The University Library Committee met ten times in 1995/96. The Committee:

1. Discussed the 28 June 1995 letter to Chancellor Schroeder and Provost Watters where the high priority of the library budget and of planning for library Stage IV were stressed. The Chancellor’s support for Stage IV was noted.

2. Reviewed and commented on the library’s preliminary planning for the 1996-97 budget cycle. The committee was especially concerned about library security and passed a motion that a position should be added in for weekend and evening hours.

3. With the Chancellor and Provost, discussed the Stage IV plan. The Chancellor urged the Subcommittee to plan to make technology advancement and new formats for the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge central concepts; asked the library to draw up a document which frames the security problem and suggests a solution; noted that money alone is not the solution to the problem of rising book and serials costs -- more cooperative agreements among libraries is among several possible methods of alleviating the problem; discussed possible funding sources for a project to convert the current manual AGSC card catalog to machine-readable format. The Chancellor suggested an ongoing proactive educational program on the importance of the AGSC and its impact on faculty and academic programs.

4. Formed a subcommittee, augmented with library and campus representatives, to construct a conceptual framework for Stage IV as a library addition for the 21st century. Members of this Subcommittee are: M. Aman; S. Daydi-Tolson; A. Dimitroff; L. Glass; G. Keulks; N. Lasca; J. Lowrey; M. Miceli; W. Moritz; D. Schultz; G. Snyder; D. Stack; W. Van Horne and P. Watson-Boone, ex-officio. D. Schultz was elected chair.

5. Passed unanimously a motion that a letter be sent to the Chancellor requesting that funding to operate the shuttle service be allocated to the library, since the framework to run the service is already in place there.

6. Passed unanimously a motion that no journals be canceled without faculty input.

7. Unanimously passed the following motion: “In order to continue and enhance UWM’s Research II Institution status, the Golda Meir Library needs to maintain the current strength of its collection. An additional $200,000 will be needed to meet serial subscription increases scheduled to take effect January 1, 1996, for titles to which the library currently subscribes. This $200,000 will be taken from the book budget. The University Library Committee recommends strongly that the campus make every effort to underwrite the $200,000, but certainly no less than $100,000, for this fiscal year.”

8. Sent a letter to all faculty and staff describing the price increases in serials.

9. Held opening hearings on February 6, 14 and 20, 1996, to give everyone on campus an opportunity to discuss the rising serial subscription prices and provide ideas for solutions. Provost Watters approved the hearings and asked for a document by the beginning of March 1996 which contained 5 or 6 action items that are clearly doable.

10. Unanimously approved a memorandum to the Chancellor containing recommendations on library serials. (See attached memorandum.)

11. Met with the Provost to discuss the recommendations from the open hearings. The Provost said the cost of serials is being discussed at UW System Vice Chancellor/Provosts meetings and that the costs of document delivery can be underwritten to a point.


13. Discussed a plan to develop an electronic bibliographic instruction laboratory in the East Wing of the library, which would also serve as a general access laboratory staffed by Information & Media Technology in the evenings.
14. Wrote to the University Committee opposing Faculty Document No. 2036 which proposes consolidation of the Computer Policy Committee, the Educational Media Policy Committee, and the Library Committee.

The Stage IV Subcommittee met 4 times and another writing group met 5 times.

1. The subcommittee did a literature search on new libraries.
2. The subcommittee agreed that both new space and conversion of existing space are needed.
3. The subcommittee drafted a paper called Golda Meir Library Expansion and Remodeling Conceptual Framework.

The Committee received reports from the Director on the following:

1. Budget reductions in 1995/96 anticipated up to $166,000, entailing the loss of 3.12 positions (1.5 of them permanent).
2. The library review in the North Central Association Accreditation Report was distributed and discussed.
3. The Provost has given final approval to the new Library Mission Statement which was approved by the University Library Committee at the May 1995 meeting.
4. UWM Accounts Receivable revealed that overdue library fines have not been collected for over two and one-half years. This could amount to $150,000 of lost revenue.
5. A draft document outlining program factors to be included in the request for construction of Stage IV was distributed.
7. The 1996/97 budget planning document was completed.
8. The library will conduct a feasibility test during the spring semester of a campuswide electronic reserve database for course assigned readings; funding for the test came from the Student Technology Fee.
9. The library has acquired the Leon Kramer pamphlet collection from UW-Green Bay. It is an excellent collection on social justice issues such as prison reform and labor relations and represents the largest single addition to the Fromkin Memorial Collection since the establishment of the FMC.
10. Jurisdiction of the media equipment distribution service was transferred to Information and Media Technology as of 3 January 1996.
11. Campus administration transferred $50,000 to the library’s FY 95/96 budget, with $100,000 to be returned to the base budget in 1996/97.
12. Staff was added to provide training evenings and weekends.

Attachments
MEMORANDUM

TO: Kenneth L. Watters
    Provost/Vice Chancellor

FROM: Winston A. Van Horne, Chair
    University Library Committee

RE: Recommendations following campuswide hearings on library serial prices

Three campuswide hearings, open to all faculty, staff and students, were held by the University Library Committee in Semester II, 1995-96. There was substantial participation by faculty, staff and students in these hearings. A recurring theme expressed at all of the hearings was the campus' ability to maintain and advance its status as a major research institution, and the critical role of the library in this regard.

Over the past fifteen years, the persistent, and recently very rapid, increase in the cost of library materials, particularly serials, has become one of the most grave problems facing the library. Serial subscription prices for the 1996 year have risen an average of fifteen percent per title, with equally high increases anticipated for the coming year.

Strategies to address issues raised by the provost

1. Acquiring good usage statistics

   With the previous serials cancellation (1993), the library began collecting current periodical usage data, in conjunction with faculty rankings and input, in order to evaluate more effectively the value of given titles. The use data collected should only be utilized following the input of faculty, staff and students. To create a comprehensive use study would involve significant resources for additional staff, ongoing monitoring and evaluation of statistics, as well as equipment. The only way to conduct a rigorous use study would be to close off public access to all stacks for an extended period of time. The director of the library and the provost should discuss this matter.
II. Policy and process for serials acquisitions decisions

In 1992, the library reviewed and updated its policies for acquiring new serials, which was then communicated to the faculty as a part of the 1993 serials cancellation project. Due to budgetary limitations, the library had placed a moratorium on new serial purchases beginning in July of 1991. Throughout the process, the library staff worked closely with the faculty to gather recommendations for new serial titles. Prior to purchasing a title, the library thoroughly reviews the title’s availability in area libraries, accessibility through electronic document delivery, ILL usage, and importance in relation to faculty research and teaching, as well as student needs. This year the library reallocated money to purchase approximately 100 new serial titles desperately needed to support new research and teaching areas.

III. Expand resource sharing

The library continues to expand and investigate opportunities for increasing resource sharing. Inter-institutional agreements for the free exchange of books and articles exist between UWM and Marquette University, Milwaukee Public Library, and the Medical College of Wisconsin through the Interlibrary Loan network. Our faculty have borrowing privileges at Marquette and the Medical College. Beginning in August 1994, the library offered direct in-person reciprocal borrowing for all UWM students, faculty and staff to libraries within the UW System. In December 1995, Administrative funding enabled the library to reinstitute a shuttle service for UWM faculty, graduate students and staff, to and from the UW-Madison libraries, operating three days a week during the regular academic year. Last year, the library began utilizing a private delivery system serving over 500 Wisconsin libraries to deliver library materials within a day or two. A rapid document delivery service, for a nominal fee, now provides articles within 24-48 hours. Together these services improve the speed with which materials and information are made available to library users.
IV. Electronic access

The library is actively working to address changing information needs through the development of an electronic reserve database in cooperation with I&MT, remote ILL web forms, and off-site renewal of materials. These provide improved access to our materials for both campus and distance education students. Successful cooperative purchases with other UW libraries have enabled the library to provide the UWM community with access to thirteen electronic databases from home, office or computer lab, as well as from the library itself. For example, Academic Index includes the full text of over 600 titles. In addition, there are approximately thirty commercial databases and over one hundred government supplied electronic databases currently available. The library, in consultation with departments, is in the process of developing collection policies to provide electronic journals and indexes.

The library offers access to the online catalogs of many Wisconsin libraries including all UW System campuses, Marquette, the SWITCH consortium (Alverno, Concordia, Cardinal Stritch, Wisconsin Lutheran), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and WISCAT (union catalog of holdings for most Wisconsin libraries). Furthermore, the library has provided access to CARL, a database of over 17,000 journals, and beginning this spring, through the UnCover Reveal Alert Service, users will be able to receive current awareness information direct to their e-mail addresses. Members of the UWM community may choose specific journal titles or search strategies, and receive table of contents directly from CARL on a weekly basis. This service allows faculty to review tables of contents of new serials to which the library may not subscribe, and immediately tap information of which they might otherwise be unaware.

The library is keeping pace with new technologies, as evidenced by the creation of a homepage on the World Wide Web. This puts many of the resources of the Golda Meir Library at the fingertips of anyone on the planet with the means of accessing the Internet. This is good for UWM. Given the rate at which new technologies change, the library will continue to work closely with I&MT to assure that the very best technical resources are available to the scholarly community at UWM, as well as the larger community that makes expansive use of its facilities. It is thus imperative that the library receive a sufficiency of resources, so that it is constantly well-
positioned to meld traditional needs with the evolving demands of an information/post-information society.

V. Developing a broadly shared plan for overall collection development

Collection development in large research libraries is often done by subject bibliographers or subject specialists who have as their assigned duties assessing, maintaining, and developing collections in close consultation with departmental faculty. Given staffing constraints for collection development, the library has had to rely on utilizing approval programs in order to outsource the collection development to a certain level. Detailed profiles have been written in collaboration with the faculty, and with major book vendors who can provide the majority of the materials required to satisfy the institution’s research and curricular needs. Moreover, each department assigns a liaison to work with the library staff to review the profile, and to submit requests on behalf of the department for materials that may not be included in the profile.

While reorganizations and vacancies have created some gaps over the past few years, the library has always recognized the importance of the position of Acquisitions Department head, and filled the position as soon as possible. Evaluations of, and changes to, the communication between the library and departmental liaisons are ongoing. An informational sheet has been made available to faculty liaisons outlining the process for requesting and ordering materials from the library. Liaisons are invited to several sessions a year to discuss the budget, as well as new procedures and innovations affecting collections. Unfortunately, these sessions have been poorly attended. It would be helpful if the provost were to signal the importance of this activity to faculty liaisons.

During the open hearings, recommendations were made by faculty regarding the budget allocation process that the library has in place. As part of the serials cancellation process for 1996, departments will be asked to identify those periodicals for which they are willing to assume responsibility/ownership. This information could be added to the departmental dollar allocations already in place for monograph purchases. This procedure should enable departments to adjust the balance between
monograph and serial spending to best meet the needs of their disciplines. It should be noted here, though, that some faculty members did express serious reservations about this shift in decisionmaking by giving departments such budgetary latitude, due to concerns about the expansive interdisciplinary use of many disciplinary journals.

Other actions relating to collection development are stated in the library's proposed strategic plan. This plan includes remedies to problems identified in the five-year review of the library. Proposed changes include a clear identification of one individual to be responsible for overall collection development, incorporating new media into the collection development policy, widely disseminating this policy, and formalizing collection assessment.

From the reflections of the University Library Committee, the library staff, and the open hearings, the committee unanimously recommends the following:

1. The chancellor should strongly encourage UW System President Katherine C. Lyall to take the initiative in working with the presidents of other major institutions to place pressure on publishers, particularly foreign publishers of scientific, technical and medical serials, in order to reduce significantly the costs of these publications.

2. The chancellor should approach local government and business leaders to seek support for increased funding for the UWM Library as the major public access research library, not only for the Milwaukee metropolitan area but also for all of Southeastern Wisconsin.

3. The chancellor and the provost should underwrite the cost of document delivery to the library, especially CARL UnCover, which will provide full text access to articles in serials to which the library is unable to subscribe. Document delivery constitutes a partial solution to the cancellation of serial titles while at the same time opening up access to new journals. (This recommendation does not obviate the need for expanded browsing space for periodicals.)
4. The chancellor and the provost should act to foster greater collaboration with the Medical College of Wisconsin and Marquette University libraries through the establishment of a shuttle between these institutions, as well as the creation of about fifteen (15) reciprocal parking spaces and the expansion of borrowing privileges in order to maximize access for faculty, staff and students of all three universities.

5. The chancellor and the provost should add the dollars that are needed to support the library’s essential function in the maintenance and advancement of the campus’ status as a premier research institution. This financial support is especially critical in relation to the review of graduate programs by external teams. In this regard, indirect costs received by the campus from grant monies should be used to a greater extent than at present to support the library, especially to expand its serial subscriptions at a time when forces of contraction threaten the integrity of the serials collection. It should be noted that the quality of the library was a prominent concern not only of the faculty, staff and students at the open hearings, but also of review teams, namely, the North Central Accreditation Association and the Golda Meir Library Audit and Review Committee.

The University Library Committee hereby requests a meeting with the chancellor and provost within a month of receipt of this memorandum to discuss these recommendations, and looks forward to their most favorable decisions.

WVH/ljk

c: Chancellor John H. Schroeder
    Members, University Library Committee
    Professor George S. Baker, Chair
    University Committee