**HSL Advisory Council**

**Fall 2023 Meeting**

**October 9, 2023**

Meeting began via Zoom at 2 pm

**Attending**: Sherri Ulbrich, Jenny Bossaller, Deidre Wipke-Tevis, Alice Townsend, Mary Christie, Gayle Mooney, Chris Pryor, Taira Meadowcroft, and Terri Hall

Chris welcomed everyone, thanking them for taking time to attend, and noted that Diane could not be present for the Information Services Update part of the meeting. As there were a few new people on the council, everyone introduced themselves and identified their role at Mizzou. Chris thanked those who re-upped and those who are new, expressing appreciation for everyone’s insight and input on how the library can best help both faculty and students.

**HSL update:** The biggest update item is the building renovation. Since the council’s meeting last April, the space has been completely vacated and has already experienced the first delay. Construction did not begin in early summer as planned due to construction bid issues. That was fixed and demolition started in early September. Chris shared pictures of what was happening.

The compact shelving on the first floor has been removed and stored elsewhere on campus. It will eventually be repurposed. All the wiring has been pulled from the first-floor testing center and some of the carrels are in the atrium just outside the library. This is supposed to be temporary, but they are currently being used by students. Signs are now on the front door and brown paper on all the windows so no one can look inside. The main entrance has a large QR Code that goes to our virtual assistant. Chris shared floor plans, calling attention to where the open atrium currently sits. That area will be infilled and load bearing to accommodate furniture pods of some sort. All the stairs will also be infilled, and plans are for the walls to have new insulation with noise reduction and will extend to the roof. Plans are still to have five study rooms within the library. The computer classroom, built in 2020, will remain but with modular type furniture that will not be hardwired. This gives us more flexibility on what we use the area for, for example wellness and self-care programming for our students. We will have additional laptops available if we need to use the area as a small classroom. We will continue to offer print services and hope to also offer color printing since this has been a request from our students. Security cameras will be placed throughout the building in the hopes of one day going to self-study. The building is already set up to be badge accessible and most of our collection will be in a secured storage area behind the circulation desk. When we reopen, there will be about 5,000 items on shelves out on the floor.

We now expect to reopen in mid fall 2024. Chris said she will watch the progress closely and if there are just minor things still to be done and it is safe, she would like to offer the space to students who are studying for finals. There is a page on HSL website with information on the renovation, where people can go to study, and how they can get materials. (<https://libraryguides.missouri.edu/HSLLibraryRenovation>)

Most of our collection is either at Ellis or at the book depository and items can be delivered to HSL pick up lockers which are accessible 24/7. We do not have a book drop on this side of campus but have reversed engineered the lockers. Students can request a code and use it to return a book at the lockers. Most HSL staff are working virtually. Rebecca has a hybrid office at SON, Ralph is based 100% at Ellis. For some time now Diane has been trying to buy everything in a digital format. We are trying to make things convenient for our students and at the same time maintain as much personal interaction as we can. We will plan some kind of finals week event right in front of the library and have been discussing other ideas to connect with our students while the physical building is closed.

There are things other than the renovation happening at Health Sciences Library. The open journal software platform (OJS) has launched, and we can now publish open access journals on campus. The program is run by Steven Pryor, MU Libraries Director of Digital Initiatives. He will attend the HSL Advisory Council’s spring meeting and talk a little more about OJS. Chris posted a link to the OJS page : <https://journals.missouri.edu/> There are two journals up or in the works and we are near the point where we can take on additional journal publications. Jenny B asked if we would take journals not with other publishers and not open access. Chris said it depends on how the journal is being hosted. If the publisher agreement has expired, there is the possibility we can take it on.

We are keeping an eye on the merger with Capital Regional Medical Center and have notified the financial folk that it will impact several database subscriptions since many charge by head count for the licensing agreement.

The University of Missouri Libraries will soon evaluate a new interface for finding books and library materials. Last year, we launched folio which was a new catalog system. Now we are looking to improve our way of finding material, separate from the Epsco Discovery Service, which will allow users to find library materials, references, reserve items more easily, as well as manage requests and check out items. Steven is also the person who oversees this area, so if there is interest, he could talk about that in the spring as a part of his presentation on OJS.

One of our HSL Librarians, Taira Meadowcroft, was recently hired as the Community Health and Public Engagement Librarian. Her former position as information and data services librarian should be posted by the end of the year. We also have both a full and part time vacancy in our circulation department which we hope to fill before we reopen in fall 2024. Chris turned the meeting over to Taira.

**Engaging the community** – Taira has worked at HSL since 2014, first as a graduate assistant and then as an information librarian specifically for the hospital nurses. She also works at the public library and heads up Mizzou Library social media. Her new position draws on all those things: the public, the health aspect, and the engagement aspect. She emphasized that she is not the librarian for the public health program but rather her work is for the health of the public. This is a new position and Taira is spending the first year laying the groundwork, getting acquainted with people on campus and in the community and attending conferences such as the Missouri Rural Health Conference. In her former position, she helped with the Nurse Residency program and hopes to continue assisting nurses in a different capacity. She will also continue her work in health sciences library communication and on the MU libraries marketing team. Currently, she is doing an environmental scan to get a better sense of the health sciences library's strengths and weaknesses when it comes to outreach and various partnerships. We have a community engagement coordinator for MU Libraries, housed at Ellis. Taira has been meeting with her to think of ways we can make the health sciences library space welcoming and to let people know that we are there for them. Taira shared a few slides of programs and graphics that she has already done and hopes by the end of the year to have an outreach and engagement plan to strategically promote library services and resources.

There are three components to her role: the health of the MU community and beyond which would encompass the Columbia community and the state of Missouri, the promotion of the library in a way that positively affects the health of our users, and finally the development of programming and events geared toward what is important to our users. She would like to make use of the modular room we will have in the new building with things such as wellness activities, discussion of different health topics, and instruction for students on how to be healthy. Taira said that she had already been doing health and wellness activities during finals week, but she wants to expand that. Ideas include health related instruction webinars and workshops such as financial literacy, partnering with the financial planning office on campus, or meal planning with the dieticians in the hospital. Other ideas include bringing in massage therapy students or doing a yoga class. Those would all be geared toward medical students, College of Health Sciences students, and School of Nursing students.

Once she gets a sense of the needs of our varying user populations, Taira would like to explore grant opportunities. There's funding for things like health literacy, promoting health and wellness on campus, creating help information materials in different languages. During a recent meeting of the Patient Education Council, Taira, who sits on the council, sent them a link to Medline Plus, which they had no idea existed and were able to pull some useful information from it. Another challenge she has found is that there are topics and information not easily accessible to the public when they are not in the hospital, or websites no longer contain certain information. She hopes to partner with community organizations to get various information out to the public. Taira has spoken with the development manager at the Public Library about grants focused on public health within libraries. Early on in her professional development and training she recognized the public library’s ability to partner with the community and create an impact outside of traditional programming and would love to do the same at the Health Sciences Library to help campus public health. One idea is to partner with the Missouri Student Association to bring in free period products to the library. She and the community outreach librarian had a meeting with the person who advised the Mizzou group that brought in the period products to certain restrooms on campus. Taira would also like to expand upon a workshop she did a few years ago on best practices to evaluate health information on social media, looking at how influencers are the new medical information experts. The workshop taught ways on how to make sure that the information being relayed is correct. This is a topic she could partner with schools on. Taira ended by saying that these were all ideas she is exploring as she builds this position.

Chris said that if anyone is working on a project with an outside community provider, Taira can help with research – sort of as the project’s embedded librarian. Mary Christie asked what was meant by “outside provider.” She has a project that will hopefully launch in January involving rural clinicians, some of whom would probably be at MU or at Capital Regional. Is that an example of an external partner? Chris said we would need to see the project and see the extent of MU involvement. There would have to have some connection to MU for us to be able to help with the research.

Chris thanked Taira for her presentation and said they were excited about this new position. There is a definite need, and we are starting to get questions on how Taira could utilize our resources, databases, and journals to help support the the research endeavors of different project teams. She also has a lot of great ideas on how to support students and promote the library. If anyone has something going on that they want to share with us, or need support with, please let us know.

**Open discussion**  Deirdre had an issue to discuss. There have been several PhD nursing students that were unable to access ILL resources. Deirdre tracked the problem to the fact that the students had courtesy appointments which do not appear to have access to interlibrary loan materials. When looking into why they had courtesy appointments, Deirdre said it looked like doctoral students who do a teaching practicum are required to have a courtesy appointment to get FERPA training so that they can get into a canvas site. Bottom line, Deirdre thought if the students pay tuition, they should have access to ILL resources. She then said this might lead to another problem she wanted to bring to Chris’ attention. Campus has decided they are interested in tracking graduate student grants. Historically when a graduate student submitted a grant, their advisor was listed as the PI but that made it impossible to see how many actual students were getting grants. That statistic is important for several reasons, but unless the student is a GRA or a GTA it is almost impossible to track. The solution is to have the student get a courtesy appointment—which leads back to the problem of ILL access. Deirdre has a current student just starting this process – it will be 9 to 12 months before we know if the grant is funded – but in the meantime, while she has a courtesy appointment, she will not have access to library resources even though she is paying tuition. Deirde wondered if there was something Chris could do to assist with this.

Chris thanked her for sharing and said that it sounds like there is a gap in the system. She knows that courtesy appointments usually do not include access to ILL but promised to talk to some folk and see what kind of solution there might be.

There were no other comments or questions. We will see everyone again in the spring. Please let Chris know if there are any needs or concerns before then.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.