Fall 2004

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Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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Rapid Progress Enhances New Library

Thanks to work finished ahead of schedule and under budget, Utah State University’s new library, scheduled for completion fall 2005, will be able to add a third robotic arm to its automated storage and retrieval system.

“Because of the hard work of Jacobsen Construction, Utah State will gain a significant addition to the new library building that will directly benefit students and faculty,” said Linda Wolcott, vice provost for libraries and instructional support. Wolcott spoke at a “topping off” ceremony July 27 marking the contractor’s completion of major concrete work on the 200,000 square foot structure.

Blake Court of the State of Utah’s Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) which is overseeing the construction project, said savings realized on the project so far have freed approximately $400,000 for purchase of needed equipment. The legislative appropriation for the facility’s construction is $40 million.

The planned automated storage and retrieval system (ASR), manufactured by Daifuku America Corporation, will be the first of its kind in a Utah library. The multi-story system, designed to improve storage efficiency, uses automated cranes to store and retrieve library materials.

Because the legislative funding does not cover the entire cost of furnishing and equipping the technology-rich building, said Wolcott, the university is engaged in a fundraising campaign. In addition, the campaign will provide funds for library acquisitions and other programs.

“With the help of donations from varied sources, we’re moving forward with our campaign to create a vibrant, intellectual campus hub,” she said.

Naming Opportunities:

Another way the library is receiving support

A nother major facet of fundraising for the new library building projects comes in the way of naming opportunities. In order to maximize the usage of the new library building, we need to properly furnish the study areas, classrooms and special spaces. Our alumni and friends have a unique opportunity to help provide the proper furnishing and equipment for learning to ensure the new library is appropriately functional when construction is completed. Spaces can be named in recognition of gifts from $5,000 and above, and gifts can be made over a period of years. The generous support of our Friends will help make possible the technology-rich library that will be the intellectual hub of campus and will propel the entire university forward stimulating research, attracting scholars, and facilitating learning.

Kim Winger
Public Relations, Marketing and Events Specialist
The new University Library is making significant progress as we move into this fall season. Jacobsen Construction was able to complete the concrete phase of the building three weeks early. In this past year over 12,000 yards of concrete have been poured. This puts the overall building ahead of schedule with expected completion of construction by the first of August 2003. With the basic structure completed, the next phase of the new Library will begin.

This new phase of construction can basically be described as the closing or sealing of the building. By December, Jacobsen Construction will have the building completely enclosed. This will allow the building to be prepared for winter. Windows are being installed, outside doors put in place, roofing completed and the atrium will take shape. While the outside will be creating a new appearance, there is work taking place within the building that is not readily visible. The electrical, phone and data lines are being installed as well as the pedestals for the raised access flooring. This enclosing will set the stage for the finishing phase that will take place during the spring and summer.

The Automated Storage & Retrieval System (ASRS) is finally creating its place within the footprint of the building. The support beams have been installed and the outside siding will be put into place within the next few months. Inside the ASRS space, the rails and racks are being positioned. The robotic cranes will be set up and tested by December.

This last year of construction is going to be exciting as the Library staff plan the moving of their work spaces, not to mention the 1.5 million volumes within our collections.

John Elsweiler  
Assoc. Director, Public Services

USU Libraries continues the never-ending book sale in the entrance of the Merrill Library, just east of the Quadside Cafe. The sale is restocked continually, and the money made from the sale goes directly to the Library's acquisitions funds. The book sale offers quality books at great prices and features trade paperback and hardback books; popular novels; some sets; computer books & software; classics; coffee table books and cook books; academic books that duplicate our current holdings; retired library materials; magazines; and more.

New books are added to the sale every week. Please come by and see what we have. The book sale is ongoing — whenever the library is open.

Good books
cheap...
Still in its early stages, the USU Digital Library taps just a few of the many photographic, manuscript, and printed treasures of Utah State University’s Special Collections and Archives by digitizing them and mounting them on the Web for easy access. In its USU Historical Photograph Collection, images from the first century of Utah State University’s history, from the 1880s to 1980s, feature students, faculty, staff, athletics, ceremonies, buildings and events. A second collection consists of 1920s scenes from Death Valley ghost towns of Rhyolite, Aurora, and Calico such as a horse-drawn hearse, a house made of bottles, a twenty mule train, hotel and saloon. In a third collection, folklorists Austin & Alta Fife capture vernacular architecture of the Intermountain West in more than 3,000 slides showing hay derricks, gravestones, unusual mailboxes, fences, scarecrows and quilts.

The redesigned Utah State University Digital Library not only features its own digital collections but also serves as a gateway to all the Library’s digital resources, offering links to Special Collections’ digital exhibits, photograph collections, and web-based finding aids; Government Documents’ thematic maps; and the thousands of books and journals in electronic format purchased and made available to the University community by the Library. Additional links take users out to other digital libraries such as the California Digital Library, Colorado Virtual Library, and closer to home, the Mountain West Digital Library.

USU’s Digital Library is a regional hub of the Mountain West Digital Library, a consortium of digital collections from universities, colleges, public libraries, museums, and historical societies sponsored by the Utah Academic Library Consortium to digitize significant regional primary resources in Utah and the surrounding area. Once USU’s Digital Library is fully operational, it will offer digitizing services to other institutions.

It is one of four hosting institutions in Utah which each run CONTENTdm servers supporting their own digital collections as well as supporting partner institutions by providing scanning and hosting services.

To view all of the collections offered by the Mountain West Digital Library, go to: http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/mwdl/

The USU Digital Library recently established its offices on the 4th floor of the Merrill Library with two new fulltime staff members: Cheryl Walters, Head of the Digital Library Department (797-2623), and Heather Leary, Digital Library Assistant (797-2650).

Cheryl Walters
Head of Digital Library

"The library connects us with insights and knowledge, painfully extracted from nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all of history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. ... Libraries depend on voluntary contributions. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness, about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries."

— Carl Sagan, Cosmos
Historian and author Dr. F. Ross Peterson has been selected as this year’s Arrington Lecture speaker. Peterson will present “I Didn’t Want to Leave the House, but He Compelled Me To: A Personal Examination of a Mormon Family” Thursday, November 4 at 7 p.m. in the Logan Tabernacle. The Leonard J. Arrington Mormon History Lecture is presented by Special Collections and Archives, a department of Utah State University Libraries.

A native of Montpelier, Idaho, Peterson is currently President of Deep Springs College in California. Peterson was a Professor of History at Utah State University for over 30 years, where he also served as Department Head for History and as Director of the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies. Upon Peterson’s departure from USU earlier this year, it was said that he was easily one of the best-loved professors on campus and a teaching legend who would be irreplaceable. He has been the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship to teach African-American History at Victoria University in New Zealand, and is the author of Idaho: A Bicentennial History, the centennial History of Cache County, and Prophet Without Honor: Glen H. Taylor and the Fight for American Liberalism. He and his wife Mary Kay co-edited Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought from 1987 to 1992. He has served on the Utah State Board of History, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission, and on the Utah Humanities Council. In 1998, Peterson received the prestigious Governor’s Award as Utah’s outstanding humanist.

In keeping with Dr. Arrington’s tradition of encouraging young scholars, the Arrington Lecture Board is conducting a writing competition and will award five $250 cash prizes. The competition is open to both graduate and undergraduate USU students. Students must attend the lecture and then apply the issues raised at the lecture in their own research. The writing awards will be coordinated by the History Department. Entry forms and further details will be available at the Arrington Lecture.

Utah State University Libraries is home to the Arrington Collection, the fruits of a lifetime of work including personal and historical papers by the late Leonard J. Arrington. When the scholar and historian left this gift to Utah State, it was stipulated that the collection also become the focus for an annual lecture on an aspect of Mormon history. Upon his death in February 1999, Arrington left a legacy of scholarship and mentoring that earned him the title “Dean of Mormon History.” The annual Arrington lecture supports and continues his dedication to the scholarly field.

Because this is the 10th annual Arrington lecture, there will be a hard cover book that will be a compendium of all ten past lectures available the night of the lecture. For information on the Arrington Mormon History Lecture, contact Brad Cole, Head of Special Collections and Archives at Utah State University Libraries, 435-797-8268.

"The library is central to our free society. It is a critical element in the free exchange of information at the heart of our democracy."

VARTAN GREGORIAN
Steven Harris became the new collection development librarian for USU libraries in August. He grew up in Ogden and graduated from Weber State when it was still a “College.” He holds a B.A. degree in English with a German minor from Weber State, and an M.A. in English from the University of Utah. Steven worked for many years as a library paraprofessional ordering books for the Marriott Library and the Quinney Law Library at the University of Utah before pursuing an M.L.S. from the University of Arizona. After earning his library degree he served as a humanities reference librarian at Texas A&M and then Louisiana State University. For the past six years he has been the English Literature Librarian at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Steven has a research interest in intellectual freedom. He co-authored Censorship of Expression in the 1980s: A Statistical Survey in 1994 and is currently doing research on the impact of the civil rights movement on libraries in the American south. Steven is thrilled to be back in his home state and helping to build the Library collections at USU.
Over the past several months, the USU Libraries have been fortunate to secure access to several exciting new electronic databases. In late spring, the Libraries acquired the prestigious WestLaw database of legal resources, one of the primary information resources used at most law schools and law firms. The database contains statutes, case law materials, and public records for the federal government and all 50 states. Familiar titles in the database include: the United States Code Annotated; the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations; American Law Reports; and American Jurisprudence. These standard works, which currently take up many feet of shelf space in our Reference Collection, are now keyword searchable from the convenience of a faculty office or a student apartment.

In co-operation with the USU Research Foundation and the College of Engineering, the USU Libraries were also able to expand online access to the publications of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Through the IEEE Xplore database, the Libraries now provide access to all 400+ current conference proceedings and a backfile of proceedings extending back to 1998.

Historians and history buffs alike will enjoy new access to the Pennsylvania Gazette (1728-1800), sometimes called the New York Times of the 18th Century. This searchable database provides a wealth of primary source information on the social, political and cultural history of colonial America, the American Revolution and the New Republic through articles, editorials, letters, news items and advertisements.

This summer the USU Libraries also received an unexpected boon when Utah Pioneer, a non-profit consortium of Utah public libraries, public schools, and college and university libraries, was able to dramatically expand the number of library databases offered statewide. The Pioneer group’s negotiations with EBSCO resulted in upgrading the existing Academic Search from the “Elite” version to “Premier,” providing an increase of over 2500 new full text journals. This same round of negotiations also resulted in the acquisition of the following new searchable collections: Computer Source, the Legal Collection, the Religion and Philosophy Collection and the Vocational and Career Collection.

Finally, the Utah Academic Library Consortium purchased archival access to two additional files of the JSTOR database for all academic libraries within the state. JSTOR is a non-profit organization that digitizes the backfiles of scholarly journals for libraries. The Arts and Sciences III Collection will eventually contain 120 titles in the areas of language and literature; music; the history and study of art and architecture; cultural studies; film; folklore; performing arts; and religion. The Arts and Sciences IV Collection will contain at least 100 additional titles primarily in the areas of law, psychology and public policy and administration. This acquisition represents thousands of journal volumes now available electronically.

All of the above resources are available on campus and remotely to faculty, staff, and currently enrolled students. Friends of the Library are welcome to use the databases in either the Merrill or the Science and Technology Library. For more information on these or any other electronic resources, please visit http://library.usu.edu/Retool//lnabs/results.php.
Ways to Give to USU Libraries

Gifts of all sizes mean progress at Utah State. Each year, our alumni and friends provide Utah State University with much needed financial assistance through outright gifts of cash, securities, or other properties which offer immediate benefits for you and the university; and deferred gifts, which allow you to arrange a gift now that has a future benefit for the university. Deferred gifts provide a way for your generosity to benefit you now and USU later. By including Utah State in your estate plan, you can support areas of the university that are important to you, such as the Library. This can be accomplished through various giving instruments such as wills, living trusts, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds, life insurance, retirement accounts, and remainder interest in a home or farm.

For more information and planning assistance, please contact the Development Office at (435) 797 - 3885 or (888) 653-6246.

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

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Yes, I (or my spouse) work for a matching-gift company. If yes, please enclose matching-gift form. (Or inquire about alternate USU employee payment plan)

Thank you for your support!
Save the Date!

3 December 2004

Begin your holiday season by joining us at the Hatch Room Holiday Gala on the evening of December 3, 2004. This will truly be an evening not to miss full of charming music, an Elizabethan inspired menu, and joyful activities to celebrate the closure of the Hatch Room in preparation for the move to its home in the new library. Mark your calendars and watch your mailbox for an invitation with further details.

Hatch Room Holiday Gala