The APD met with Ken Crilly, Associate University Librarian for Program Development & Research, about the upcoming Nave restoration project in SML and other library-related issues.

- Ken explained that Pfeiffer Partners, the architecture firm which held focus groups with graduate students last semester as part of a space-planning exercise with an eye toward future renovations and modifications in SML, would publicize its recommendations later in the semester.

- Future developments may include the conversion of the Franke Periodical Reading Room into a digital humanities center, following data from a room use survey administered in 2010. Such a center would combine IT people and subject specialists to help advise patrons interested in digital projects. Relatedly, the university has recently hired a new librarian for digital humanities.

- Concerning the Area Studies collections and reading rooms, the Advisory Committee on Library Policy (ACLP) decided that the reading rooms should be open to everyone who wants to use then, and collections in the rooms should be limited to non-circulating reference-type materials.

- Regarding the Slavic Reading Room among others, a security report carried out to comply with the requirements of insurers concluded that more security is needed. This effectively means that work and reader space need to be separated to mitigate the risk of theft of uncatalogued materials.

- As far as the Nave restoration project is concerned, patrons of SML will have to access the stacks, the temporary circulation desk in Franke, and the reading rooms through a plywood tunnel from June 2013 until September 2014.

- Library hours will be unaffected by the construction, but entrances might be, with the Wall Street entrance in particular being periodically closed. At those times, access to the library will be possible through the High Street entrance.

- Noise levels in the library are expected to be considerable throughout the restoration period for the duration of each workday, which will last from the opening of the library until 4:00 PM.

- Regarding the possibility of a 24-hour restricted-access study space for graduate students suggested by the Pfeiffer Partners consultants, the library currently has no near-term plans. The creation of such a space would require the relocation of the cataloguing and acquisitions departments and would be prohibitively expensive.

- Ken also discussed the library’s current acquisitions policy in light of the major budget cuts of the last few years. The main consequence of these cuts is the reduction in the
library’s acquisition of duplicate items, such as additional copies, or versions of the same material in different media formats. Although Yale’s acquisition budget is perhaps the largest of any American university library, this includes Beinecke’s separate budget. Otherwise, Yale is at parity with university library systems such as those of Columbia, Princeton, and Cornell.

- The degree of digital acquisitions varies by discipline, with many non-Western collections currently acquiring almost all their materials in print, while in other fields, such as medicine, monographs are primarily digital.

- There is currently no automatic mechanism for replacing lost books, so patrons who notice a lost item should fill out a book request or inform a librarian.

- The APD would also like to bring attention to the fact that university librarians hold consultation hours in HGS every Wednesday from 1:00 -3:00 PM for any graduate students who might have library-related questions.