

## **Minutes of Librarian's Meeting, April 23, 2019**

**Present:** Heather Symon Bassett, Mari Kermit-Canfield, Melinda Isler, Fran Rosen, Leah Monger, Stacy Anderson, David Scott, Dejah Rubel, Sela Constan-Wahl, Kristy Motz, Ann Breitenwischer

**Absent:** Ali Konieczny, Paul Kammerdiner, Jason Bentley.

### **Call to Order (Isler)**

The meeting was called to order at 11am by Melinda.

### **Dean's Update (Bentley)**

None (for recent updates, refer to 4/15/19 "Monday Musings" email).

### **Approval of Minutes (Symon Bassett)**

None (November 27, 2018 minutes approved previously via email).

### **Recommendation of New Learning Management System (Rosen)**

Fran communicated updates and recommendations regarding the University's selection of a learning management system. FLITE is allowed two votes for systems of preference and Fran indicated that herself and Ali, as FLITE's representatives on e-Learning's Learning Management System Review Subcommittee, would like to recommend one vote for Instructure's Canvas and one for D2L's Brightspace (the other option being Blackboard Ultra). She noted that demonstrations of potential systems have taken place and discussed features of each system. The group was agreeable to the recommendation and thanked Ali and Fran for their service on the Subcommittee. Fran indicated that Fall 2020 is the target for complete implementation of the selected system and that some instances of early implementation were anticipated. She expected the learning management system selection to be announced by the e-Learning department in early May.

### **Michigan OER Network (Motz)**

Kristy reported on her involvement with the Michigan OER Network and provided general updates regarding OER developments at Ferris. At the direction of the Network, she has contacted public and private colleges and universities throughout Michigan to seek information on OER initiatives. What she has found is that most public institutions have some sort of OER initiative (five developed within the past two years) while fewer private institutions have adopted measures though there appears to be interest. Some private schools near Detroit seemed especially eager to explore potential cost savings associated with OER. Kristy reported that at Ferris, many colleges are using OER texts to some degree and that printed OER texts from OpenStax are available at FLITE to show interested persons on campus. She noted that the Ferris OER group is taking physical displays of OER materials to various sites throughout campus to

garner interest and that the group will have an OER display table at the next Academic Senate meeting. Ann inquired about obtaining savings information, and cited an example. In a recent *Grand Rapids Press* article [["GRCC Students saved \\$ 3.3 million using free textbooks from OpenStax"](#)], Grand Rapids Community College reported that savings to students resulted in more than \$1 million. Kristy anticipates substantial cost savings at Ferris, especially with the largescale adoption of OER material for all sections of an introductory health professions course, but specific cost savings at Ferris are yet to be determined. She requested that if anyone became aware of OER applications at Ferris, that they be communicated to her so that OER cost savings at Ferris can more accurately be estimated. Anyone interested in learning more about OER resources at Ferris may ask Kristy, Dave or Stacy, who are all members of Ferris' OER group.

### **Proposal to add Open Access Title to A-Z List (Rosen)**

Fran reviewed information from her proposal to add Independent Voices to the A-Z list sent prior to the meeting (see Appendix). She shared that her biggest concern was accessibility considerations and inquired what the group's preference was with regard to adding the resource. As related to accessibility considerations, generally FLITE would not be liable for considerations associated with paid content, but would be for content that is not paid for. Sela suggested checking the terms of the VPAT and noted that FLITE may choose to accept the liability and acknowledge that accommodations may be made. The group was in favor of proceeding as suggested and agreeable to adding Independent Voices to the A-Z list.

### **Collection Proposals (Rosen)**

Fran discussed some collection proposals for Fiscal Year 20, which were included in an email sent prior to the meeting (refer to 4/22/19 "Collections Questions/Proposals for FY20" email). She previously suggested eliminating the Wilson A&I package as the MeL Ebsco package includes a lot of the Wilson A&I content. She indicated that decision would need to be made and communicated to MCLS by mid-May. Fran noted that of the Wilson A&I content, the Biological and Agricultural Index Plus content is used more than other titles and one of FLITE's main options for finding biology content. She is consulting vendors regarding other biology options and will bring that information back to the group. Stacy expressed a concern that Social Sciences Abstracts (also part of the Wilson A&I package) is a useful tool to help students find Social Sciences content. Fran will investigate how much overlap there is with the MeL database package and what other options are available. The group agreed that the librarian liaison meeting that Scott had scheduled and is still on some people's calendars (5/21/19; 11 am-FLITE 442) should be held tentatively for a separate collections meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Submitted by: Heather Symon Bassett

Approved 5/28/19

## Appendix

### Proposal to add title to A-to-Z list

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Title: Independent Voices: An Open Access Collection of an Alternative Press Publisher: Reveal Digital

Description (from web page):

“Independent Voices is an open access digital collection of alternative press newspapers, magazines and journals, drawn from the special collections of participating libraries. These periodicals were produced by feminists, dissident GIs, campus radicals, Native Americans, antiwar activists, Black Power advocates, Hispanics, LGBT activists, the extreme right-wing press and alternative literary magazines during the latter half of the 20th century. Independent Voices is made possible by the funding support received from libraries and donors across the U.S., Canada and the U.K. Through their funding, these libraries and donors are demonstrating their commitment to open access digital collections. Content for the Independent Voices collection was selected through recommendations by scholars, librarians, publishers, and selected bibliographies. The copyrighted periodicals that are included in the Independent Voices collection are being made available by the explicit permission of the copyright holder, assignee, or transferee; which were obtained in writing by Reveal Digital. See Legal Notices for additional information regarding copyright.”

Rationale for adding resource:

- Content is useful for disciplines in the humanities and social sciences
- Content is important and high-quality primary resource content.
- Content is linked through SFX and also available via a webpage with strong and easy-to-use search capabilities.
- Resource was produced by vendor committed to accessibility and open access, and selection and development is supported by academic libraries and historians.
- Resource is provided on a well-known, easy to use, proven, and accessible platform.
- Resource is fully open-access.
- Resource is maintained by librarians and library-focused vendor with clear and comprehensive understanding of issues of access and copyright.
- Resource was developed to strengthen open-access community and to provide a useful model for the creation of open-access content.

Concerns:

“The searchable text and titles in this collection have been automatically generated using OCR software. They have not been manually reviewed or corrected.” (see Help section at <https://voices.revealdigital.com/>) This can limit the effectiveness of searching and the quality of screen reader output. There is hope for improvement: the information document about Veridian states that “Veridian is the only discovery and delivery platform to incorporate OCR User Text Correction (UTC).”

Additional information:

See:

<https://www.veridiansoftware.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Veridian-Platform-Features-andSpecifications.pdf>

## Appendix

### Proposal to add title to A-to-Z list

for details of the Veridian platform

In response to a query, Reveal Digital sent the following information, along with a VPAT file. "I have attached a VPAT statement for the version of Veridian's platform we are using for Independent Voices. We anticipate transitioning to the newer version of their platform soon, which will provide even better accessibility features. No date on when that will happen yet. " (Email from Peggy Glahn, Program Director, Reveal Digital, received Jan 15, 2019)