

Library of Record for Medicine Discussion @ Health Sciences Task Force Meeting

April 23, 2014

A discussion of this topic took place at the Health Sciences Task Force Meeting on April 23rd with the following members present: J Cohn, E Sosnowska, K O'Rourke, YH Lin, A Watkins, H Hoffman, L Mullen, Y Zhang.

Excused: J Maxymuk, RB Fitzpatrick, N Wadley

A significant portion of the meeting was focused on print medical collections currently housed at LSM (Piscataway) and the Smith Library (Newark).

There are extensive print medical collections at both the Smith Library and at LSM. An overview of existing collection and retention policies at RUL was provided as background. What "Library of Record" means, the process for moving items to the Annex, etc. Policies found on the RUL staff pages were also reference points.

LSM and Smith have similar missions with regard to coverage in medicine and health sciences disciplines, also divergence, in particular LSM's broader mission to collect in other than the life sciences. Space restrictions at LSM are acute as Chemistry and Physics collections are to be relocated there. The Smith Library has limited basement storage where older journal runs are currently stored. The option for participation in the CIC Shared Repository is yet to be explored.

Another area of discussion focused on access and delivery. A key element and requirement for placing materials in the Annex is responsive delivery to all libraries (New Brunswick vs others) as the level of access to materials from the Annex can vary among libraries.

More information is needed in order to make a formal recommendation, but at this time, it is highly likely that a distributed model for storing medical collections is warranted. One reason for this is the large numbers of medical /health sciences users, academic programs, research and clinical activities in both Piscataway and Newark who rely on these collections. Review of the RBHS strategic plan, due out this summer, may have an impact on collections plans. There are selectors in medical/health sciences disciplines across RUL; and a significantly enhanced base of faculty and students to serve.

As of this time, the findings and recommendations of this group include:

- The Task Force advocates for a distributed model for retention of collections in medicine/health sciences
- Conduct a collection analysis of print journal holdings including LSM, Smith, RWJ, Dana and Robeson of print journal runs to which we currently have electronic access through publishers (not 3rd party aggregators). Electronic access for many journal titles in the health sciences began approx 1996. A report of holdings from these libraries will be requested of the holdings team. E Sosnowska will lead the collection analysis.
- Gather and analyze results in order to determine next steps:
 - Areas of overlap
 - Based on findings, a more extensive collection analysis of journal backfiles will likely be conducted
- Refer issues associated with access and delivery to Access Services for examination and review and recommendation