

Library Management Team (LMT) Meeting

4/1/2025 at 2:00 PM

Attendees: S. Cary, M. Gaunt, A. Huelsbergen, K. Peters, J. Pierce, S. Pryor, E. Shaw, J. Thompson, K. Whatley

Support: N. Whyte, Guest: N. Khanal

Next steps for digital accessibility work (Navadeep Khanal)

- Libraries must comply 100% with new ADA Title II digital accessibility regulations by April 2026. All digital content, including websites, PDFs, videos, and teaching resources, must meet WCAG 2.1 AA standards.
- Exceptions are minimal, mainly limited to purely archived and untouched content.
- A cross-functional library group is being proposed to handle accessibility work and coordinate efforts across departments and the system.
- Challenges include vendor compliance with accessibility standards and handling vast quantities of previously created content.
- A centralized audit, clearer legal guidance, and structured planning are needed.

Vendor Licensing and Accessibility

- Compliance documentation (VPATs) is being gathered from vendors.
- No legal mandates have been given yet on what to do with non-compliant vendors, but documentation and compliance tracking are emphasized.
- Several vendors are not yet fully compliant but ongoing subscriptions are being maintained with the hope of future compliance.

Scanning and PDF Accessibility

- Current use of ABBYY FineReader software with OCR, but accessibility structure (e.g., headings, navigation tags) is often lacking.
- Special Collections and Interlibrary Loan (ILL) workflows likely need review.
- OCR does not guarantee full compliance with WCAG PDF techniques.
- Future AI automation was mentioned but is not currently reliable.

Video & Tutorial Content

- Nav's team will audit audiovisual instruction material over summer, remove irrelevant content, and ensure transcripts/captions are in place.

Web Accessibility Monitoring

- Library web pages are audited using DubBot software.

- Much work involves old images without alt text and inconsistent coding structures.
- HTML/CSS fixes may be systemic; however, documents and media will require unit-by-unit attention.
- Will be important to assess soon if temporary staffing (e.g., LIS, students or part-timers) is needed.

It was suggested to form a Libraries Digital Accessibility Task Force (separate from system task force) to focus on:

- Prioritizing content remediation
- Coordinating staffing/resources needs
- Acting as primary contact point for system-wide activities

Additional proposed actions:

- Meet with MU legal counsel for guidance on acceptable practices and exceptions
- Develop internal documentation and track digital resource compliance

VP Updates (Kara)

National Library Workers Day / Staff Recognition

- Tuesday, April 8 is National Library Workers Day.
- Staff supervisors are to write thank-you notes for their team members.
- Gift bags, coordinated through 104 Ellis, are being prepared with cards, tissue paper, and contributions of goodies.
- All full-time and part-time staff are to be acknowledged.
- Supervisors will collect gift bags from 104 and deliver thank-you cards.

Budget Planning (Kara and Kathy)

- The Provost's Office has asked the libraries to prepare for possible 5% budget cuts for FY26, though final numbers won't be known until early May.
- Cuts will likely focus on personnel (perhaps delay replacing two NTT positions) and restructuring rather than collections, especially to avoid shared resource cuts across campuses.
- Budget planning is facing unprecedented uncertainty but still hopeful for library-supportive outcomes given administrative alignment.
- Strategic planning is needed to evaluate long-term service prioritization.

New Initiative Involving the Writing Center (Jeannette)

- A pilot project is set to launch combining writing and research consultations into a single center space (115 Ellis) this summer.

- Offices will move locations and prepare new signage and furniture accordingly.

Next LMT meeting is scheduled for Tue April 15th at 2 PM