

Library Committee Annual Report, 2023-2024
Michael Vilensky, Chair

Duties and Responsibilities of the Library Committee

1. Advise the dean of university libraries in the planning and implementation of programs and policies supporting the educational, research, and service activities of libraries and related units.
2. Articulate the library's mission, goals, and needs to the university administration.
3. Assist the dean of university libraries in the assessment, improvement, and promotion of library and information services that support the university community.
4. Advise the dean of university libraries on agreements with publishers and information vendors that are in the best interest of the university community.
5. Advise the appropriate administrative office on the appointment of the dean of university libraries.

Membership 2023-2024

Committee Chair: Michael Vilensky

Faculty Members: Joan Cashin, Jared Gardner, Katherine Kelly, Nath Rao, Michael Vilensky

Student Members: Olivia Bianco (IPC), Daniella Ramirez (USG), Maria De Rezende Grisi (CGS)

Staff Members: Lila Andersen (USAC)

Administrative Members: Damon Jagers (Dean of University Libraries), Ginger Breon (CIO Designee), Cynthia Carnes (VP for Research)

Administrative support: We greatly appreciate the support of Elaine Prichard, Executive Assistant to the Vice Provost and Dean of Libraries, for her valuable contributions to the committee's work.

Leadership for 2024-2025: In April 2024, the committee elected Michael Vilensky as Chair and Katherine Kelly as Vice-Chair.

Committee Meetings in 2023-2024

The committee met 7 times: September 19, October 31, November 28, January 16, February 13, March 19, and April 23.

- September 19
 - The committee's first meeting focused on introducing committee members, planning for key topics over the course of the academic year, and presenting an overview of the OSU Library operations. Committee members discussed their professional background and motivations for serving on the committee. We reviewed logistics for committee meetings and the proposal for virtual, in-person, and hybrid meetings. Committee members had filled out a survey on topics of interest in advance of the meeting. During the meeting, we discussed results from the survey and planned meetings focused on key topics, including marketing/communication, affordability, storage, digitization, research support, and the integrated library system. Finally, Damon Jagers, Dean of University Libraries, gave a presentation summarizing the scope of the OSU library system's work. He described the budget, personnel, collections, and programs. He also highlighted key initiatives and strategic directions. Members were given an opportunity to ask questions to clarify understanding and goals.
- October 31
 - This meeting focused on the library's marketing and communication efforts. We were joined by Nancy Colvin, the Director of Strategic Marketing and Communication for the library. Nancy provided detail on a variety of marketing/communication initiatives at the library. She provided information on the staff involved in marketing efforts. Nancy also outlined recent social media, email, paid media, web site driven, and public relations campaigns. She shared results of recent

campaigns, noting increases in web traffic and social media engagement. Discussion with committee members focused on ways to improve knowledge of students/faculty awareness of library programs to better target marketing efforts. We also discussed ways to better differentiate between audiences (e.g. undergraduates, faculty) when building campaigns.

- November 28
 - This meeting focused on the library's research data support efforts. We were joined by Kelsey Badger, Assistant Professor and Research Data Librarian. Kelsey provided an overview of the library's initiatives to support researchers. She outlined efforts to work with students and faculty to guide access to relevant databases for both research and classroom instruction. She shared ways in which the library assists with data management planning, helping researchers develop plans to manage data effectively, and in line with funders' goals and requirements. Kelsey also shared information on the library's efforts to help researchers share and publish data. Importantly, recent legislation will require increased public access to federally funded research. She discussed efforts to establish a workgroup with the Office of Research to build practices to support these new requirements. The committee discussed this in depth and strongly advocated for increased staffing to meet these new needs. The committee's recommendations were accepted by Damon Jagers, who noted plans to discuss with the existing workgroup.
- January 16
 - The committee met in-person to tour and discuss the library's new storage facility module at 2700 Kenny Road. We were joined by Ryan Langhurst, the program manager for the Library Book Depository. We discussed the \$19 million module that was recently built to improve safety and security of the library's physical materials and open up space in library facilities for educational purposes. We toured the high efficiency stacks and met with staff involved in operations. The committee was educated on the system used to retrieve materials upon request by library users. Damon Jagers also outlined the financing plan that enabled the purchase. Discussion focused on efforts to shift the use of space in library locations toward student and faculty needs, versus storage. Committee members provided advice on ways to use space in the Thompson Library to these purposes, including increased study space, opportunities to enhance online learning, and space to support social/emotional well-being.
- February 13
 - The committee's February meeting also involved an in-person tour and information session, focused on the library's digitization efforts. The committee visited the Library Tech Center at 1165 Kinnear Road. Amy McCrory, the Library's Digitization Program Manager, presented an overview of digitization initiatives and led a tour of the facilities. She discussed the importance of digitization to preserve and extend access to valuable materials for researchers and learners. The committee learned about the variety of materials the library is seeking to digitize, how the library navigates relevant copyright laws and publishing agreements, and the acquisition of state-of-the-art technology to facilitate digitization. During the tour, committee members were able to meet with library staff involved in digitizing materials and view the process firsthand. Discussion focused on ways to ensure that the library has funding to continue to acquire needed technology and personnel to facilitate ongoing efforts.
- March 19
 - This meeting began with an update on research data support from the November meeting. Damon Jagers provided information on the workgroup with the Office of Research to build practices to support new data sharing requirements. He noted that the committee's recommendation for additional personnel seems to be shared with members of the workgroup. The remainder of the committee meeting focused on the library's efforts to improve affordability, and served as a follow-up to a discussion from last year's February meeting. The committee was

joined by Amanda Larson, the library's affordability lead, and Danny Dotson, the library's science subject liaison. Amanda and Danny presented information and updates on the library's affordability initiatives. They discussed the importance of affordability and its connection to the University's strategic plan. They outlined several programs, including the General Education Textbook Program and Course Reserves, which host course materials for students. They also outlined ways in which the library seeks to interact with course instructors to improve affordability. Specifically, they provided examples of how the library's subject liaisons have worked with instructors to find e-book options to replace more expensive hard copies of books, access free video and other web-based content to enhance instruction, and consider other alternative materials hosted by the library to lower student costs. Amanda and Danny provided information on the library's work to host workshops on affordability through the Affordable Learning Exchange and conduct syllabus reviews through a grant-funded program. They outlined estimates of cost savings resulting from these efforts. The committee's discussion focused on ways to enhance collaboration with instructors and increase awareness of available resources.

- April 23
 - The final meeting for the academic year began with discussion of committee leadership for 2024-2025. Michael Vilensky announced that he is seeking to maintain role as chair and Katherine Kelly voiced interest in serving as vice-chair. No other committee members noted interest in leadership in the coming year. As per committee bylaws, the election was planned by electronic vote at the conclusion of the meeting. A quorum subsequently voted and elected Michael Vilensky as chair and Katherine Kelly as vice-chair for 2024-2025. The committee next thanked Nath Rao and Joan Cashin for their service on the committee, given that their terms are ending this year. All other committee members were also thanked for their service, as well as special recognition for Elaine Prichard and Damon Jagers. The remainder of the meeting focused on the transition to the new integrated library system (ILS) planned for 2025. The committee was joined by Morag Boyd, the library's Acquisitions and Discovery Strategist, and project lead for the ILS transition. Morag educated the committee on the current Sierra ILS, which has become outdated and unsupported. She noted that OSU is part of the larger OhioLINK consortium of academic libraries, and that the ILS transition is in coordination with OhioLINK and supported by funding from the state. The new Library Service Platform (LSP) has been awarded by OhioLINK, to be implemented by member institutions. Morag detailed reasons for the transition, citing improved usability, streamlined operation, and increased security. She outlined the transition process at OSU and library's efforts to support this transition for library staff and users. Morag spelled out the transition timeline, with system testing to begin in June 2024 and planned deployment in June 2025. The committee's discussion focused on ways to communicate with faculty and students about the transition and smooth out potential challenges (e.g. links to library materials in Carmen). They also discussed efforts to coordinate with OTDI in developing transition plan.

Report prepared by Michael Vilensky, May 9, 2024.