Library Committee
Report for Academic Year 2016-2017

The Library Committee for 2016-2017 is comprised of the following members:

- **Juliette Bourdier** (Chair), French, Francophone and Italian Studies
- **George Chartas**, Physics and Astronomy
- **Mari Crabtree** (secretary), African American Studies
- **Cristian Coseru**, Philosophy
- **Adam Domby**, History
- **Bethany Goodier**, Communication
- **Stephane Lafortune**, Mathematics

Non-voting *ex-officio* member, **John White**, Dean of the Libraries

**Meetings:**
The committee met twice during the academic year, as is customary, once during the fall and once during the spring semester. In addition to Dean White, the Library was represented by:

- **Heather Gilbert**, newly appointed Associate Dean of Collections (Nov. 11 and Mar. 30)
- **Lindsay Barnett**, Collection Development & Assessment Librarian (Nov. 11)

This year the Library Committee focused primarily on the Library’s materials budget. In FY2016-2017 the library materials budget was reduced by $123K and no additional funding was provided for approximately $88,000 in inflationary costs to maintain electronic journal subscriptions. The Library is making every effort to preserve the continuity of collections in serials and continues its commitment to maintain and expand the print collection. It is also expanding access to digital content through its ongoing DDA e-book program and streaming video program. This task is not easy, and Dean White has prepared two projected scenarios for FY2017-2018, based on the accepted FY2016-2017 budget. As usual, the official FY2017-2018 budget will not be released until the summer of 2017.
The FY2016-2017 budget did not cover the inflationary cost of journal subscriptions for the first time in at least 30 years. Should the proposed +4.04% projected inflationary cost for journals not be accepted by the Board of Trustees and covered for FY2017-2018, the Library’s one-time expenditure budget will be cut by 70%. Thus, adding online databases such as “Slavery in America” and “World: History and Law”, that enhance the Library’s holdings in those areas, will likely not be possible in FY2017-2018.

However, there is good news to report concerning collection growth, a definition once only including a count of physical volumes but now including subscribed/purchased electronic materials accessed via the web. Patron driven acquisition (PDA) via Kanopy Streaming Service has made new media available to the College’s users and has been praised by faculty and students, thus diversifying our collections by format as well as making the materials selected based on actual user demand immediately available to them.

Library renovations are underway:

Avery Research Center: closed for renovation through 2017

Addlestone Library: some classrooms have been refurbished and equipped with technology to record lectures for online courses as well as to evaluate students on their presentation. Over the summer of 2017, a new collaborative learning space/classroom will open on the first floor of the Addlestone Library. This new space will be funding by donations to the Friends of the Library and will be located directly under room 227 in the Henry Brown Wing of Addlestone.

The Library’s guiding philosophy in response to budget crises has always been to protect its materials budget. In addition to preserving access to existing materials, which includes journals and databases, it remains vigilant that its print collection is sustained and kept current. The best indicator of the strength of the collection at the College of Charleston is
that it is a net lender for both PASCAL Delivers and the worldwide interlibrary loan network.

At this point, current journal subscriptions have been examined, optimized and reexamined, and there are no easy cuts to make. In fact, the materials budget has no room left to make a multi-dollar adjustment without eliminating our patrons’ access to a major package plan of journals, generally core to a specific discipline which risks loss of accreditation to that discipline (something the Library would not consider).

We applaud Dean White and his staff for their rigorous examination of old and new ways to augment our collections with the best of newly published materials while realizing dollar savings through bundled collections, pre-publication discounts and shared consortial opportunities. Space in the stacks for new print material is not an issue due to extensive compact shelving.

To continue to provide students the education they want and deserve, they need access to up-to-date informational and curriculum support materials; to provide for faculty’s continued growth, they need access to up-to-date research materials, perhaps in several languages. To do this, the Library needs sufficient funding to maintain what it has now as ongoing subscriptions to journals and databases plus the ability to add new subscriptions as they are published or as the College introduces new programs or as its present programs evolve. Such access will continue to be costly. Even any contingency in which the Library budget remains the same (i.e., is not increased) is a de facto budget cut for the Library.

In addition to the cut in the materials budget, the library lost one staff line and one faculty in FY2015-2016. The savings from the reduction of staff helped cover the inflationary cost for FY2016-2017, but this pattern is not sustainable. Without sufficient increase in FY2017-2018’s budget to cover anticipated journal inflation, the Library will all but eliminate one-time database purchases that, outside their obvious positive impact on teaching and research, give the Library a voice in the publishers’ marketplace, may attract new faculty to the College, and provide enjoyment to our campus community.
We ask the faculty to provide this committee with their input on matters regarding the Library, and we ask that they encourage others to assist the Library by completing its surveys, as the Library is the heart of a college community intimately connected to all disciplines, all faculty, all staff, all administrators, all students. Its wellbeing is our own.

Respectfully submitted,

*Juliette Bourdier*, Chair