

## **New Brunswick Libraries Information Services Steering Group**

### **Midyear Report (July, 2002-December, 2002)**

The NBL Information Services Steering Group (ISSG) met monthly (except August and October) during this reporting period and addressed the following (among other) issues:

- A comprehensive overview of NBL instructional programs.
- NBL funding priorities in instruction and information services.
- Regular updates on the progress and development of D21.
- Update of the NBL Reference Manual to include information on the Public Access to Government Records Law and other emergency measures.

The following are the highlights of the Information Services Group:

#### **Reference/Research Services**

- With funds from successful 2002-2003 ACIC funding, 11 reference service points in the NB libraries were upgraded in the fall semester 2002. An additional reference service point was also added to the Math Library, where none previously existed. The new equipment includes a state of art dual monitor system that allow students and librarians to share the navigational process when using digital sources of scholarly information.
- The implementation team for Phase One of the D21 project was formed and began to plan for the physical move in preparation for construction. The Douglass Library instructional alcove was moved from the main floor to the lower level in the fall semester 2002. Additional moves are planned during the break in spring semester 2003. A new Website was developed to keep the public informed regarding progress on the Phase One project.
- The Alexander Library information desk was merged with the reference desk.
- The NBL wide reference exchange has been in effect—however a new element of the exchange program was introduced during this period. Librarian exchanges are based on the special “needs” of a unit due to various types of leaves.
- NBL librarians continued to contribute to the “Ask A Librarian” service during this time based on the newly mandated 7 (NBL)/2 (Newark)/1 (Camden) staffing formula.
- The working group from the spring 2002 “Librarians without Borders” pilot project (Stephanie Tama-Bartels, Triveni Kuchi, and Laura Mullen) submitted a final report to ISSG. The ISSG will continue to explore ways to improve and provide innovative information and research models partly based on the findings of this project.

#### **Instructional Services**

- Selected orientation activities for the fall semester 2002 were as follows:
  - Ryoko Toyama, Eileen Stec, and Leslie Murtha staffed general freshman orientation sessions; Stephanie Tama-Bartels participated in the University College Information Fair.
  - Stephanie Tama-Bartels and Jackie Mardikian conducted orientations for new Teaching Assistants and international students.
  - Stephanie Tama-Bartels tutored the tutors for the Rutgers College Freshman Interest Group (FIG) courses.
  - Jackie Mardikian participated in the College of Nursing orientation program.
  - Myoung Wilson organized the annual reception/tour for the new students and faculty at SCILS.
- The members of the ISSG, along with unit instructional coordinators and the SCC, began to explore new ways of collecting instruction data and different models of instruction activities within a consistent framework for all NB libraries.

### **Grants:**

- As in previous years, ISSG appointed a team of librarians to work on the 2003-2004 ACIC funding proposal. Team members are Stephanie Bartz, Ronald Jantz, and Kevin Mulcahy.
- Two Dialogue grants were unsuccessful. Other opportunities will be explored in the future.

### **Personnel**

- The LSM PC Coordinator, Isaiah Beard, resigned in November 2002 to take a position at the SCC. A new search committee was formed (Patricia Piermatti, Stephanie Bartz, Arlene Minch, and Myoung Wilson as ex officio) to recruit the replacement.
- In the fall semester 2002, four NBL Reference Team Leaders (Kevin Mulcahy, Martin Kesselman, Patricia Piermatti, and Ryan Womack [serving on behalf of Jeris Cassel]) formed a search committee to recruit temporary librarian positions at both LSM and Kilmer.
- The members of the ISSG discussed the content of training for the information services work of the SCILS/RUL Minority Intern in spring 2003.

### **Other**

- The NBL PC Coordination Team initiated the process of updating the NBL Website. As a first step, the NBL web site moved to an SCC server and is now being maintained by Anthony Joachim and Stephanie Bartz. The site should serve as a repository of useful resources for all NBL units.

## **Goals and Objectives**

- Continue to search for measurable improvements in information provision within the NB research community.
- Focus on developing a coordinated and innovative framework for NBL instructional activities.