INRS Library Advisory Task Force  
March 18, 2010, 3:30pm  
Room 1005 Forbes Natural History Building

Participants: Don McKay (Chair), Dave Kristovich, Laura Barnes, Susan Braxton, Scott Elrick, Anne Huber, Laura Kozuch, Brenda Molano-Flores, Tom Teper, Beth Wohlgemuth, Gary Miller, Cathy Bialeschki (recording). Absent: Jim Angel, Kishore Rajagopalan

1) Around the table introductions were made. Don McKay conveyed his hope that this advisory task force would operate as an open forum and thanked all participants for their willingness to serve. He noted that Anne Huber and Susan had distributed a link to a nationwide study of state geological survey libraries that is enlightening and suggested that the task force look at that document. He indicated that an important consideration is that the Institute library should continue to support the needs of Institute scientists appropriately.

2) Background info about the Institute Libraries - In December, Susan Braxton was named head librarian of the Institute library. Since then, she is asked often about where the institute library is located; something the advisory task force will need to address in the coming weeks.

   a. ISAS (Laura Kozuch) – A document collection became their library. About 90% use is by staff and there is occasional faculty use. Budget $500/year on acquisitions using F&A. Most material is sensitive with archeological site information not available to the public. IDOT series reports are documented in the library and they have docs also available for sale on the web.

   b. ISGS (Anne Huber) – Collection includes journals, books, reports from Illinois and other states with emphasis on other state geological surveys. Maps, photographs and field note special collections are available as well. Online catalog has been the focus recently. Working to get collection available on WorldCat. Library received grant dollars for scanning of cards to help with this online project. No annual acquisitions budget; spends ~$200/year. Employ three part-time helpers (two students and one retiree).

   c. ISTC (Laura Barnes) – Collection includes 10,000 volumes. Everything is cataloged electronically. Formed in mid-1980. First batch of holdings for CARLI is now in. Topics include renewable energy and biofuels, environmental chemistry, pollution prevention and industrial sectors, green business, environmental policy issues, etc. Some overlap with other libraries. Composition of collection is literature, governmental reports, some commercial titles, etc. With lean budget recently, no collection dollars have been available. Library services include responding to staff and public requests, getting pubs to the web, development of web-based bibliographies using refworks to develop data base of research of topics of interest to ISTC staff and keep ISTC staff informed of funding, etc. Employ one student helper 10 hours a week. Pubs are now entirely digital. Have several grants based in part on serving as a virtual librarian for the Great Lakes states and as part of a national network on pollution prevention.

   d. ISWS (Susan Braxton) – ISWS librarian retired in August 2008 and was replaced by a ½-time graduate assistant. In November 2008 Susan began assisting as interim
librarian for SWS. The graduate assistant left in December 2008. Their library covers all things water and includes 25,000 volumes. About $12,000 in journals were purchased through 2008; there are no remaining paid subscriptions. Nearly all of the previously subscribed journals were available at the UI, most online. There was no designated book budget; purchase requests for books were submitted by the librarian on a case-by-case basis. Grant funds were used to buy some books needed to support the funded projects. Susan estimated that the ISWS collection holds fewer than 100 books published since 2005. Currently, ISWS receives mostly free trade journals and newsletters, many of which are not held at UI. The SWS catalog is on a local network but only searchable in the library with librarian’s help, and is not a complete representation of the collection. Some books in the collection were held by UI and so effort was not expended to catalog at SWS. Most materials are represented in WorldCat. About 10,000 records are in queue to be added to the UI catalog, and about 1800 catalog cards are being digitalized so the records can be added to the UI catalog.

e. INHS (Beth Wohlgemuth) – The INHS collection dates back to 1861. In 1940 library moved to the Natural Resources Building and became affiliated with UI library. The INHS library has 70,000 volumes covering all areas of natural history containing information from local, national, and international resources. The holdings are in the UI Library’s online catalog. The INHS Library has over 500 current serial subscriptions, sponsors 3 journal citation databases, and online references and journals. Funding is provided by the UI Library and the INHS and also an endowment fund. The INHS library adds approximately 2000 items to the collection annually. The INHS library’s active exchange program is supported by the INHS. In 2005, the library moved from NRB to the Forbes Natural History Building. It Employs two part-time positions and has 20-40 walk ins per day.

3) Beth Wohlgemuth led a tour of the INHS library for all participants.

4) Tom Teper shared University library information noting the UI library has 11 million physical volumes and a total acquisition budget of $14.5 million and offers free access to the public and anyone affiliated with the University. The UI library is the largest library in CARLI. They partner with other campus operations, have an active gift program and many campus services. Tom noted they are here to help the Institute library as appropriate. He believes it makes great sense to collaborate especially during tough fiscal times.

5) Gary Miller shared that Bill Shilts left the task force charge open to allow each Survey to provide input and take a fresh look at this. Bill asking Don to chair this task force sends the message that he wants input from the Surveys about the path the Institute should take and to provide a vision of what we need. Gary noted representatives of scientific staff will be asked to provide input as well on the institute library direction and how best to serve the scientists. He thanked all for their time on the task force.

6) Don McKay asked advisory task force members to come prepared to discuss the following two items in detail at the next meeting.

   a. Discussion of proposed charge
   b. Discussion of proposed timeline
7) Future meeting schedule – The group agreed to meet next on Wednesday, March 31 at 2:00 p.m. in room 1005 Forbes Building.