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Herewith an overview of my work as interim University Librarian since our last Library Council meeting (September 25). I begin with an apology to Council and to the team members in Administration, Outreach, and Access Services for, once again, not having organized a “unit report” for AOAS in time for Council. I am moving to harmonize the formerly separate “Circ” and “Admin” meetings into something that will hopefully work better for all concerned, but with all the demands on peoples’ calendars, it is taking longer than hoped. I am certainly committed to having AOAS unit reports organized for future Council meetings.

“Conduct a holistic quality assurance assessment of the Library, which includes a self-study.” (Strategic Plan – Goal C-5)

The QA Advisory [Review] Team visited the Library on October 27-28. The external team members are Mark Jordan, [Associate Dean of Libraries at Simon Fraser](#), and Jennifer Richard, [Dean of Libraries and Archives at Acadia](#); the UPEI Team member is Dr. Jo-Ann MacDonald, Professor and Acting Associate Dean at the Faculty of Nursing. Their report and recommendations will be submitted by the end of November.

Library Partnerships, External (Strategic Plan – Goals A-1, B-4)

- I attended a day-long Resource Sharing Summit in Halifax on October 20, organized by our regional Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL) consortium, in partnership with other Canadian regional academic library consortia. Much of the discussion focused on changes and challenges in the marketplace for technology platforms that academic libraries use to run interlibrary loan (ILL) services, which was especially timely, in light of the vendor’s plan to sunset the RelaisILL program used by the Robertson and a number of CAAL partner libraries.

- On October 21 – 23, I represented the Robertson as a member of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) national consortium at CRKN's annual summit and AGM, also held in Halifax. CRKN will be negotiating renewal of a number of important content licenses (mainly for e-journals) on behalf of member libraries in 2025-2026, and was given a strong mandate from the membership to pursue cost reductions where possible. Members also voted a modest funding increase in support of CRKN's Canadiana heritage digital collections platform.
- Juanita Rossiter, Keltie MacPhail, Sarah Leyenaar, Nadine Murray, Alysha Aitken, and myself hosted a visit from Samantha Kelly, Curator of the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation, and a number of her colleagues from the PEI Artifactory team, on October 24. We have collaborated with the Foundation on a number of digitization and exhibit projects over the years, and this was an excellent opportunity to further build ties between our organizations.
- As interim University Librarian, I am now a member of the LM Montgomery Institute Management Committee, which met most recently on October 17. I recently submitted a letter of support for a Commemorate Canada grant application to fund an exhibition/event celebrating the 2026 centennial of Montgomery's Ontario-set novel, *The Blue Castle*: if this goes ahead, it will be a welcome opportunity to collaborate with the LMMI and the University of Guelph Archives and Special Collections.
- Donald Moses remains active with the PEI Seniors College, including organizing the "UPEI: Sharing Our Research" series. At his invitation, I gave a (Zoom) presentation on October 10 about my sabbatical research on Canadian academic archives and records management; given the subject matter, I was uncertain as to how the "students" might respond, but there was quite a bit of interest and a number of positive comments and questions.

"Reinvigorate the Library's physical ... infrastructure to create inspiring and inclusive spaces."
(Strategic Plan – Goal C-4)

- I submitted feedback from the Library team on design concept plans for the proposed Library lobby renovation on September 26; Juanita Rossiter and I are also continuing to provide feedback on the University Archives and Special Collections (UASC) expansion proposals. September 26 was the "final call" for Library feedback, and we should soon receive more detailed project plans, including initial costing.
- As part of the plan to reinvigorate student spaces, the Gray Group has made a \$10,000 donation to the Love Our Library campaign to support the purchase of accessible (height-adjustable) study tables for the Library. I am working with Alysha Aitken now to spec and order this furniture.

Library Sustainability – Staff Team (Strategic Plan – Goal C-4)

- I worked with UPEI Human Resources on candidate shortlisting, interviewing, and selection [for the PT Library Technician \(Access Services\) position](#) through mid-October. Former Library student assistant Samantha Daley was the successful candidate and took up her duties last week.
- Approval was secured to extend the contract of Programmer Analyst Alan Stanley for six months (to April 30, 2025). Alan will continue his work as part of the Digital Initiatives and Systems team, supporting the migration and upgrade of Library Islandora-based collections.
- I have begun the approval process to extend the PT term appointment of the Central Printing technician, and to have the FT term library technician position in Acquisitions (with weekly shifts supporting UASC) filled as a permanent position before the end of the year.

Library Sustainability – Budget (Strategic Plan – Goal A-1)

- I am preparing the 2026-2027 Library budget submission for the Vice-President, Academic and Research (presentation scheduled for November 21), and have booked a consultation meeting with the librarians for next week.
- Although the ILL Working Group's fact-finding and research is still in progress, I do plan to alert Vice-President Naterer this week that we may have to prepare for additional expenditures to continue support our ILL services after RelaisILL is sunset by the vendor next June.

Library Partnerships, UPEI (Strategic Plan – Goals B-1, B-4)

- Ensuring that the Library remains actively engaged in UPEI's academic planning and governance is a key priority of the UL portfolio. Since my last report, I have participated in meetings of the following bodies:
 - UPEI Senate
 - *A notable item of discussion at the October 24 Senate meeting was the proposed revisions to the Sale of Course Materials, a proposal prepared with Library involvement. Although the proposal was tabled for further review and discussion, appreciation was expressed by the President and by student representatives for the Library's efforts in keeping course materials affordable.*
 - Graduate Studies Advisory Committee

- Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee (APCC)
- Vice-President Academic and Research Advisory Group
- As a member of Dean's Council, I participated in the October 15 Leadership Cafe, one of a series of planning and leadership development workshops for UPEI academic administrators, managers, and directors, led by President Rogers
- Keri McCaffrey and I had a productive meeting on October 1 with Neal Gillis in UPEI's Communications office regarding the temporary measure implemented earlier this year to replace the UPEI website's faculty listings with links to IslandScholar profiles. Neal expressed appreciation for the Library's support on this, but also noted that there is general agreement from all parties – including Communications and faculties/departments -- that IslandScholar cannot and should not be a public “faculty directory” over the long term. A workplan is now being developed by Communications, in consultation with ISS, to revive the UPEI website's faculty listings.
- Tim Walker, Vice-President Administration and Finance, is scheduled to visit the Library this afternoon (October 29) as part of his ongoing fact-finding tour of campus buildings and facilities. I know that deferred maintenance and infrastructure investments are very much “on his radar” generally, and I look forward to the opportunity to highlight the Library's particular needs in this regard.
- The Library's 50th Anniversary Kitchen Party on September 27 was an enjoyable evening of music, food, and conversation. About 45 – 50 people attended over the course of the evening, including several retired colleagues, a number of current and former UPEI students, as well as Anthony Gill, Director of Development and Alumni and Engagement, and Vice-President Naterer (along with a goodly number of “plus ones”).