Library Council
University of Toronto Central Library System

Annual Report of the Instruction in Library Use Committee
for the period September 2008 – August 2009.

Date of submission, 16 October 2009
Submitted by Sara McDowell, Chair, September 2008 – June 2009 & Richard Carter, Chair, June 2009-

Membership
The Instruction in Library Use Committee is a Standing Committee of Library Council, with members appointed by department heads to serve one-year terms with the possibility of reappointment. Membership includes staff from Central and campus libraries with direct responsibilities for library instruction. Members elect a chairperson annually.

Members during reporting period:

Ex-Officio
Carla Hagstrom (Coordinator of Instruction in Library Use, Gerstein Science Information Centre, ex-officio)
Debbie Green (Head, Reference and Research Services Department, Robarts Library)
Eveline Houtman Standing in for Debbie Green, from September 2009
Jeff Newman (Coordinator of Instruction in Library Use, Undergraduate, Robarts Library)
Sara McDowell (Coordinator of Instruction in Library Use, Graduate and Faculty, Robarts Library)

Appointed
Cris Sewerin (Engineering & Computer Science)
Roma Kail (Victoria University — from February 2008)
Elena Springall (Gerstein Science Information Centre — until December 2008)
Allison Bell (Gerstein Science Information Centre — from January 2009)
Suzanne Meyers Sawa (Music Library)
Julie Hannaford (OISE — until December 2008)
Patricia Serafini (OISE — from January 2009)
Elaine Tamura (UTSC — until December 2008)
Sarah Fedko (UTSC — from January 2009)
Sheril Hook (UTM — until January 2009)
Joanna Szumrak (UTM — from January 2009)
Kathleen Scheaffer (FI INFORUM — from October 2008)
Richard Carter (St. Michael’s College)
Laine Ruus (Data, Map and GIS Centre)
Maria Buda (Dentistry)
Kim Silk (Martin Prosperity Institute, Rotman School of Management — from September 2009)

Summary
The ILU Committee continued to promote information literacy and cooperation among campus groups serving student research and learning needs. One focus this year was on information literacy education for Faculty and Teaching Assistants, work which was carried out by two subcommittees described below. Another focus was on information technology, as reflected in the establishment of wikis to manage subcommittee work, the conversion of the ILU committee web site to the new version of Plone, and, most importantly, the development of information literacy learning modules for user education. The committee continued its interest in promoting active learning teaching methodology, through its annual full-day professional development event. The committee normally meets once a month, with time off in the summer and at Christmas.

Subcommittees

Learning modules subcommittee

Jeff Newman, Cris Sewerin, Sarah Fedko, and Sheril Hook worked together on drafting an online tutorial shell that could be modified by either librarians or faculty to help students learn information literacy skills. The result of their efforts was Re:Search, a tool that became available earlier this year thanks to the work of this committee and the programmers who put their ideas into practice. The modules in this tutorial tool have a 'front end' which the students see, and a 'back end' that enables librarians to modify module content and examples to fit their specific subject or course needs.

The group disbanded as an ILU subcommittee in the winter of this year, but continues to meet separately, and to keep the full committee aware of the modules' status.

Teaching Assistant subcommittee

The goal of the TA subcommittee was to create documentation for instructing TAs in teaching information literacy skills. The committee will complete its work in October 2009 and disband.

The TA sub-committee created three documents, a Learning Outcome document, a Lesson Plan, and a handout. The three will be made available to all librarians, to be adapted to suit their local needs.

Faculty information literacy subcommittee

The Faculty information literacy subcommittee was struck in order to develop materials to inform and educate faculty about information literacy issues. Its first work was to create a brochure providing an overview of the information literacy cycle. It will be completed in the fall of 2009.

Professional Development

December 8, 2008
What's in the Active Learning Toolkit?
Cory Laverty, an Information literacy specialist, led us in an interactive session on active learning principles and practices. Roughly 40 librarians from the three campuses attended, and the session received very positive feedback.

May 19, 2009
Jeff Newman presented the results of his sabbatical leave literature review on learning and teaching theory.

Communications

Wikis were developed to foster communication about subcommittee activities.

The ILU intranet site was updated to the new version of Plone. Kathleen Scheaffer has taken over responsibility for maintaining it.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara McDowell, outgoing Chair & Richard Carter, incoming Chair