UCAR Member’s Library Break-Out Session

Library has new leadership in Mary Marlino

  Undertaking an assessment and planning effort with the goal of making the library central to NCAR and to the wider university community.

The NCAR library has to serve both as a lending library and as an institutional archive. Needs to become a facility that fosters research and collaboration as well as supporting such research with information →

  Need to consider the physical layout of the library and how it fosters collaboration.

Need to get better understanding on how the library is currently being used.

  Service usage data has not been collected systematically in the past.

  Interlibrary loan is used frequently → does what is being requested point the way for new acquisitions?

  What are the unique collections in the NCAR library, items available only here or only at a very few other places?

The classic question of making the journals taken by the library accessible to the university community appears to be nearly intractable due to the conditions in the contracts with publishers, especially the commercial publishers. Some limited possibilities with professional/scientific societies (AGU and AMS) will continue to be explored.

More generally, the role of libraries is evolving along with the ways that scientific results and findings are published. Libraries are no longer just places in which to read surrounded by books and bound journals. We are in a time of transition to an “information services center”.

Relationships between the NCAR library and libraries in member institutions need to be developed. Marketing the library and its unique collections is important.

Archival services are a big question: major data sets, institutional materials, individual’s web pages. Links “library” to “mass store system”. Need to think through the role of the library as the institutional repository for long-term curation of scientific and historical materials.
Yet where do books and bound journals fit in all this? Do the classic functions just go away?

Investment in the library → costly endeavor which needs a funding plan; initiatives to presage a full plan

Attendees:
Don Middleton
John Snow
Mike Wright
Doug Nychka
Shawn Winkleman
Arthur Few
Joey Comeaux
Mary Marlino
Kelvin Drogemeier
Karon Kelly
Richard Clark
Anthony Hansen
Rick Anthes
Jack Fellows
Vincent Larson