Librarian's Meeting.   Mar. 9, 2006   notes by Fran Rosen

Present: Scott Atwell, Ray Dickinson, David Scott, Melinda McMartin, Ann Breitenwischer, Rick Bearden, Julia Buryk, Maureen Watson, Fran Rosen, Yuri Konovalov, with Richard Cochran, Joe Weber & Leah Monger coming in later.

The first item of discussion was the Digital Repository. Fran had emailed 2 short documents describing the goal & purpose. The tentative name is FIR: A Digital Storage Space. Melinda discussed that usually Institutional Repositories are used for faculty research but we also want to use it for electronic documents, like the university's Affirmative Action Plan. Such documents will be migrated to new file formats and will thus be available "forever".

There was some discussion about faculty participation and how we will work with faculty, and how to approach faculty. The senate committee was one suggestion. An oversight committee was suggested, but we felt that this could happen later, after some faculty had gotten involved & we had experience with the digital space.

We discussed that communities set their own policies. We agreed that the library should have the goal of encouraging open access and sharing, but we can't enforce that. Plus, copyright might require that some files/material be kept inaccessible to people outside the Ferris community. There was concern that maintaining restricted files is not what libraries should be doing. On the other hand, sometimes ongoing research needs to be kept private.

There was general agreement that this is a good thing. Julia gave some examples of faculty in Visual Design who have plans to use FIR for learning objects, such as QuickTime tutorials. Richard thought this is a good opportunity to highlight some of the things Ferris is doing digitally.

We discussed that FIR should also house learning objects and WebCT objects. We can point to FCTL as a place to help faculty get stuff into digital format. The point about faculty involvement was stressed, and we want to get faculty involved early. Any suggestions are welcome. Bill Knapp brought up the idea of using FIR to store WebCT objects.

We have developed a list of formats and assigned them values indicating whether we will be able to maintain them forever, or whether they may not be able to be migrated to future file formats. This will help develop trust; if something is deemed Supported, there is no notion of it ever disappearing or becoming inaccessible.

This is also important because as people's web sites fill us, things are getting lost, and they should be put in FIR and access should be maintained. We have a server that can be used for this data.

After the FIR discussion, Richard made a few announcements: offers made to candidates, FLITE anniversary party; Planning UAPs are being finalized.

Richard then discussed the situation with IT and some reorganization they want to do that will negatively affect IT support for the library. This reorganization has been planned without FLITE input, which is counter to the 3 pillars that we are building Ferris around. Richard has written a letter to President Eisler, and will be talking with Michael Harris about this situation. There will be a Technology meeting Wednesday March 15th at 9 am and librarians are encouraged to attend to learn what is going on. The need for support for academic & library computing was discussed, plus the fact that everybody's priority should be the needs of Ferris students.

Joe announced that the VPAA is going to change the way he selects awards nominees; there is a new committee and we need to find a volunteer to represent FLITE. Julia will serve on the Faculty Awards Committee.

We will get going on the position vacancy announcement for the Reference & Instruction Librarian.