

Council on Libraries and Information Technology  
December 14, 2007

Minutes

Present: Daniel Avorgbedor, Joseph Branin, Karen Bruns, Michael Hemmelgarn, Kenneth Pearlman, Michael Veres

Absent: Theodore Bauer, Fritz Graf, Roy Joshua, Meri Meredith, Greg Smith, Les Tannenbaum, Kathleen Wallace

Guests: Joanne Dehoney, Celeste Feather, Bob Kalal, Eric Schnell, Aaron Olivera, Fred Roecker

1. Textbooks

Mike Hemmelgarn from USG and Aaron Olivera and Fred Roecker from the Libraries presented on the issues about textbooks. The high cost is the primary concern. Several states, including Ohio, have had proposed legislation. Ohio Senate Bill 151 that would have required state institutions to purchase one copy of textbooks in use on campus, has been withdrawn from consideration, however. Ideally everything would be online, but interim solutions are being investigated. USG wants textbook lists online 3-4 weeks prior to the start of the term along with ISBNs. The current GEC textbook project for courses of 200 students or more keeps texts on reserve at the SEL. USG would like to keep a website of the textbook lists, working in conjunction with the bookstore. Earlier information about required texts will enable students to investigate options and acquire copies at reduced rates.

USG is investigating other options such as Carmen to host the textbook list. They would direct students to various sources, such as the OSU Libraries and booksellers. A concern is the routine maintenance of the list given the turnover in USG. Ultimately, the cost of textbooks is the serious problem.

Aaron Olivera indicated that electronic textbook publishers have not yet developed workable models. The GEC project now covers 75 classes. A survey indicates that 40% of students are aware of the availability of these textbooks at SEL. The project is funded by the Libraries at about \$10,000 per quarter. All texts are on open reserve, and the theft rate is low because books are heavily marked with library stamps. Biology 101 has obtained a discount rate from the publisher because they have agreed to use the same text for three years.

Joe Branin said that he would try to get the topic of discounted rates for multi-year commitments on the Dean's Council agenda. Fred Roecker commented on the efforts to pursue electronic textbook arrangements with publishers. New business models will need to be developed in order to make electronic textbooks feasible. Carmen may be a good tool to use to host textbook lists. Other options may be available. Joanne Dehoney will work with USG, the Libraries, and someone who is knowledgeable about PeopleSoft to explore options.

The Board of Regents charged OhioLINK to investigate ways to reduce textbook costs using electronic texts. Two pilot projects occurred during the fall at Miami and the University of Dayton. Focus groups were held with students. Faculty support is key. By and large, students are not interested in bells and whistles. Students also did not know how to use added features such as highlighting. The cost was about 45% of cost for print. Students liked the e-texts and wanted to continue using them, but only 36% preferred electronic to paper texts. Two or three more universities will join the project for winter quarter.

## 2. File Sharing

Bob Kalal presented on the current state of events around peer to peer file sharing and OSU's involvement through student participation in illegal activities. College-age students are the majority of the offenders. The majority of those involved know their activities are illegal. The industry claims calamitous losses. Others declare that file sharing has increased industry sales. The music industry is trying to develop new business models. Political leaders are getting involved, and the issue is bipartisan. Higher ed is particularly vulnerable because we have distinct student populations and we do not have highly paid lobbyists. Some statistics indicate that college-enrolled students are only 5% of the offenders. 20-30 OSU students have been involved in incidents, and most of them know what they did was illegal. Universities are Internet Service Providers and have content immunity for network traffic that passes through our network. Most universities respond to complaints rather than try to police network activity. The cost of policing is too high. Universities choose to educate students about the issues. CIC schools feel that their current educational efforts are not very effective. Illegal file sharing does violate residence hall policy and university computing policy. OSU has had fewer problems than its peers.

The RIAA is moving to a pre-litigation settlement agreement and asks universities to send the student violator a letter. OSU has received 19 such letters, and only 17 were verifiable and passed along to students. Bob spoke to about half of the students. The settlement offer was generally around \$3000. An Ohio judge has stayed a subpoena right now, so OSU is holding information about personal identities until further notice.

## 3. Author's Rights

Joe and Karen attended a Steering Committee meeting regarding the CIC Author's Rights agreement that the Council endorsed. The Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility did not agree with the endorsement. The Steering Committee sent the endorsement back to the Council on Libraries and IT for further study and reporting. The Libraries will gather more information to bring to the Council in January.

## 4. Future Meetings

Thursday, January 17, 11:00-12:30 in the Digital Union

Thursday, February 14, 11:00-12:30 in the Science and Engineering Library Room 390

Thursday, March 6, 11:00-12:30 in the Digital Union

