**CAS Library Committee Report Spring 2021**

**Chair**: Dr. Regina Hewitt (English)

**Committee Members:**

Dr. Golfo Alexopoulos (Interdisciplinary Global Studies and Institute on Russia), Dr. Jinfang Niu (School of Information), Dr. Eleni Manolaraki (World Languages), Dr. Kenneth Malmberg (Psychology)

**Goals**

The Committee’s primary goal is to serve as a channel of communication or an agent of dialogue between the Departments in CAS and the Library. We want to be able to collect and organize faculty concerns about library resources and services and share them with Library Administration, and vice versa: to bring answers and questions and information from the Library to the Departments. This term, the all-consuming concern was preserving resources endangered by budget reductions.

**Activity during the Spring 2021 Term—Identifying Crucial Resources and Ways to Cope with Change**

When the Committee first learned during the Fall of 2020 that budget reductions would have a tremendous impact on the journal subscriptions that the Library would be able to maintain, we began to develop a plan to alert our colleagues throughout CAS of the impending changes in journal subscriptions that could impact their scholarship and teaching and to ask them to identify the journals that are most valuable to them so that we might ask the Library to prioritize keeping those subscriptions or re-acquiring those subscriptions if they could not be immediately renewed.

But while conveying the seriousness of the situation and its urgency, we also wanted to convey a sense of hope and opportunity. We had learned through communications with the Dean and Associate Deans of the Libraries and through the Library Council meetings that CAS Committee Members also may attend about the Library’s plans to compensate for non-renewed subscriptions with expanded interlibrary loan services that make it possible for faculty to receive requested materials very quickly.

Committee Members began contacting Department Chairs soon after the term began in January. We worked by email, with each member taking responsibility for a number of Departments in the College. In response, we received helpful lists from our colleagues as well as questions and remarks about the difficulties subscription changes could pose. Because our colleagues took the time and trouble to explain their concerns, we were able to identify reasons why the interlibrary loan service might not meet the need for seeing multiple issues of a journal or for immediate access. When relaying these lists and concerns to Library Administration, we were able to underscore the concerns and request additional procedures to compensate be found.

We were also able to urge our colleagues to use the interactive suite of pages on the Library’s website to communicate their concerns individually and directly. As many of you will know, the Library’s suite of pages devoted to “Re-envisioning Collection Management” was impressively organized and comprehensive, listing journal titles under review and decisions made about them on a weekly basis. Anyone could see where a given journal was in the review process at any time, and Chairs as well as interested individuals received follow-up messages about requests on a weekly basis. I would like to express thanks to and admiration of everyone in the Library involved in making that system work so smoothly and in doing so much to stay in touch with so many of us personally during the process. The Committee used this system to submit the requests we had received, and we also exchanged additional messages to ask particular questions or call attention to particular needs.

As more individuals used the Library’s system, Committee members decreased their own messages to Departments. The process of coordinating with the Library and Departments on this matter helped to define the Committee’s role as an “agent of dialogue.” We were able to facilitate discussion of ways to cope with subscription changes as well as discussion of reasons why it matters that USF has its own subscriptions and immediate access to most of these resources and why we should hope for renewals or renegotiations in the future.

The Committee also noted that some subscriptions were prioritized by colleagues in several Departments. We think that this information about shared needs in the College could be useful in the future if collaborating on requests might be a way to strengthen funding applications. Apart from funding, it might promote dialogue within the College about common concerns. The Committee thus wants to promote dialogue among Departments as well as between Departments and the Library.

**Agenda for Fall 2021—Ongoing Attention to Resources, Emphasis on Video Resources**

As the Library is turning to its reconsideration of nonrenewed subscriptions, Committee Members will continue to follow and communicate about these resources, but we note a rising concern throughout the College with video resources—especially the streaming service provided by Kanopy—so we anticipate more dialogue about that matter in the Fall.

The Committee was previously involved with requests to keep Kanopy during the Fall of 2019, when a discontinuation of the full subscription would have negatively impacted classes in many Departments throughout CAS. During the Fall of 2019, Committee members collected the virtual signatures of 65 members of eight departments in CAS (plus three from the School of the Arts) on a petition requesting that the Library maintain that subscription. The petition was used by the Dean of the Libraries to support funding requests. But Kanopy may now be too costly a service to maintain, and it seems that alternatives need to be discussed or reasons why no alternatives are feasible need to clarified.

While endangered resources are likely to take up most of the Committee’s attention, we will also try to keep in mind and in play requests for new resources and for the services of librarians who play crucial roles in organizing research projects and in teaching methods of research in our classes. The Library is not just a repository of information but a generator of the inquiries that turn information into knowledge. CAS Library Committee members are eager to do all we can to appreciate and sustain it.