Inclusive Technology Lab Advisory Council

May 5, 2016
10-11. LIB 256

Summary Notes

Attendees: Cheryl Ash, Megan Currie, Mary Ellen Gabias, Aaron Heck, Tracey, Carolyn MacHardy, Earlene Roberts, Barbara Sobol, Nishat

Regrets: Bowen Hui
Minutes: Barbara Sobol

1. Overview of past year’s activities including metrics for assessment, qualitative feedback, survey results, and programming endeavors.
2. Renovations are planned for June 1 – July 15, during which the ITL will be closed.
3. Broad discussion of items related to ITL:
   a. Bill C11 Amendment to broaden section 32 of Copyright Act for person’s with perceptual disabilities in accordance with the Marrakesh Treaty.
   b. The Federal Government is also moving toward new accessibility legislation for both physical and online access.
   c. Listen devices are available for loan as part of the ITL borrowing collection. There was discussion around creating a room list and advertising this service across campus using posters in enabled rooms.
   ACTION: Barb to follow up with Earlene and Aaron.
   d. KNFB Reader App should be explored for lending iPADs; provides on-the-go optical character recognition for images.
   e. Regarding workshops and reaching students next year: Consider holding workshops on assistive technology on Saturdays, rather than mid-week. One-on-one consults are likely to be more effective than workshops at meeting individual student needs. Provide ITL training and insights to other campus support units (Writing and Research Centre, Supplemental Learning, Academic Advising, Create leaders) to ensure that when students ask for assistance the ITL is included as a support option available. Provide syllabus template for faculty to use and promote in their classes. Can we advertise the ITL in the student union printed calendars?
   f. An assistive campus map is a resounding good idea!
   ACTION: Barb to have summer student continue to pursue groundwork on this project; Mary Ellen is willing to help out, a recent “campus cake” may have been made using the exact kind of map we would like; STAR 3-D printing on campus may be a partner.
   g. Windows Eyes is an alternate to JAWS that we should explore as it is compatible with our more general PCs on campus.
   ACTION: Barb to initiate pricing/viability inquiry with IT Services.
   h. There is general interest in investigating a more coordinated approach to licensing assistive software on campus. There may be options through BCNET.
   ACTION: Barb to request pricing on currently used campus software: Inspiration, Dragon, Kurzweil and to follow up with IT Services.