Reference Services Committee
Minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2006, Alice Moulton Room,
Gerstein Science Information Centre, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Present: Laura Anderson (Rotman), Patricia Bellamy (Robarts Ref), Richard Carter (St. Michael’s),
Heather Cunningham (Gerstein), Elsie Del Bianco (Trinity), Margaret Fulford (Dentistry), Barbara
Geiger (Regis), Warren Holder (ITS), Hana Kim (East Asian), Marc Lalonde (ITS), Sandra Langlands
(Gerstein), Sam-Chin Li (DMGIS), Sara McDowell (Robarts CDD), Jenny Mendelsohn (Robarts Ref),
Gail Nichol (Engineering), Marian Press (OISE/UT), Elena Prigoda (Gerstein), Nalini Singh (FIS
Inform), Vicki Skelton (CIRHR), Stephanie Swift (CAUG), Susanne Tabur (Gerstein), Elaine
Tamura (UTSC), Jennifer Toews (Fisher), Ian Whyte (UTM), Gabbi Zaldin (Victoria)

Regrets: Alastair Boyd (Robarts/CAUG), Shauna Dorskind (Media Commons), Sian Meikle (ITS), Mary-
jo Stevenson (Robarts CDD)

1. Minutes of previous meeting:
The minutes of December 14th were approved with the following amendments:
   - page 1: change Gage to Sage,
   - page 2: change “working Sian” to “working with Sian.”

2. Business arising:
   ▪ Patricia reported that she was incorporating suggestions made by her colleagues in Reference
     and Research Services into the new library catalogue brochure.
   ▪ Stephanie reported that the known Sirsi bug, regarding blind name authority cross references
     with an open date, will be fixed in the next release. No date has been set yet.
   ▪ Nalini asked the group if anyone was interested in a subscription to Internet and Personal
     Computing Abstracts (IPCA) as FIS no longer has access to this database. No one responded.
   ▪ The group discussed the labeling of trial databases in Scholars Portal Search (SPS) and
     proposed Trial until day/month/year. We decided to refer this to the SPS Committee for a
     recommendation.
   ▪ Marian asked what was included in Proquest @ Scholars Portal, and if the database would be
     listed in its component parts in SPS, for example, Proquest Education Journals. Warren
     replied that the newspapers were not included in Proquest @ Scholars Portal. Marian will
     bring the second part of this question to the SPS Committee.

3. Reports and/or Announcements
   a) Marc Lalonde reported on Sian’s behalf.
      The usability studies carried out in 2005 demonstrated that many library users have little success in
      finding journal articles. The most common search strategy was to plug in keywords in the search
      box on the home page. This observation shaped the new redesign of our current homepage:
      http://main.library.utoronto.ca/index_articles.cfm

      Marc then gave us a tour of the highlights of this web page. A search entered into the search box
      labeled Search for your topic in Scholar’s Portal will insert a Boolean AND and limit the search
results to the top five databases. For example, a search for *democracy* retrieved the following five databases:

- IBSS: International Bibliography of the Social Sciences
- Proquest @ Scholars Portal
- Social Sciences Abstracts @ Scholars Portal
- Sociological Abstracts
- Worldwide Political Science Abstracts

Nalini asked about the wisdom of a SPS search box on the home page providing a Boolean **AND** and on the SPS search page the default is a phrase search. Marc observed that currently, SPS uses Alta Vista, which defaults to a phrase search; however, CSA is considering changing this at some point in the future.

Jenny suggested the following revisions:
- Make the link to the library catalogue more visible on the Find the best research resources for your topic page.
- Place search examples under the SPS search box.
- Change the order on the home page to Let us recommend the best databases for your topic » Or search for your topic in Scholar's Portal:

Marc reported that more memory has been added to SPS and that the SPS subject groupings are almost ready. The new **Read more**s have not yet been integrated.

b) **Warren Holder’s Report**

Warren reported that he is working on the Coutts MyLibrary platform. He added that we would be receiving 11,320 e-books from Taylor & Francis. The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN, formerly CNSLP) is looking for new products in the humanities and social sciences, such as Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO). We have many of the titles suggested.

Some of the new databases coming soon are Art Store, Alexander Street Press titles, and Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) publications. Watch for further announcements on these resources when they become available.

c) **OPAC Display Subcommittee/Susanne Tabur**

This committee will meet in the near future.

d) **Scholars Portal Search Subcommittee/Sandra Langlands**

This subcommittee will have its first meeting January 17 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Alice Moulton Room. Sandra then listed the names of those people who expressed an interest in participating in this group: Gail Nichol, Heather Cunningham, Julie Hannonford, Marc Lalonde, Ken Lavin, Marian Press, Elena Prigoda, Barbara Chu, Dana Kuszelewski, Jenny Mendelsohn, Sara McDowell, and Patricia Bellamy.

e) **Web Advisory Group/Heather Cunningham**

The WAG group has been busy with the redesign of the article centre as we have seen demonstrated today.
4. Reporting database access problems / Sara McDowell:

Sara asked what the best way to report database access problems is. Marc replied that the yellow triangle is the preferred method as the problems are then redirected to the most appropriate person. It was pointed out that not everyone sees the yellow triangle. If this is the case at your computer, send your IP address(es) to Marc Lalonde. Sara suggested that this should go out to RefInfo as others who were not present at today’s meeting need to know this.

As a second option, problems may be reported to mailto:e-problems@library.utoronto.ca

Warren wondered if the new Electronic Resource Management system has a reporting feature which would provide us with a third possibility of reporting problems.

Marc reminded us that if there is a known problem with a database, a note is put in EIR.

5. Guidelines for Crediting Instructional and Reference Works/Sara McDowell

Sara presented the guidelines for crediting authorship as developed by Margaret Fulford, Cris Sewerin, and Sara on behalf of the Instruction in Library Use Committee (ILU). Sara reported that Jeff Newman is creating a web page for the ILU committee where these guidelines will be accessible. What about material adapted from the web? Sara was asked to provide an example of a collective author from a particular library.

6. CORIL Update / Marian Press

OZone provided by Ontario Scholars Portal : CORIL
https://ospacer.scholarsportal.info/handle/1873/6

Marian reminded us about CORIL, the learning materials repository, which contains a number of resources that can be adapted for instruction, with proper acknowledgement, of course! She pointed out that UTL does not have anything up on this site, and she encouraged us to submit any of our learning materials to CORIL.

7. Other Business

Nalini reported that EBSCO has made Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA) database freely available on the Internet. Go to www.epnet.com for access; however, there will be no SFX access from this site. We do subscribe to Information Science & Technology Abstracts (ISTA), a subset of LISTA, where you will find SFX links. Should we handle this site like PubMed?

Jenny reported that the General Reference Department is changing its name to Reference and Research Services.

Gail reminded us that we now refer to e-indexes as article databases, and she encouraged us to change our handouts to reflect this terminology.

Meeting adjourned.