

Library/Historical/Archival Committee
End-of-Year Report
2020-2021

The members of the committee this year were: Jason Bentley (Ex-Officio), Melinda Isler (Ex-Officio), Joshua Pardon (Chair), Christina Hollenbeck, Beth Schoenlein, David Scott, John Conati, Matt Moresi, Mary Beaudry, Jana Pisani, Dan Pratt, and Anna Sangster (Student Government representative).

- **Impact of COVID-19:** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presented several challenges for FLITE operations and staff. However, this crisis also presented opportunities for a fresh look at the FLITE building and procedures, such as:
 - Sanitizing of physical books.
 - Organization of digital processes and content.
 - Physical adjustments to make the space safe (informational stickers on items, etc.)
 - Refreshing study rooms and other physical spaces in coordination with the Physical Plant.
 - Optimizing instructional spaces for HyFlex and remote courses (A/V, etc.)
 - Better tracking of peak times of activity in the library.
 - Migration of custom software for programs (DAGD, etc.) into lab spaces.
 - Strategies to gather data for density mediation and occupation management within the building.

- **Strategic Plan:** After review efforts that took place during the previous academic year, the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan has been finalized for KCAD and FLITE. The committee reviewed the final draft of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and noted that the presentation was more attractive and had more design elements than prior drafts.

- **Website:** In coordination with UA&M, the FLITE website will be migrated to the new website template during Summer 2021. Plans were discussed to add more “marketing” features to the website, as well as ensuring that the existing customization of the FLITE website translates to the new template.

- **Staffing:** It was anticipated that all Tenure-track FLITE faculty would be either reappointed or granted tenure this year. The search process for replacing the retired Kristy Motz was suspended. The search process for replacing the Systems Librarian position vacated by Sela Constan-Wahl was also suspended.

- **Archives:** Throughout the academic year, the Archives worked with vendor DiscoveryGarden to migrate material from the Ferris Institutional Repository (which contains all theses) and Resource Base (which contains all photographs). Two grants are funding these migration efforts and the goal is to make both systems publicly available and viewable to users as a single, merged system. The new migrated system will incorporate materials from local historical societies

and libraries in the area. In addition to the migration efforts, the anticipated renovation of the Alumni Building should result in a significant improvement for the Archives.

- **Faculty Feedback:** Committee Chair Joshua Pardon coordinated efforts with committee members to poll other faculty in their respective colleges to find answers to questions such as 1) “How are faculty using the Library?” and 2) “How would faculty like to use the library that they currently cannot?” The resulting faculty feedback, while quite useful, was also quite specific and tailored to the specific needs of each responding faculty member. Thus, the feedback was difficult to generalize and draw broadly actionable conclusions from. It was suggested that perhaps future polling of the faculty could have questions with better phrasing such as 1) “How could FLITE better help your curriculum and instruction?” and 2) “What assignments are you giving your students that FLITE resources are currently unable to assist with?”
- **New Textbook Provider:** Akademos is replacing Barnes & Noble as the University textbook provider as of Fall 2021. Apparently, Akademos can link academic resources (open-source resources as well as those from FLITE) directly into Canvas course shells. Plans were discussed to send FLITE faculty to training to find out more about how this integrates.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these notes, please email me at pardonj@ferris.edu.

Sincerely,

Joshua Pardon, Chair
Library/Historical/Archival Committee