**EAR Committee Report**

**Presented to Members of COLD**

**September 28, 2017**

**Mark Stover, Chair**

The first meeting of the EAR Committee for the 2017-2018 academic year took place via Zoom on September 8, 2017. EAR will meet quarterly via Zoom throughout the year, along with one face-to-face meeting in March at the SCELC conference in Los Angeles.

All EAR Committee reports, documents, and minutes will be stored on Confluence. Documents from the last year or two are already there, but most of the previous EAR documents are still on Sharepoint. The Vice Chair of the EAR Committee, Michele Van Hoeck, with the help of Stacy Magedanz and Ying Liu, will work to move everything from EAR over to Confluence from Sharepoint in the next six months.

EAR is requesting that complete copies of all vendor contracts be made available to EAR members and others in the CSU who might need to see these documents. The Chancellor’s Office will investigate this possibility. A proposal was also made by an EAR member that the Chancellor’s Office negotiate for text and data mining to be included in future licenses. This will be discussed in further detail at the next EAR meeting.

The Committee discussed various recommendations that were sent at the end of last academic year to COLD. These recommendations included:

* **Budget request**: EAR has asked for two separate budget increases for the ECC. The first is for one-time funds totaling $1.3 million over five years. The second is for a $1 million increase to the base (currently $5 million) for EAR, again to be phased in over 5 years.
  + Brief rationale: The base budget for the ECC has been at $5 million for more than seven years. One-time money has staved off disaster, but we are at the point where cancellations will be required to stay within budget. (Lexis-Nexis was canceled last year and we subscribed to the less expensive WestLaw.) A flat budget of $5 million has been preliminarily approved for 2017/2018. There is no decision yet on a requested 2017/18 augmentation of:
    - $135,000 increase to the ECC base to make up for expected deficits caused by inflation;
    - $90,000 increase to the base to grow content in the ECC;
    - $200,000 one-time increase to acquire electronic books and media, along with new JSTOR content.
  + Consequences of failure to increase the ECC base budget will primarily be the need to cancel subscriptions in the ECC. Our July ECC subscriptions have already been paid. If we need to cut subscriptions, it will be easiest to do so from the January renewals, but there is language in the contracts that will allow us to cancel items already renewed in July if there are budget difficulties. However, if the base is not increased, one-time bailout funding may allow us to avoid cancellations.
* **Analytics**: the recommendation from last year’s Analytics subcommittee has been sent to COLD. The Analytics subcommittee will review the recommendation and send selected elements to the ULMS Assessment and Analytics group.
* **Ebooks**: the recommendation from last year’s Ebooks subcommittee has been sent to COLD. Volunteers will work on implementation and developing further recommendations.
* **Streaming Media:** The recommendation from last year’s Streaming Media subcommittee has been sent to COLD. Volunteers this year will work on developing a pilot project. Funding challenges were discussed, and the suggestion was made to ask some of the larger campuses to contribute to a pilot or to ask COLD for funds for a pilot.

Other topics discussed at the September EAR Committee meeting (or via email after the meeting) included:

* Web of Science issues. (Some campuses would like to use alternatives to Web of Science, but there are problems with this approach, such as the hefty investment that many campuses have made in the Web of Science backfiles, the reliance on some tenure and promotion committees on Web of Science analytics,
* Possible Proquest ebook textbook initiative. (The Committee would like to investigate this, since there may be funding from Affordable Learning Solutions funds. However, for the initiative to work, Proquest will need a list of all required textbooks from a critical mass of CSU campuses, a difficult task. One possibility might be to have a pilot project using only the campuses with Follett bookstores, of which there are about 12 or 13. However, the Committee cautioned that AL$ funding for this initiative might be in the way of providing increases to the ECC budget).
* Elsevier ebook offer. (The Committee is not sanguine about the offer, given that the costs are still fairly high and given that most CSUs do not have the need to own STEM research monograph ebooks).
* Open Access Crowdfunding Models. (These models include initiatives such as Reveal Digital and Knowledge Unlatched. The consensus from the Committee is that EAR is probably not the best mechanism to support these types of initiatives, however worthy they may be).