Fall 2001

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Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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Special thanks to all who donated to the Libraries through last year’s Libraries Make a Difference Phonathon campaign. Due to your generosity, our student callers were able to raise over $105,000 in donation pledges.

Funds from the Phonathon have become increasingly important to the Libraries in the face of the high inflation rates of information resources. The money raised each year is used to help purchase books, journals, and electronic databases. These resources help to improve our libraries and make more information available for the students of Utah State University.

The 2001-2002 Libraries Make a Difference campaign will kick off on Monday, November 12, 2001. Student callers will be contacting those who have given to the Libraries over the past two years through the Phonathon, along with the parents of current USU students. Please be generous when you are contacted by a student caller this year and remember that your contribution does “make a difference.”

— Trina Shelton
Phonathon Coordinator

USU Libraries’ cost for a one year subscription to the journal Nuclear Physics (188 issues):

$ 22,047

The cost of a 2002 GLX Volkswagen Beetle:

$ 21,500
president hall lectures on jfk assassination

Utah State University President Kermit Hall was the speaker at this year's annual Library Week lecture on April 4. The topic of his talk was Hall's own experience serving on the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board and the danger that excess secrecy poses to our society. His lecture was one of a series of events during the week which focused attention on the vital role that libraries play in providing access to information.

Following his appointment by President Clinton and confirmation by the U.S. Senate, President Hall served as one of five members of the Records Review Board from 1994 to 1998. The Board was created in the wake of the controversy surrounding Oliver Stone's movie JFK which claimed that President Kennedy's death was the result of a massive conspiracy involving the CIA, the U.S. military, and the Mafia. The success of this movie was due in large part to the fact that most Americans had difficulty believing the official "lone gunman" explanation offered by the U.S. government which claimed that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone when he killed the President. Hall argued that this public disbelief was enhanced by the fact that much of the federal government's files on the assassination were still classified more than three decades after Kennedy's death.

The task that Hall and other members of the Records Review Board had was to review all classified federal materials on the Kennedy assassination to determine whether they should remain closed or could be opened to the public. During the four years that the Board existed, it reviewed approximately six million documents and decided to declassify 99 percent of them. The remaining 1 percent that stayed closed dealt with matters which the Board felt would represent an invasion of privacy or put national security at risk if they were made available. Those records, however, are scheduled to open in 2017.

"the public can go to the library and find out what they believe for themselves..."

— President Kermit Hall

Hall said that his review of all the documents led him to believe that federal agencies are often too quick to classify materials, and often for the wrong reasons. A large number of classified "Kennedy assassination" documents turned out to have very little to do with the assassination, but instead sometimes revealed other, more problematic activities by federal agencies such as the massive domestic spying network maintained by the FBI during the 1950s and 1960s.

Although Hall has had a long and varied career as a historian, author, teacher, and now university administrator, he remarked that his work with the Records Review Board will undoubtedly be the single most important accomplishment of his career. In the aftermath of this massive declassification "the public can go to the library and find out what they believe for themselves."

— Steve Sturgeon, Chair
Library Week Planning Committee
Dramatic increases in journal costs and the increasing commercialization of scholarly publishing, have decreased scholars’ access to essential research resources. Year after year, university libraries are reducing their journal and monograph collections, even though the production of scholarly information grows exponentially. Researchers have access to less of the scholarly output each year. The current system of scholarly publishing has become too costly for the academic community to sustain. The increasing volume and costs of scholarly publications, particularly in science, technology, and medicine (STM), are making it impossible for libraries and their institutions to support the collection needs of their current and future faculty and students. Moreover, the pressure on library budgets from STM journal prices has contributed to the difficulty of academic publishers in the humanities and social sciences, primarily scholarly societies and university presses, to publish specialized monograph-length work or to find the funds to invest in the migration to digital publishing systems. Numerous studies, conferences, and roundtable discussions over the past decade have analyzed the underlying causes and recommended solutions to the scholarly publishing crises. Many new publishing models have emerged. A lack of consensus and concerted action by the academic community, however, continues to allow the escalation of prices and volume.

The participants in the Tempe conference came together with the hope of building consensus on a set of principles that would inform the design and evaluation of new systems of scholarly publishing. The goal was to provide guidance while leaving open to creativity and market forces the actual development of such systems. The following set of principles is the result of their discussions. While the principles and their explanations reflect a North American perspective, the participants recognize that the advancement of knowledge and scholarly publishing are international enterprises. While the academic community in North America may agree on collective action, international discussion and support will be needed for the success of any system.

The following are the Tempe Principles:

♦ The cost to the academy of published research should be contained so that access to relevant research publications for faculty and students can be maintained and even expanded. Members of the university community should collaborate to develop strategies that further this end. Faculty participation is essential to the success of this process.

♦ Electronic capabilities should be used, among other things, to provide wide access to scholarship, encourage interdisciplinary research, and enhance interoperability and searchability. Development of common standards will be particularly important in the electronic environment.

♦ Scholarly publications must be archived in a secure manner so as to remain permanently available and, in the case of electronic works, a permanent identifier for citation and linking should be provided.

♦ The system of scholarly publication must continue to include processes for evaluating the quality of scholarly work and every publication should provide the reader with information about evaluation the work has undergone.

♦ The academic community embraces the concepts of copyright and fair use and seeks a balance in the interest of owners and users in the digital environment. Universities, colleges, and especially their faculties should manage copyright and its limitations and exceptions in a manner that assures the faculty access to and use of their own published works in their research and teaching.

♦ In negotiating publishing agreements, faculty should assign the rights to their work in a manner that promotes the ready use of their work and choose journals that support the goal of making scholarly publications available at reasonable cost.

♦ The time from submission to publication should be reduced in a manner consistent with the requirements for quality control.

♦ To assure quality and reduce proliferation of publications, the evaluation of faculty should place a greater emphasis on quality of publications and a reduced emphasis on quantity.

♦ In electronic as well as print environments, scholars and students should be assured privacy with regard to their use of materials.

For a more in depth discussion on this matter you may go to:
http://www.arl.org/scomm/tempe.html
Library visitors may have found themselves wondering what lay beyond the partitions of the Milton R. Merrill Library Gallery during the month of January 2001. A dark shroud of black plastic had been draped across the gallery’s entrance for more than three weeks rendering the exhibition space impermeable to patrons and the Libraries’ staff alike. The sounds of rustling paper, hammering, and the clicking of wood type as it was carefully arranged in exhibition cases were occasionally heard from outside the gallery space. On February 12, the drab plastic disappeared and library patrons were treated to a gallery space filled with fine press books, brightly-colored posters and kinetic Valentines. Lifting the Veil: The Graphic Art of R. P. Bissland included more than 50 publications designed by graphic artist and long-time Cache Valley resident, Robert P. “Bob” Bissland.

Bob Bissland’s interest in the graphic arts began during his undergraduate studies in the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department at Utah State University. Drawing, color rendering, lettering and model-making were essential to Bob’s course of study. Later, his employment as a graphic artist at USU Developmental Center for Handicapped Persons (now Center for Persons with Disabilities), USU Printing Services (now Publication Design and Production), and the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art encouraged further development of his graphic design expertise. In 1986, Bissland established Slanting Rain Graphic Design and now designs for clients throughout Utah and the West.

Lifting the Veil included publications in a variety of formats. Posters designed for organizations such as Cache Valley Humane Society, Bridgerland Audubon Society, Bridger Folk Music Society, and the Utah Arts Council enlivened the gallery’s main corridor. In addition to their aesthetic significance, these works document activities of many non-profit organizations in northern Utah. Brilliantly-colored t-shirts created for Logan’s annual fund raiser, Giardia Run, were on also on view as were elegant catalogs, broadsides and fine press books featuring writing by Ken Brewer, Terry Tempest-Williams and Alice Hart.

Friends of USU Libraries sponsored an opening reception for the exhibition and held the group’s first Annual Friends Membership drive. With over 200 guests attending, the evening began with Bob Bissland’s gallery talk followed by the live music of Heavy Mental and hors d’oeuvres by Culinary Concepts.

— Rose Milovich
Curator, Arts & Book Arts
Bissland's presentation was part lecture, part Performance Art.

Bissland's work ranged from installation pieces (left) to T-shirt designs (above).

Exhibition Dates:
October 3 through December 10, 2001

Opening Reception:
October 5, 2001
7:00 until 9:00 pm.
Merrill Library Exhibition

Space
Gallery Talk:
Koichi Yamamoto,
USU Assistant Professor,
Printmaking
7:00 pm

For more information please contact:
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Art and Book Arts Curator &
Exhibition Program Director
Utah State University Libraries
3000 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-3000

Telephone: (435) 797-0893
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All photographs courtesy Bill & Suzanne Lowry
Research Help: Just an e-mail message away!

Distance is no barrier to consulting a reference librarian these days. Whether you’re sitting at your desk on campus or at home, in a dorm or a computer lab, you can get the help you need. Our Term Paper and Research Assistance Program got its start back in 1998 when Tam Hoskisson realized that many students coming to the Reference Desk needed more coaching than they were getting in a 50-minute session when their English class came to the library. She began letting students she taught know that they could e-mail her to arrange for one-on-one assistance.

The next year the rest of the Reference Department was invited to participate. The TP&RA page http://sun2.lib.usu.edu/johels/rescons.html gives an overview of the service, a list of the librarians and their expertise. The service was expanded to include answering reference questions as well as providing research help. Reference staff e-mail patrons back within a day or two with an answer or we suggest some databases to search and keywords to try. We sometimes let them know how many “hits” we obtained using a specific strategy so they can compare their results and determine if they need further help in person. If this is the case, we ask them to suggest times they could meet with us.

If an appointment is scheduled, we generally spend thirty minutes to an hour brainstorming search terms, discussing appropriate databases, refining the search strategy, and evaluating articles or web sites together. We may take them to the Reference Area where we can help them gain familiarity with reference books so they can look up statistics to bolster their opinions, or check ‘facts’ they have uncovered on the web. We enjoy being able to expand their horizons and encourage critical thinking. Working on these topics, some of which are intriguing and challenging, keeps our skills sharp. The feedback we receive — from warm smiles and thank you’s to grateful e-mails — helps us know that our time is well spent and that this service is appreciated.

— Deleyne Wentz
Reference Librarian

The Neverending Book Sale...

Starting 1 October 2001, USU Libraries will hold a "Continuing Booksale" across from the Circulation Desk in the Merrill Library. The books will be located on a book cart and are priced just inside the front cover. Payment for books can be made at the Circulation Desk.

All proceeds from sales will go toward new acquisitions. Each week new materials will be added to the cart.

These are good books—

cheap!

Congratulations to...

Noel Carmack received the Dale L. Morgan Award for the best scholarly article in the Utah Historical Quarterly for the year 2000. His article was titled, “Running the Line: James Henry Martineau's Surveys in Northern Utah, 1860-1882" and appeared in the fall journal issue. The award was presented August 24 at the Utah State Historical Society annual meeting at Westminster College.
While a search for a Vice Provost for Libraries is underway, Dr. Linda Wolcott has been appointed to serve as the Interim Vice Provost. Wolcott is an Associate Professor of Instructional Technology and has served in other interim roles as the Head of the Department of Instructional Technology and, most recently, as the Assistant Dean for Information and Learning Resources. In addition to her current responsibilities as Interim Vice Provost for Libraries, Wolcott also oversees the Faculty Assistance Center for Teaching and the Center for Online Education.

Wolcott is not new to library administration. She holds a Masters degree in Library Science from the University of Maine and served as a school library media specialist in two secondary schools in Maine prior to moving to Utah in 1979. She has taught graduate level courses in library science in Maine and at Utah State University where she coordinated the Masters and certificate programs in school library media administration. Wolcott earned an Educational Specialist degree in Instructional Technology from Utah State University and an Ed.D. in Instructional Technology from The University of Georgia. She joined the USU faculty in 1991.

Wolcott is excited to be part of University Libraries administrative team. While she recognizes that entering its second year without a permanent Director or Vice Provost is a challenge for the Libraries, she praises the talented staff and faculty for their enthusiasm and dedication to serving the information needs of the University community. She is optimistic that the Compact Planning process in which the University will be engaged this year will provide a significant opportunity for University Libraries to demonstrate its critical role to the academic and cultural life of the University. She is particularly excited about the prospect of a new building to replace the aging and overcrowded Merrill Library.

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**yes! I would like to join Friends of Utah State University Libraries!**

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**Thank you for your support!**

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7 MARGINALIA
so long, farewell...

S
o Long, Farewell, Au Revoir, Auf Wiedersehen, Adios, Arrivederci or just a good old-fashioned Good Bye. This is what the staff of the University Libraries had to do this past Spring as Deputy Director Robert Murdoch left the Libraries for a position at Brigham Young University. For 28 years, Robert held a variety of professional appointments for the University Libraries. He actually started his library career as a student in the Circulation Department. He began his professional career as Head of Patron Services and successfully worked his way through the ranks until he attained the position of Deputy Director. Robert played a crucial role in the building of the University Libraries through the 80's and 90's both physically and literally. All of the renovation work to the Merrill Library during those decades was the responsibility of Robert. He was a key factor in the planning and construction phases for the Cazier Sci/Tech Library. His work with publishers and vendors enabled the Libraries to expand and develop its physical collections and electronic resources. Probably his greatest asset to the Libraries was the role he played in the hiring and nurturing of the staff that make up the backbone of the University Libraries. Robert has published articles in numerous journals and presented at a variety of conferences. During his tenure, he served on numerous university, state, regional and national committees. Lastly, Robert was a colleague, friend and adviser to all who worked with him.

Robert — Thank you and Good Bye. We will miss you.

— John Elsweiler and the Staff
USU Libraries