Library Committee
Final Report for Academic Year 2013-2014

The Library Committee for 2013-2014 was comprised of the following members:

- Bonnie Devet, English/Director of the Writing Lab
- Louise Doire, Religious Studies
- Jennifer Fox (Secretary), Chemistry
- Kathleen M. Foody, International Studies
- Miriam Klous, Health and Human Performance
- Lisa F. Signori, French, Francophone, and Italian Studies
- Robert Westerfelhaus (Chair), Communication

Meetings
As is the committee’s custom, we met twice during the academic year, once during the fall semester and once in spring.

During the fall meeting, the library was represented by:

- Claire Fund, Library Director of Administrative Services, who at the time was serving as Interim Dean;
- Katina Strauch, Library Assistant Dean of Technical Services;
- John White, Head of Digital Scholarship and Services and the Associate Dean for Special Collections and Digital Initiatives; and,
- James Williams III, Associate Dean for Public Services.

During the spring meeting, the library was represented by:

- John White, the newly appointed Dean of Libraries;
- Claire Fund, Library Director of Administrative Services; and,
- Katina Strauch, Library Assistant Dean of Technical Services.

Items/Issues
1) Library Strengths
2) Digital Content Funding Challenge and Its Implications
3) Special Collections Expansion
4) Library Renovation
5) Library Budget

Continued...
1) Library Strengths
Overall state of the college’s Addleston Library is very good. During the recent recession our peer libraries faced budget cuts due to the recession. Addleston did not.

One of the library’s strengths is its electronic and print collections, which reflect faculty input.

The library’s access to “rented” e-books as well as the Pascal Delivers interlibrary loan program (allowing it to request books from other SC libraries) greatly expands its effective holdings.

Recently hired librarians possess the computer science skills necessary to manage our college’s rapidly growing virtual library; future hires to fill positions expected to open due to upcoming retirements will also focus on candidates possessing this same skill set.

2) Digital Content Funding Challenge and Its Implications
A major challenge, faced by all libraries, is the high, recurring cost of maintaining access to digital content. This cost has kept the library from increasing its digital content at the rate faculty, staff, and students would like it to do so.

One consequence of these skyrocketing costs: If the library has no budget increase, this results in a de facto budget cut, because the costs to maintain e-resources increase each year, often quite dramatically.

Another consequence of the high and ever increasing cost of digital content was reflected in a committee conversation regarding limited access to recent scientific journals, with a couple specific examples noted by Miriam Klous and Jennifer Fox of online journal articles available at MUSC or USC/Clemson that are not available from CofC, despite those institutions having participated in a similar contract with Elsevier Publishing Company. This lack of access has the potential to harm faculty research productivity, student learning outcomes, and the college’s reputation.

3) Special Collections Expansion
The library’s special collections, already impressive, will double in December 2014, when it receives the SC Historical Society’s special collection.

Housing this collection of unique manuscript holdings will draw increased scholarly attention to our college in general and to the Addleston Library in particular.

It is unique for a non-R1 school to have such a large Special Collection.

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4) **Library Renovation**

Dean White emphasizes that he and his staff are committed to a balanced approach in developing the library’s physical space as a complement to the virtual digital content discussed above.

Renovation of the library’s physical space is part of a broader plan to bring the library into the 21st century. After the renovation is completed, strategic planning will commence regarding how best to continue this initiative.

Among the many changes included in the renovation project:

- 200 new seats,
- 3 new study rooms,
- 1 new lecture room,
- new Starbucks Café,
- more power outlets for mobile devices, and
- expansion of Special Collections in order to accommodate the library’s acquisition of the South Carolina Historical Society Collection in December 2014.

The first floor of the library will be open for the duration of the renovation. ILL and PASCAL interlibrary loan services will be available throughout the summer. Technical Services will relocate to the Reference offices on the 1st floor, and faculty should continue to submit orders for library materials as usual. Computers, Microfilm, and the Media Collection will not be affected by the renovation. Information concerning the renovation can be found at the Addlestone Library Improvement Blog: blogs.cofc.edu/Addlestone-Improvement

A new website will be introduced in August, concomitant with the opening of the newly renovated library building.

5) **Library Materials Budget Projection for 2014-2015**

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Respectfully submitted,

*Robert Westerfelhaus*