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Merrill-Cazier Library

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I invite you to take a look at our Digital Commons <http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/>. What you will find is an active institutional repository (IR) containing over 38,000 documents, papers, images and other items that has had over 2,000,000 full-text downloads over its five years of existence. You might suppose this is average for most academic libraries but that is not the case. Most academic libraries have created IRs but the trick has been to get faculty and others to participate. In fact, many other library IRs languish with little content and activity. That has not been the case here at USU. Perhaps that has something to do with the Land Grant ethos of service and cooperation; administrators and faculty have been very receptive. But ultimately I think the major factor has been the effort and commitment from librarians to assist faculty and make the deposit of their peer-reviewed articles as easy as possible. Our library staff has gone out of their way to engage faculty and assist them at every turn and the result has been telling. USU has not only garnered a national reputation for our Digital Commons, but the international library world has also noticed.

Over the past few years I have been invited to give talks and make presentations on our Digital Commons and Open Access efforts at various national library conferences. This year I was invited to give the keynote address at one of the “satellite” conferences associated with the annual international library conference sponsored by IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations). I have attended a couple of these meetings in the past, as have several other librarians at USU. Gaining an understanding of the variety of international perspectives on common library issues can be valuable and helpful as we investigate solutions to these issues.

This year the conference was held in Singapore. The Li Ka Shing Library at Singapore Management University (SMU) hosted a satellite conference “Global Sharing of Open Access Content: Enablers and Challenges.” SMU, founded in 2000, is Singapore’s third public university. It was specifically designed on the American model offering a broad-based education in contrast to the British model followed by Singapore’s two other public universities, the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. SMU began as a joint effort with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and has grown into a full-fledged university with nearly 8,000 students and six separate colleges offering six bachelors, eighteen masters, and eight doctorate degrees. In 2005 the Li Ka Shing Library opened, emphasizing electronic collections and intensive support for student learning. It has a total staff of about 40 with a strong emphasis on technology. In 2010 the library launched its own Digital Commons known as InK (Institutional Knowledge at SMU) which now contains nearly 12,000 items.

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Liz Wolcott, the new Metadata Librarian, is a familiar face in a new position. She comes to the Digital Initiatives department from Cataloging where she worked as a cataloging assistant for 8 years. Liz grew up in North Brunswick, New Jersey and moved to Utah with her family when she was a teenager. She attended Southern Utah University and earned a dual bachelor degree in psychology and history. She saw the light and moved to Logan to obtain her M.A. in history from Utah State University. She earned her MLIS from the University of North Texas while working at the Merrill-Cazier Library.

Liz enjoys spending time with her husband John and their three rambunctious kids. They enjoy traveling together, watching trains, working on their house and gardening.

Dory Cochran was born and raised in Manhattan, Kansas. She recently completed her MA in English from Kansas State University and her library degree from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to those areas, she has a background in Women’s Studies and Music. Her current research interests revolve around feminist pedagogy and collaborative teaching.

Dory grew up in a musical family and one of her favorite things is to attend live music festivals and concerts. Piano and violin are Dory’s go-to instruments and upon moving to Logan, she started taking guitar lessons. When not reading a book or enjoying a good movie, Dory can be found baking, writing a letter to a pen-pal or enjoying the outdoors.

Connie Woxland hails from the snowy north of Minnesota. She earned her BA in English from University of Wisconsin – La Crosse and received her Masters in Library Studies from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She comes to us from the Wisconsin Historical Society where she was the Circulation Manager. In addition to her circulation duties Dory could be found assisting with student research and teaching amateur genealogists how to analyze and investigate records. Connie now enjoys working with students through the information desk and also assisting students and faculty through instruction. Connie is the Merrill-Cazier liaison to Watershed Sciences, Wildland Resources, and Health and Physical Education Resources.

In her spare time, Connie enjoys reading and keeping up with the never ending news cycle. She is beginning to test her courage with Cache Valley camping and backpacking. She also enjoys cooking while listening to This American Life and other podcasts.

If you would like to view my keynote PowerPoint, “From Conception to Reality: Building a Successful IR at Utah State University” and the other presentations from the conference, they are available in InK: <http://ink.library.smu.edu.sg/irday_2013/ir2013/>.

Richard W. Clement
Dean of Libraries

from conception to reality ... continued from page 1

Needless-to-say, the audience was very impressed with what we have accomplished here at USU. After showing a breakdown of Digital Commons (54% faculty articles) and how it has grown, the more significant question of why it has grown so dramatically was posed. Ultimately, the combination of strong support from central administration and our willingness to make it as easy as possible for faculty to participate has been the key. Most users, who come from almost every country in the world, find us through search engines such as Google, not through the Library home page. Digital Commons is tuned to ensure that our links will come up in the first page of results in a Google search, and so we get great traffic.

At the heart of my presentation were several case studies to show the impact of placing documents into Digital Commons. These ranged from how older articles or books could gain whole new readerships, how students and scholars in third-world nations could benefit, how students could benefit from new digital publications and how our content could supply needed information in a time of crisis. Ultimately, Digital Commons brings increased impact and readership to faculty publications and thus brings enhanced prestige to the university as a whole. It has been a great collective success for the USU Libraries that many librarians and staff continue to build. We have only just begun the long process of building Digital Commons, but if our track record is any indication of our future path, Digital Commons will continue to grow to become the public face of USU’s research and scholarship, freely available to all.

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Richard W. Clement
Dean of Libraries
If a Book is well written
I Always find it too short

Jane Austen

Presentations:


Publications:


Utah State University is well known for its robust student research program. Not limited to just graduate students, USU’s research programs have been open to participation by undergraduate students since 1975. The Library takes an active role in promoting the research of students by collecting their presentations, posters, and papers and depositing them into the Digital Commons, our Institutional Repository, where users all over the world can freely access them.

One such collection is undergraduate honors student theses. Take a look at this collection (2009 to date) and you will be amazed at its variety and complexity from papers on using songwriting in the healing process of victims of domestic violence to examining microfinance as an effective development solution in Mongolia. Over 84,000 people have read these papers. Clearly there is interest in the work our Aggie undergraduate scholars are producing.

In addition to the Honors Theses, Digital Commons hosts student research presented at conferences or published in journals. One undergraduate researcher in Physics, Rachel Nydgegger says, “I have received requests for interviews about my work on light pollution and people have called me with questions or to offer support for my research because they discovered it in Digital Commons.” Her work on environmental issues and their impact on scientists was discovered in our Digital Commons by a local news station which then arranged to interview her.

Promoting student research in USU’s Digital Commons attracts future students by demonstrating how actively engaged and supportive USU faculty are with students and their research interests. What better way than by making the work of student researchers easily discoverable?

Betty Rozum, Associate Dean for Technical Services

On September 13 the Merrill-Cazier Library hosted a celebration to honor retired Congressman James V. Hansen and officially open his congressional papers for research. In 2003 some 400 boxes of Hansen papers arrived at the Merrill-Cazier Library. Over the next 10 years several students and Manuscript Curator Clint Pumphrey worked diligently to sort, organize and catalog the collection. A finding guide to the papers can be found at: http://uda-db.orbiscascade.org/uda-search/style.aspx?doc=ULA_mss351.xml&t=k&q=hansen( )

The event was sponsored by the USU Libraries and Utah State Government relations. Ted Stewart, former Hansen chief of Staff and current federal judge gave an excellent biography of Hansen and Ross Peterson, USU history professor, talked about the types of research that could be conducted using the papers. Hansen finished the event with a short talk about his time in congress and thanked the University for housing the collection and for honoring him. He also mentioned that one of the highlights of his career was teaching in the Political Science Department after he retired from Congress.

Hansen was born in Salt Lake City in 1932, graduated from East High School and served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1955 including action in the Korean conflict. When he finished his military service, he enrolled at the University of Utah where he earned a bachelor’s degree in 1961. He entered the business world working in insurance and real estate, and in 1960 he entered the political world when he was appointed to the Farmington City Council. He left the council in 1972 when he was elected as a Republican candidate to the Utah House of Representatives, serving there from 1973-1980 — the last two years as Speaker of the House.

In 1981 Hansen was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, eventually serving 11 terms from 1981-2003. During his time in the house he served as chair of both the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the Committee on Resources. He sat on the Armed Services and the Committee on Resources. He also sat on the Armed Services Committee, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Natural Resources Committee.

His collection contains papers related to his work on the above committees plus his efforts to help Utah constituents. The collection represents a treasure trove of historical resources for the late 20th century.
The Merrill-Cazier Library opened its 2013-14 exhibition season with The Way of Sculpture, an exhibition of three-dimensional art forms by Ryoichi Suzuki, USU Assistant Professor of Art, and his mentor, the late Larry E Elsner. Also included in the exhibition are preliminary drawings and maquettes by Ryoichi Suzuki as well as several drawings journals from the Library’s Larry E. Elsner Sketchbook Collection. Gifted by Yoko Elsner to the Library’s Special Collections and Archives Division. The sketchbook collection includes hundreds of Larry’s drawings, as well as his writing and technical notes.

Professor Elsner was a faculty member in the Art Department at Utah State University from 1960 until 1990 where he mentored graduate and undergraduate students alike. During his tenure, Larry taught anatomy, drawing, ceramics, metalsmithing, and jewelry casting, as well as sculpture in all media. As a graduate student working on the Master of Fine Arts degree at USU, Ryoichi had the opportunity to work side-by-side with Larry, gleaning not only technical skills and in-depth knowledge of sculptural form but also developing the ability to effectively communicate that knowledge. The artworks on view in The Way Of Sculpture embody that gift of teaching and the transmission of knowledge from mentor to menthe.

The Way of Sculpture was organized to highlight USU’s legacy of art instruction and, importantly, to recognize the significance of the Library’s resources to the process of teaching art. Available in a variety of formats, these library resources include digital collections, printed books, audio recordings and films available in the Art Book Room and Fine Arts Collection, as well as original prints, illuminated manuscripts, sketchbooks, drawings, artists’ books and extra-illustrated rare books in the Special Collections and Archives Division. The Larry E. Elsner Sketchbook Collection, approximately eighty sketchbooks, serves as a resource and inspiration for professional artists working in drawing, as well as sculpture and ceramics. The collection continues to inspire Ryoichi’s Suzuki’s creative process as well as his teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Rose Milovich
Preservation Manager and Exhibition Program Director
The Friends of USU’s Merrill-Cazier Library recently purchased a scarce and important survey of late 18th- and early 19th-century European landscape architecture: Plans des Plus Beaux Jardins Pittoresques de France, d’Angleterre et d’Allemagne et des Édifices, Monumens, Fabriques, etc. qui Concurrent à leur Embellissement, dans tous les Genres d’Architecture, tels que Chinois, Égyptien, Anglais, Arabe, Moresque, etc. [title in English: Plans of the Most Beautiful Picturesque Gardens in France, England and Germany... etc.] This exquisitely printed 2 volume set (published in 1809 and 1810) offers Krafft’s meticulous renderings and detailed descriptions of architecturally significant landscapes, gardens, and structures designed for grand estates by contemporary architects such as Coffinet, Dubois, Goulet, Huvet, Kleber, Mouillefarine, and Thibeau. With 192 plates, among them 20 foldout garden plans, this set presents a superb visual survey.

If you’d like to browse, the set is available for viewing via the Digital Library collection at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. http://digidicol.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/DLDecArts/DLDecArts-idx?id=DLDecArts.KrafftPlans. However, digital cannot convey the rich, beautiful illustrations printed on fine paper from the original plates. For that you are welcome to visit our Special Collections and Archives.
The Merrill-Cazier Library and the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art are pleased to announce two exhibitions of photographs and archival documents from the John Suiter photograph and manuscript collections housed in Special Collections and Archives. The museum show “Nobody Goes Home Sad” will feature portrait photographs taken by Walter Lehrman and John Suiter of the famous “Six Gallery” poets. The Lehrman photographs taken at the second Six Gallery reading in 1956 and restored by Suiter will be on exhibit for the first time, along with recordings from the reading. In addition, Mr. Suiter’s work will feature more recent photographs of the poets. Printed broadsides from the Merrill-Cazier library collection will also be displayed. The Museum exhibition opens January 23, 2014.

The library will feature more of Suiter’s photographs and archival documents primarily from his book Poets on the Peaks. This exhibition will open in the Merrill-Cazier Library gallery, February 22, 2014. John Suiter will visit Logan the first week of March and will be giving gallery talks and a lecture.

Brad Cole,
Associate Dean, Special Collections & Archives
A vintage vision of the future from St. Nicholas Magazine, 1907. Happy New Year, 2014!