each of which will run for about 6 weeks. The theme of the initial display in September was 'Welcome Back to Law!' and featured a variety of books, academic and not, recommended by faculty and staff. The current display is "Spotlight on Indigenous and Indigenous-focused Presses". A companion Libguide for the display has been created: http://guides.library.queensu.ca/indigenous-and-indigenous-focused-presses. Feedback about the displays is welcome, as well as suggestions of topics for future displays.
3. **Legal Database Training Arrangements and Promotion**
   Amy requested feedback on the training sessions for Westlaw and Quicklaw offered by the vendors this term. Despite the expressed interest of students, the turnout for refresher sessions was low. What might account for this? Timing was cited as one significant factor: the beginning of the term may not be the best time to provide instruction in database research, as relevant class work had not yet been assigned. Attendance at training sessions might improve if scheduled after the reading break. There was support for additional training online, or perhaps the development of blended modules, which students could access as needed to work on assignments. Martha mentioned that Health Sciences is creating such modules. Communication was the other significant factor that was discussed, i.e. effectively delivering information about future training sessions to the students. It was commented that the new Faculty Newsletter might be problematic inasmuch as the subject heading in the email delivering it (Newsletter) does not particularly engage the recipient, and can be easily overlooked. Potential readers may miss information about specific topics, such as training sessions. We are still transitioning to this new communication model, so our engagement with the postings will likely evolve. Print posters are still mentioned as an effective medium, and Queen's University Library has introduced portable poster stands to provide information and updates to users. Law has used their portable stand at the entrance to promote tours, training sessions, and displays. Facebook was also suggested as a vehicle for disseminating information to students. **Action**: Shira offered to facilitate the dissemination of information such as database training sessions through the Law Student Facebook account.

   Further feedback received via email from a member: I'd like to affirm my support of finding some way of doing this online. I have sat through a few of these in-person training sessions, both in law school and while I was (briefly) in practice. I've found that what the instructors impart is either obvious (or can be found on each database's help page), or if it is useful, slides out of my memory almost immediately after completing the session. There's only so much

information one can retain. Any way that would make training (a) ongoing and (b) accessible at points in the term when students need it would be helpful, and online modules (or online help of any sort) sound promising.

4. **Self-checkout in the Law Library**
MeeScan self-checkout technology was introduced at Law Library circulation this term to facilitate easy check out of library materials, particularly the high demand reserve items. This should reduce line-ups at the desk during peak periods. The MeeScan station is adjacent to the Law Information Services desk, but patrons can download the app to their phones, allowing them to check out items anywhere in the Library. However, all borrowed items must have their security tag desensitized at the MeeScan station. Amy noted that one-half of circulation activity at Law in September was through MeeScan. A user did remark, however, that charging books at the MeeScan station is very cumbersome as compared to self-checkout at Stauffer Library. It can be difficult to align and scan barcodes on student cards and library materials. An alternative to this is to scan materials using the MeeScan app.

5. **Update on Modifying Acquisition Practices**
Martha reported on the current state of the Library's acquisitions of scholarly publications. As it stands, the five big publishers account for 49% of the acquisition budget and a publisher's package may not provide good value. For example, of the 2000 titles received from Springer, several had little or no use at Queen's. Publishers may place restrictions on their titles, such as limiting interlibrary loans. Note: full Westlaw and Quicklaw subscriptions are only available to Law students, although LexisNexis Academic is available across campus. A specific question was asked about HeinOnline: do students know about this database? This valuable resource is accessible through Summon and the catalogue, and user statistics suggest that students *do* know about it and are accessing it.
From the student perspective, JD1's do not have as much need for journals as upper years – Summon and Google Scholar are often seen as adequate resources and further database searching is not considered necessary. This discussion returned full circle to the matter of what information becomes relevant for students and at what point in the term.
The diminished purchasing power of the Canadian dollar is another factor that makes it vital that collections funds be spent on the right resources. The Library is exploring the issues, and gathering survey data about the most used journals. At this time, no decision has been made with respect to fall renewals. Alternate acquisitions practices are being explored.."

6. **Collaborative Futures at Queen's**
Thirteen university libraries in Ontario, including Queen's, are developing a shared library services platform. This will mean the "replacement of key systems including…QCAT…and possibly Summon, with considerations for resource sharing/ILL and other future collaboration goals." The project is presently at the procurement stage and Queen's Library is consulting with staff.
The biggest change will be the transition away from QCAT, in order to realize improvements to the catalogue and to the discovery layer. Other anticipated improvements include access to the holdings of other schools. To get an idea of what this will look like in practice, have a look at the

TriUniversity Group of Libraries (https://www.tug-libraries.on.ca/) and conduct a search. Similar collaborations are Novanet (http://www.novanet.ca/) and the NEOS Library Consortium (https://www.neoslibraries.ca/) in Alberta. As with the participants in these other library groups, Queen's branding will be in place. There was an emphasis on communicating these changes to users.

7. **Comprehensive Information Resources Visions (CIRV) Project**

Leslie distributed a document about the CIRV project, outlining its background and purpose. Part of the exercise is to "engage all library units and divisions in developing a shared vision and principles for the Library's information resources strategy". To that end, interviews are being conducted with Library staff and stakeholders. There was insufficient time during this Advisory Committee meeting to fully discuss the interview questions; however, some very sound points were expressed. Please see the brief notes from the discussion below:

Interview Questions

1. *Reflect for a moment on where we are right now as a research library in the larger scholarly information landscape. How will the landscape change or evolve over the next 10 years or so? What role should our library have in the scholarly information landscape in the future?*

- Contest between free resources such as CanLII, and commercial resources.
- Access to justice issue.
- Academic side: Open Access vs Commercial> academic recognition for publishing with Open Access journals.
- Market Structure: publishers exercising market power, e.g. bundling, monopoly on added content.
- in law, many private users as opposed to other. Biggest users are lawyers and judges
- commercial publishers have resources to develop better system (e.g. LexisNexis vs CanLII).

2. *Another one of our project objectives is to conduct a SWOT analysis. A SWOT is a study undertaken by an organization to identify its internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as its external opportunities and threats. We would like your input on what you think the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats relating to information resources at Queen's Library. Please reflect on the current services and initiatives related to information resources at Queen's and brainstorm as many strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as you can think of.*

-Strength – integrated Library System across campus.
-Threat – External challenges driven by consolidation in the publishing industry – important to know how to navigate this so we aren't squeezed out.

3. *CIRV Working Group has brainstormed a draft set of principles as a framework to guide future decision-making pertaining to information resources at Queen's University*

Library. Do you think these principles reflect what we should be doing to attain our vision? Is there anything you would change or add?

-Prioritizing what we do.
-Prioritizing resources that are of the greatest value to users (evidence-based).
-How to ration scarce resources: How does Queen's compare to other institutions (e.g. U of T) with respect to our own teaching/learning needs?
-Above all else, we cannot have everything – there are competing demands, so how *do* we prioritize?