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LACUNY Collection Development Roundtable
Meeting Minutes, November 2008

LACUNY

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LACUNY Collection Development Roundtable
Friday, November 7, 2008
Graduate Center Library 18th Century Reading Room, 1:30pm

Present: Ching Chang (MEC), Alex de Laszlo (LG), Linda Dickinson (HC), Daisy Dominguez (CC), Jane Fitzpatrick (GC), Rob Laurich (CC), Nancy Macomber (Law), Cecilia Salber (KB), Sharon Swacker (NYCT), Susan Vaughn (BC), Michael Waldman (Baruch), Sunny Yoon (Central)

- **New Chair** elected: Daisy Dominguez (CC)
- The meeting was called in order to discuss **CUNY Libraries’ collection development strategies for coping with economic crisis**

**Currently implemented strategies:**
- sacrificing monographic allocations
- dropping legacy standing orders
- dropping Science Direct
- dropping some print journals

**Future potential strategies:**

- **In terms of general collection development philosophies:**
  - Sunny Yoon emphasized the need to take **more of a proactive and not reactive approach** to collection development CUNY-wide
  - Nancy Macomber suggested having a “just enough” type approach to collection development where we do not attempt to get all databases but that we **make those essential databases (see partial list of “Untouchables” below) work most effectively to stress the teaching and learning aspect of our resources.** So long as we get the students to think, they can put these lessons into practice with whatever resources are at hand.

- **In terms of more immediate policies, software purchases and coalitions:**
  - building **consortium with NYPL** to share resources; potential for consortiums to pressure prohibitively priced vendors to bring down pricing
  - Polly Thistlewaite noted that the Public Services Committee discussed **sharing resources between CUNY Libraries**; how they could form a policy to address overlapping functions of ILL, Acquisitions, etc. In particular, they discussed **SUNY’s loan system model** and investing in ILLIAD.
  - Currently, each college uses Tech Fee at its discretion; suggested that Chief Librarians emphasize this money be used toward database fees.
  - Circulation fines: discussed how they have not kept up with inflation; raising fines would have to go through Albany; **advocate for ensuring that fines are used for library resources**
  - Discussion of why “last copy” policy for periodicals did not work and mention of the possibility of having a “last copy” policy for monographs
  - Discussion about how e-textbooks could help campuses save money **and also preserve books** (since oftentimes, book pages are torn out).
  - Discussion on having a better sense of what our happens to purchased or subscription-based database content upon cancellation; mention of “catastrophic clause” on most licenses

- **Nuts and Bolts** things to keep in mind:
  - Cuts often come at the beginning of the calendar year (middle if the fiscal year)
- Open encumbrances (e.g., for books from a vendor to be purchased during the year) are not as safe as encumbrances for specific commitments (e.g., for EBSCO main invoice or Science Direct)
- mention of dealing with **scattered database renewal cycles**
- looking at **usage statistics** when considering dropping a resource

- **Untouchable Databases:** those we highly recommend would be given priority were CUNY-wide database cutting to be considered. This is only a preliminary list:
  - Academic Search Premier
  - Lexis Nexis Academic
  - SAGE Collections
  - Also, Sunny Yoon will resend a related survey to CUNY librarians (through their ERAC representatives). The survey asked which databases are priorities and was sent out before the economic crisis hit; responses will probably be more targeted due to the real potential for cuts.

- **Resources that some felt were not a priority**
  - Wilson databases
  - renewing microfiche subscriptions

No date was set for the next LACUNY Collection Development Roundtable meeting.