

## **Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC)** – April 3, 2020

### **Attendees**

Students: Alex Cuadrado (Italian), Laura DiNardo (Italian), Rads Mehta (Columbia College), Gustie Owens (Barnard College), Jack Rossiter-Munley (Journalism), Nicole Saldarriaga (School of the Arts), Rahim Hashim (Biological Sciences), Spencer Szwalbenest (General Studies), Jack Rossiter-Munley (Journalism)

Columbia University Library Staff: Rob Cartolano, Jim Crocamo, Mona Elayyan, James English (Lyrisis), Sophie Leveque, Jeremiah Mercurio, Allison Morrow, Barbara Rockenbach, Michelle Wilson, Breck Witte

### **Agenda**

In the February meeting, SLAC discussed eBooks. This meeting focused on the app SimplyE and updates about how the Columbia University Libraries is supplying more eBooks to support research, teaching, and learning.

#### I. Brief eBooks update

A. We added 98,000 eBooks from Taylor & Francis to CLIO with unlimited download, PDF access, full book

B. HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access has enabled access to 40% of our print collections available via CLIO and HathiTrust

C. Academic SimplyE is our effort to develop a SimplyE for Columbia continues

Students suggest we get the word out about the Hathitrust temporary access as broadly as possible.

#### II. Feedback on SimplyE

A. Did they try it?

B. For those that did, what were experiences? How was the access to books, interface, etc.

C. For those that did not, what have they been doing to access eBooks during this time?

#### Student Feedback:

- SimplyE needs more academic titles that students use regularly in their disciplines. Example: Principles of Neural science by Eric Kandel.
- Foreign language and older publications will be important for research in many disciplines
- SimplyE currently seems best for leisure reading rather than research due to titles included
- CLIO is considered the primary point of access for collections. Student don't imagine searching within SimplyE for titles; though some suggested an advanced or faceted search to help with searching

#### III. Student Transition to Online Learning

We asked the students to comment on the following questions:

- 1) What has been the most challenging aspect of moving to online learning?
- 2) What have you needed from faculty during this time that you didn't expect?
- 3) What have you needed for your research and learning that has been difficult during this time?

Student Feedback:

- Engaging instructors are less engaging online
- Blackboard work, graphs, charts, etc. less effective, at present, in Zoom environment
- Instructors haven't mastered the Zoom technology yet, causing class disruptions
- A graduate student TA mentioned that the CTL, CUIT, and others have provided many training opportunities and recommendations for teaching online
- Classes have had more PowerPoint presentations and more student led work
- It is hard to maintain focus online, especially in longer classes
- End of semester projects have been canceled because faculty felt research materials would not be available. Students felt this indicates a lack of awareness of the student research process. Students would have done most of their research with online materials even if the physical libraries had been open.
- Zoom breakout work well if the instructor knows how to use them
- It is difficult to take notes on your laptop if the presentation is on PowerPoint. Too much going on on a small screen.
- It would be helpful to have access to software remotely that is only in the Libraries.  
Library response: we do have a solution with CUIT for this issue. Please contact [witte@columbia.edu](mailto:witte@columbia.edu) if you have a software question.
- Some students expressed concern about not having access to archival materials during this time, especially for student who received funding or travel to visit archives this spring and summer
- Humanities PhD students struggling most without access to print books. It would have been better if students had more warning about retrieving items from carrels and lockers Library response: We can work with Public Safety to allow students to get to lockers and carrels. Contact [barbara.rockenbach@columbia.edu](mailto:barbara.rockenbach@columbia.edu)

Communication items for student sharing in newsletters, emails, or social media:

1) Although physical library locations are closed until further notice, we are committed to maintaining a vibrant online site of learning at the center of the University's intellectual activities. Millions of items from our collections can still be accessed online. Our expert staff continues to remain available by chat, phone, email, or Zoom. We will continue to offer workshops and instruction sessions remotely. Most importantly, we are here to help you navigate new challenges in teaching, learning, and research. During this time, [Your Libraries Online](#) is the gateway to the services, tools, and collections available to the Columbia community. We are ready to help.

2) If you have a question about how to access materials digitally, our [Ask-a-Librarian service](#) is the best way to get help quickly from a Libraries staff person. We've extended

service hours for the remainder of the semester (Monday - Thursday 9am-8pm; Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday - Sunday 12pm-6pm).

3) 40% of Columbia's print collections are now temporarily available in digital format following HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service announcement. [Here's how to access those materials.](#)