

Law Library Advisory Committee for Law March 26, 2019

Faculty of Law Members Present: Dennis Do (law student representative), Debra Haak (graduate student representative), Professor Noah Weisbord

Library Members Present: Michele Chittenden (Interim Head, Academic Services), Meghan Goodchild (Acting Head, Discovery & Technology Services), Amy Kaufman (Head Law Librarian), Courtney Matthews (Head, Open Scholarship Services), Patrick Patterson (Law Reference Assistant), Ian Robson (Head, Information Resources)

Regrets: Professor Ashwini Vasanthakumar (Faculty of Law)

1. Collaborative Futures Library Services Platform

M. Goodchild provided an update. As described by OCUL (the Ontario Council of University Libraries), the vision of Collaborative Futures “involves radical collaboration to help OCUL libraries face the challenges of today – the transformation of scholarly communication and higher education, rapid developments in information technology, and declining or limited resources”. This collaboration will see the launch of a shared service platform on December 10, 2019. The University of Windsor will be joining the other 13 listed participants in the project, as they already use the Library Services Platform that will replace Summon and QCAT. Please see Appendix A for details about the project, how this development will affect access to information sources, and implications for electronic course reserves. A support page will be in place to help manage the changes, and the library and the Collaborative Futures team will be prepared to support users in this transition. Help will also be available on the OCUL website. A student rep mentioned that at least one professor uses Ares heavily, with links to QCAT, and this may create issues when the conversion takes place.

Action: A. Kaufman will follow up with the professor.

2. Brown Bag Series from Open Scholarship Services

C. Matthews reported on a series of lunchtime sessions designed to introduce researchers to “the services and expertise that support them throughout the life of their research and in their teaching”. Full information, including registration links, is available at <https://library.queensu.ca/about-us/news-events/open-scholarship-services-queens-university-library>. These sessions will repeat in the fall 2019 and winter 2020 terms, and although these particular ones are geared toward faculty, training will also be offered to graduate students.

3. Modifying Acquisitions Project (MAP) update

I. Robson presented an update on our Modifying Acquisitions Practices work, an element of the library’s [Information Resources Strategies](#). Started over two years ago, these strategies have focused on engaging with the Queen’s community on multiple occasions, collaborating with external partners across the country, and undertaking a comprehensive analysis of journal usage and value for faculty and students. The goal is to move to a more open and sustainable model of scholarly communication to address the global challenges of current publishing models and support new and continuing research needs.

Queen's University Library is committed to providing our community members with the information they need for research, teaching, and learning while serving as responsible stewards of public funds

Since the last committee meeting, the library has begun to pilot alternative methods of access to a subset of Springer journal articles through a service called Reprints Desk. The library will be negotiating directly with Springer for subscriptions to high value journals as identified by the Queen's community. All pre-2019 content remains available via the library's discovery platform. We anticipate minimal impact on access to information resources, with access to content through Reprints Desk taking five minutes or less. We continue to welcome feedback from our users.

Questions may be directed to Ian or to Amy. Amy did note that Springer does not publish significantly in law. For more information, please visit: <https://library.queensu.ca/about-us/planning-assessment/accountability>

4. Government Funding Changes & Library Acquisitions

At this time, the library does not anticipate a significant impact on the acquisitions budget from the announcement by the Ontario government of reduced funding.

5. Chat Reference Pilot

Library Information Services reference staff will be participating on a pilot basis in "Ask a Librarian", a chat reference service facilitated by OCUL's Scholar's Portal since 2011. Fifteen institutions participate and service is offered in English and French. Queen's will join as of April 15 and Queen's operators will be on duty for 8 hours per week during the summer, and 20 hours per week in the fall 2019/winter 2020 terms. 'Ask a Librarian' provides some evening and weekend reference assistance to students, and may be especially useful for students enrolled in online courses. The current 'Ask Us' button on the Queen's library site will offer users the options of service by email, in person consultation, or live chat.

6. Law Library Displays

As indicated in Appendix B, the Library would like suggestions for future law library displays. Amy explained that the library displays are an opportunity to highlight "hidden" collections and are often a result of related print stewardship activities. Exhibits can include ebooks as well as print materials, and the use of alternate formats such as virtual exhibits is encouraged. In response, the following comments were made:

- In terms of promoting the displays, the newsletters were found to be ineffective in communicating with the students. It was suggested that some other online communication be attempted over the summer, before students return to campus. 'Physical' messages (i.e. posters) still seem to be useful.
- Because many law students work in the Law Learning Commons, a 'bookcase' in the Learning Commons displaying library materials was suggested, as well as reading materials at the front area of the Law Library.
- Perhaps there could be a landing page on the Law Library webpage to promote exhibits.

- Contemporary law topics in general were recommended as exhibit themes. It was suggested that faculty could be canvassed for advice on more specific topics.

7. **New/adapted Law Libguides and their Promotion**

The current Law Libguides (<https://guides.library.queensu.ca/law-guides>), annotated starting points for legal research, were discussed. While some guides are used extensively, others have more limited use. There was a discussion of whether it was a matter of adapting the content or more promotion that would increase usage for these lower-use guides. It was suggested that faculty could help to promote guides that support topics in their course areas, and more particularly in the ILS courses. It may be that too many 'clicks' are necessary to find the guides, and perhaps the use of library jargon does not contribute to efficient searching. There was discussion regarding the selection of content within subject areas, and the potential usefulness of consulting faculty on particular guides. From the student perspective, Libguides may be more useful for students in disciplines other than Law. Amy wondered if there should be more focus on the *type* of content in the guides, rather than *subject*, as many of the guides with highest use were focused on a, as many of the guides with highest use were focused on a *type* of legal resource, rather than a *subject*.

8. **Exam Stress Relief Activities in the Law Library**

The library has offered a number of different activities during exam periods to encourage students to take a break from their studies and recharge. The committee reviewed activities that have been offered at Lederman Library and at other library locations. Ultimately, snacks have been the only real success with students in the law library. The demand for study space is so great that there really isn't the capacity for other activities, and the opinion was expressed that many law students avoid the Law Library during exams, perhaps drawing upon the impression the law library is overwhelmed with non-law students studying there. It was noted that Queen's students from any faculty are welcome to use any campus library. Also, the large table that used to be located near the Information Services Desk is still missed by some, and might have supported some additional stress relief activities. Coffee was suggested as something students would really like during exams.

Action: Amy will use this year's funds for coffee breaks. The library has a large urn, which the law library can borrow to stretch the funds further.

9. **Thank you to the membership of the Library Advisory Committee, 2018-2019 for their valued contributions.**

Appendix A: Collaborative Futures Library Services Platform Update

Queen's University Library is partnering with 12 other members of Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) to implement a shared library services platform (LSP).

Building upon 50 years of successful cooperative work among OCUL member libraries, this collaboration includes the selection, procurement, and implementation of a shared LSP allowing our libraries to improve our support for faculty and students; modernize internal workflows with greater streamlining and reduced duplication of effort; share expertise; reduce or redirect costs; and meet our stewardship responsibilities for the province's valuable print and electronic research collections.

What Does This Mean for You?

For students, faculty and staff at Queen's, this means the replacement of our Summon and QCAT tools for discovering and accessing information resources with a single tool for searching across Queen's and other OCUL partner library collections, facilitating increasingly streamlined access to consortium-wide resources.

On December 10, 2019 we will go live and the interface will change.

For faculty and instructors, please note that any "permanent" links or URLs in your instructional materials and OnQ will no longer work. In advance of the change we recommend that you use our eReserves service to help you prepare. Please see [Course Reserves for Faculty and Instructors](#).

Project Update

We have been busy with an initial preparation phase (Onboarding), and as of March 6, 2019 we launch into the formal implementation phase of the project with our consortium partners. At this point, we are working on policy to address how we will work together to accomplish the priority collaboration goals, whether upon go-live or longer term, in order to reap the benefits of collaboration in those areas where it makes most sense to collaborate, while facilitating local differences where necessary. We are also learning about the new system functionality and workflows as we plan for rollout within a defined schedule led by our supplier and our CF implementation team.

Project Timeline

- Phase 1: Feasibility Study (November 2014 – July 2015)
- Phase 2: Developing System Requirements and Pre-Procurement (August 2015 – Fall 2016)
- Phase 3: Procurement and Implementation at Libraries (Winter 2017 – Ongoing)
- Onboarding and implementation (Fall 2018 - Fall 2019)
- **Go-live date: December 10, 2019**

OCUL Participants

- Brock University
- Carleton University
- University of Guelph
- Lakehead University

- Nipissing University
- UOIT
- University of Ottawa
- Queen's University
- Trent University
- University of Waterloo
- Western University
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- York University

For more information, please contact your [Subject Librarian](#). Further information about this project can be found on the [OCUL website](#). You may also contact [Sandra Morden](#), project manager of the Collaborative Futures Shared Library Services Platform (LSP) Project at Queen's University Library for more information.

We look forward to this transformative opportunity to make improvements in service and workflow at the library, and welcome your comments and questions.

Appendix B: 2018-19 Law Library Displays

This is a list of list of the law library displays created in 2018-19. We are interested in suggestions for future displays and any suggestions on the value of virtual displays in addition to/instead of print displays.

Fall Term

Welcome (Back) to Law – books suggested by faculty and staff with blurbs – print only
Cannabis Law - print with [online video](#) (YouTube and Facebook)
Treaty Recognition Week: Focus on Treaty 9 - print and accompanying [Libguide](#)
Art of Research – travelling interdisciplinary exhibit that we booked into the law library
Exam Strategies and Study Breaks – print only

Winter Term

Animals and the Law- print only
Courts of the Common Law World – print and [slides](#) on Facebook
Exam strategies and Study Breaks – to come