SCDC Minutes

May 11, 2020

Meg Brown-Sica (CSU), Diana Carney (Alliance), Dawn Combe (Regis), Beth Denker (Alliance), Katy DiVittorio (Aur), Jessica Hayden (UNC), Lisa Hughes (CMU),Yumin Jiang (UCHSC), Kathleen Kucharski (USAFA), Jennifer Lawson (CSU-Pueblo), Jennifer Leffler (UNC), Kayla Lenkner (CC), Allison Level (CSU), Michael Levine-Clark (DU), George Machovec (Alliance), Deborah McCarthy (UW), Anna Sieffert (CSM), Shannon Tharpe (DU), Gabby Wiersma (CUB)

1.       Elsevier: Martin Garner is no longer on the committee, he has taken another position.

a.       Update on any Elsevier response: There has been no response from Elsevier. George talked to our rep’s supervisor and they are working on a response. George told them that the terms they have received from us are probably best case for Elsevier, given the current situation.

b.       Discussion about reduction of perpetual access titles if Elsevier offers that as a cost reduction. Michael had a call with Mark McBride at SUNY. Their system is more like the Alliance than CAL or UNC. The outcome of their negotiation is that they walked away from a big deal and bought about 248 individual titles. They wanted to spend 50% less. Elsevier responded with one proposal of 1.7M decrease from cost with no perpetual access going forward. Beth thinks this is a positive. The pandemic is changing the conversation with various publishers. George noted that there is a large uptick in use of the Gold Rush title comparison tool. Michael thinks we have more perpetual access than we actually need, without having done any analysis. We have perpetual access for almost every subscribed to title, 1997 through end of 2020 contract. Combining our perpetual access with bronze open access titles gives us a lot of perpetual access. Elsevier is much more open to letting go of subscribed to titles. Our contracts are based on print subscriptions as of 2000. Pricing needs resetting. The Unpaywall data will help with this decision making. Publisher mindsets will also change depending on the inevitable decrease in library budgets. Michael mentioned that another large publisher has declared that they will stay at a 0% increase, but this may not be enough given the current financial situation. The world has changed significantly since we sent initial demands to Elsevier. Michael noted that DU looks normal for enrollment for fall, but there is no certainty to this and the budget will not be known until enrollment numbers are made firm in the fall. He mentioned that SUNY went with 248 titles as a group, but that the Alliance has never had a shared PA list. Is there value in having part of list be shared PA and then figuring out how to do title by title selection beyond the list? A shared list is good for smaller schools. Beth noted that it might be a good option for cost savings to have a shared list. However, individual titles are extremely expensive and administration of a shared list is a nightmare. She gets the feeling that deans and directors are looking at a shared list, or just access. Michael thought it would be ideal to take a cut in cost and keep access to the entire collection. Realistically there are probably 400 to 500 titles that nobody would miss. Please think about your specific institution’s needs and comfort level with access only. We need actual data to make these decisions.

2.       DDA Ebook/ProQuest:

Beth turned off Bloomsbury in the DDA plan so we didn’t run out of money. For cataloging records, they can be removed entirely, but will be turned on again in July and you will need to add them back. Beth will look at usage over the past year to determine next year’s cost. Purchasing Bloomsbury front list will cost additional money. We can also purchase unowned Bloomsbury back list. If you decide to renew DDA, we can use a percent of DDA budget for backlist and/or front list Bloomsbury titles. Katy mentioned that ProQuest might consider ILL rights for DDA books, similar to Elsevier and Springer/Nature. She had a meeting with ProQuest and they discussed how we might do ILL through Prospector. Not all publishers would participate, each would need to be negotiated. ILL would not just be for DDA, but for various ProQuest ebook programs. On July 1, do we want to keep the program going with the current funding level? Michael believes we should explore Wiley and Bloomsbury direct. In the particular budget climate they might be willing to give more favorable terms. DDA has turned into more of a backlist program and he thinks we might consider moving away from it. It is additionally problematic that we are paying full retail for backlist titles. Money will run out in the next 6 weeks. Do we want to continue with a smaller amount of money and keep Bloomsbury turned off? Beth will put together pricing and individual sites can say if they want to renew. Please decide if you want to consider keeping as is, purchasing from individual publishers, a combination, etc. Beth will survey only libraries in the program, contact her if you want in.

3.       De Gruyter eBooks offer: This is a university press program, piloting with a small number of institutions. The Alliance went with UPSO for university presses. De Gruyter is now competing on a larger scale. Beth is still working with the De Gruyter rep. on pricing. As of now, this is an affordability issue. UPSO cost per title in comparison is not great for Alliance because De Gruyter has a lot more content. UPSO renews for September upload. Something would need to happen or be decided soon regarding staying with UPSO or going with De Gruyter. Libraries that want to stay with UPSO can do so regardless of other libraries deciding on De Gruyter.

4.       EBSCO lowers % for renewals due to budget uncertainties: vendor conversations about inflation rates. EBSCO and ProQuest have third party contracts they are locked into. They are lowering inflation rates from 5 to 3% on products where they are not locked into contracts. Oxford is also keeping increases at 2%. Vendors are making reductions. EBSCO is largely FTE pricing. Schools might see enrollment reductions and this might affect pricing. George said EBSCO is promoting consortial management of subscriptions.

5.       Unpaywall: Any questions/feedback on demo? Sent JR1 reports. The CSU system JR1 report includes Fort Collins, Pueblo and Global combined. They would prefer to have them separate, but it is not possible at this time. The vendor is loading reports and still working out logistics for separating CSU system data and understanding how this works.

6.       Member Council endorsement of MIT Framework for Publisher Contracts – quick update: George has a list of consortia members who have adopted the MIT principles to be listed on their web site. Briefly, this is an idealized set of principles that we would like to see in publisher contracts. The principles are not always attainable, but adopters are moving toward these targets.

7.       Covid-19 related updates: UW: the university is still closed to the public, but some staff are working on ILL. There is some pressure to provide access to the physical collection and they are trying to come up with scenarios to make this happen. Despite the hiring freeze, they are still able to conduct two library faculty searches. CSU-FC is in a holding pattern. The Dean has been asked to do scenario planning for budget cuts. The university is virtual for summer school and fall orientation and they are scenario planning for fall. There is no news about furloughs yet, but they are possible. CSU-Pueblo is undergoing the same scenario planning. They have a preliminary return date of June 30th, but nothing is certain. UNC is looking at budget cuts. Their new Dean is starting July 1. One faculty search has been frozen, but they are moving forward with their music librarian opening. A few exempt staff positions have been furloughed. The cuts were pre-pandemic; it is unknown how much more will be cut. CUB is similar to other institutions: scenario planning for various cuts. Fall projections are looking good. They will have remote classes through the summer. Ordering and spending are more or less on hold. They are thinking about going back to work in a phased manner. Until they have fall enrollment numbers, nothing is certain. Gabby expressed curiosity about Prospector. The courier is not running now; it has not been determined how or when the courier will be running again. George and Rose will keep you updated. George reactivated lending for Elsevier, SILVR, and Springer-Nature, but there is not a lot of activity for this. Furloughs at the CUB library will be a last resort, but will depend on the budget. Regis: There is no information on the fy21 budget. They are talking about reopening in phases and they are experiencing hiring freezes across the board. Auraria has a hiring freeze in place. They are planning on 20% cuts for the next fiscal year. They are fully remote over the summer and summer enrollment is normal. Fall enrollment is currently 15% below normal and they have no idea when they will return to campus. Their funding is determined by 3 institutions, so accurate budget information might be delayed even further. Anschutz is looking similar to other CU System schools. They are planning on 5, 10 or 20% cuts and trying to balance between collections and operations. All hiring is on hold for now. The library is still closed, but there are students who don’t have Internet access, and have a special approval process access the library for Internet usage. A phased in reopening is in the works. DU looks ok with enrollment for summer and fall. This will possibly change if remote learning happens in the fall. There will be no study abroad in the fall and this could effect them dramatically. There is no budget information yet and no lay-offs or furloughs. A hiring freeze is in effect and they are planning for a phased reopening. For the library specifically, people are back in the building for scanning and book returns and that’s it for awhile. A new Provost will start in July. Air Force: They asked employees to volunteer to come back and about half the staff did. They are open 4 hours, Monday through Thursday. They have not heard about budget cuts or furloughs. They are working on a plan for sanitizing book returns. UCCS: No rep. from UCCS today. CSM is waiting until June for more information about the fall. The Library is closed through May 26. Summer through June 11 is all remote. The second summer semester scenario is unknown. The current budget information for the library is no new money and a 6.6% cut. They need to find about 120K in the collection budget to cut for the fall and it may end up being a larger cut. On campus vs. remote learning will have a big impact on the budget. There is a hiring freeze except for critical positions. They are currently checking in items to the library and checking for missing items from graduates. Books have been quarantined, but not actually cleaned. CC’s situation is very similar to other libraries. They have remote classes for the summer, it is unclear for fall, although enrollment numbers look good. There is no information on future budgets, but they are planning on cuts if they come. They are planning a phased reopening. The Library Director has left and the hiring for this position is still open. There is a hiring freeze for all other positions. WSCU: There was no representative attending from Western. CMU: All campus departments are doing scenario planning for on campus and remote learning. They are trying to avoid furloughs. In spite of a hiring freeze, they can still hire an e-resources librarian. They are doing curb-side pick up for items and doing physical scanning. Michael asked all SCDC reps. to please share information about your library’s and institution’s situation as it becomes known.

8.       Current fiscal year billings status and renewals updates: Beth: Cambridge billings will go out today and tomorrow. She has a new Springer license. Oxford pricing and May EBSCO pricing will go out soon. The pre-pay billings list should be completed tomorrow. Let her know as soon as possible what you need to pre-pay in the current fiscal year. DDA modeling will go out soon, too.

Allison thanked Michael, Gabby, George and Beth for leading the group, especially during this difficult time.