SCDC Minutes 6/8/2020

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Congratulations to George and Beth for winning the ALA Atkinson Award. We will celebrate when we are able.

1. Elsevier

a. Discuss Elsevier’s email and report on the Elsevier Negotiating Team discussion.

The response from Elsevier was sort of a non-response. If the Alliance wants what we asked for in our proposal, we will have to figure out how to do less. We need an actual response. George got back to them and asked them to respond to the key elements of the Alliance’s initial proposal. George also reported that, according to Elsevier, we could theoretically have a single contract; some sites having the Freedom Collection and others having a different configuration.

b. Subscribe to titles list (see attached – Diana/Beth)

Diana explained the process for updating the Elsevier title list and mentioned that some of the information in it was unreliable or incomplete (Cell Press and non-Freedom Collection subscriptions) and that titles not on current invoices, but listed as owned on the spreadsheet are lacking information such as when/if the title was dropped. A couple more sites need to have their ownership updated on the list.

Key:

\*= See Notes

C=Cell Press

D=Discontinued

M=Merged

N=Not on invoice/possibly cancelled by library or still accessible and up to date in library catalog. Perhaps an error on the invoice.

NST=Not a shared title

T=owned but title transferred

TC=Title Change

2. Status of Unsub (formerly called Unpaywall Journals): The company renamed the product from Unpaywall to Unsub. Beth sent invoices to everybody; she is still waiting on a couple of sites for payment. A couple of larger institutions have stepped up to subsidize this subscription. Unsub has not loaded our records; Beth and George are in contact with them continually to get this done and get it done soon. Michael mentioned that earlier customers had told him they were not great business people and had some efficiency issues. The subscription helps us in deal negotiation and there is some urgency as we are in the midst of the Elsevier negotiation and need the data to do the scenario analysis.

3. Pandemic reports and plans

a. Report from each site on their budget situation and plans for re-opening:

UW is expecting 20 to 30% cuts initially. Deeper cuts and furloughs are expected. They expect to open for fall semester. They are doing curbside delivery currently. Plans include testing and masks for everybody.

CSU has not announced budget information for next year. Allison does not believe it will be that drastic because their governing board is loosening up some reserve funds.

UNC is in wait and see mode. They are committed to some kind of fall semester in-person classes. There will definitely be budgets cuts and furloughs and pay decreases. They do not know when library staff will return.

CUB is expecting 5, 10 or 15% budget cuts; the library is planning on 15%. There is a potential furlough for faculty in July. A small number of people are coming in to check in books at the library. They expect in-person classes for fall semester and then plan to switch to remote learning/exams after Thanksgiving. There are different scenarios for opening the library, and they are still working out the details.

Regis: The University had already undergone significant staff reductions across campus prior to the virus shutdown. They do not anticipate staff decreases. The library opened last week for staff and faculty and will possibly open to some patrons in July. There will probably be a hybrid format for on campus learning and they are starting fall semester a week early.

AUR: There is a $33 million shortfall at CU Denver and there have been and will be furloughs. The library is starting with a 10% budget cut starting July 1 and will re-evaluate this in September when enrollment numbers are known. They are looking at an on campus and remote learning hybrid in the fall. Labs will be in-person; many classes will be remote. Ellen Metter has retired. Kelly McCusker is a new Auraria rep. on the committee.

CSM: For the second session the library is open for campus constituents, and students can check out print materials. They don’t have the demand for curbside delivery. There will be limited staffing until fall semester, but there are no concrete plans for anything beyond that. Most of the faculty and staff will work remotely indefinitely. 8 % to 10% cuts are anticipated.

DU: There will be a budget announcement tomorrow from the chancellor’s office. Michael could not disclose much information except to say that the collections budget would take a sizable hit. For fall the university is planning on being open with a mix of online and in person classes with limited staff. Fall enrollment is above budget, but DU is trying to rent hotel space to spread students out so they are not living in close quarters. There is limited staff working in the library now and no physical lending at this time.

USAFA: They anticipate hearing about budget cuts in August and are going ahead with summer session. They fall semester starts on-campus in late August. They plan on limiting building capacity to 50% of staff with masks required unless in you are in your office. As with most sites, they are anticipating a hybrid model.

UCCS: The library will be one of first buildings to open in July. The main floor will be open, the stacks closed. Holds will need to be placed and items retrieved for patrons from the stacks. ILL for physical items is still not happening. They were told to plan for 5% to 15% in budget cuts, but that is still up in the air. They are staying on campus for the entire semester.

CC: Library staff is working from home until August 1. Teaching faculty can pick up items from the library once a week. They are preparing for cuts, but are not sure what that looks like. There are many scenarios for opening in the fall, but nothing has been finalized.

CSU-Pueblo: A July 1 opening is possible. Summer sessions are all online and there is no information on the fall format. The library has planned a phased approach for opening that may include closed stacks and curbside service. If there are on-campus classes in the fall, everyone will have to participate in screening and mask wearing.

WSCU: They are not open to the public this summer, but hope to open after July 4. Three staff members were furloughed for June; there is not staffing information beyond this. They are doing some electronic ILL but no physical lending. If the staff remains on furlough, they will need to cut hours. They are looking at 20% to 30% cuts in their operating budget. For fall they are planning on in-person classes, starting a week early and online exams.

CMU: There is no word on the budget. Library staff are heading back mid-June half-time. They are full-time after July 1. There is no information on when the library will re-open. For fall they are planning for on-campus classes then online after Thanksgiving. The library is currently doing curbside service.

CU Health Sciences: They are preparing for 5% to 20% cuts, but there are no concrete numbers. The library is open for students with special needs, mostly for testing. Those on campus are being screened before entering buildings. Summer classes are all online. There is currently no concrete plan for opening the library. The feeling is that there will be mostly remote learning.

b. Other plans: George: Prospector is open for lending e-content from Springer, Elsevier and Sillvr for iLL. The Alliance is working with CLiC on courier re-openings. Before Prospector can re-open, we need some “anchor stores", larger institutions willing to lend. Prospector will likely have a phased re-opening. Rose has a Google doc she is updating about Prospector developments; George will share this with the group. Michael thinks it would be a good idea to continue to share budget and access updates in a Google doc. Beth can create a Google sheet for this purpose.

4. Alliance DDA Plan with ProQuest: We are down to the wire on remaining money for DDA. Beth is waiting on a few sites to indicate their desire to remain in the DDA program. Bloomsbury is still shut down. What should we do next year? Beth is getting pricing information on direct purchases of front lists, especially for Bloomsbury. Should we turn Bloomsbury on on July 1? More feedback and discussion is needed. Katy and the Alliance are continuing to talk to ProQuest about DDA publisher ILL (publisher by publisher, case by case): ILL issues go beyond the DDA program; it should be available for other e-book packages or individual titles and should work like SILLVR and be available through Prospector. The Alliance is meeting with them soon to discuss this.

5. Strategies for improved resource sharing for ebooks

a. What Alliance ebook contracts allow resource sharing: What can be shared across Alliance: George mentioned that Bloomsbury is breaking the bank in the DDA program because purchases are automatically generated after a 5 minute preview. A direct purchase of their front list is incredibly expensive and budget cuts will not be helpful in purchasing expensive front lists. It was agreed that we would have more leverage if we turn off Bloomsbury and keep it off.

b. What local contracts have resource sharing provisions that we should leverage: please look at local contracts and see if there are any clauses for sharing e-content in them. It would be helpful if the Alliance provided language for contracts for the future of digital content sharing. Beth could find current language and create a Google doc and we could crowdsource custom language for future contracts

c. Focus on resource sharing for consortial and local contracts where possible: If there is no universal ILL of e-content, maybe there could be Prospector or Alliance level ILL. Rose works with access service staff at Prospector sites on lending e-content. There is a technical component to making this happen and access services staff needs to be in the loop. Beth is finishing up Cambridge UP license and Cambridge Companions will be accessible via ILL. Even if the publisher/vendor answer is currently no, this issue should stay on our radar at renewal time. Beth will generate a Google doc providing sample language. Others can add what they have in local contracts and language that they would like to see in future contracts. Please try to have this by our next meeting.

d. Discussion on possibly coordinating scanning operations for course reserves and other local uses. Is there a point in trying to coordinate scanning chapters/articles for course reserves and sharing if something has already been scanned? Could we develop a centralized location for this information/process? Would it add more work and cost to the current process at individual sites? Some sites are scanning a lot, others not so much. It might make sense for some sites. Sites also have different policies about what they scan or how much of a work they can scan. Some are relaxing fair use requirements. There did not seem to be a lot of enthusiasm for exploring this idea.