Marginalia no. 42

Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University

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This past January the library packed up its collection of cowboy poetry books and headed to Elko, Nevada, for the 35th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. This cowboy poetry “bookmobile” has traveled to the gathering for more than 30 years. The reaction from the attendees is always enthusiastic, as they have the chance to see and handle classic cowboy poetry books they have only heard referenced. This event made me realize how much outreach librarians perform and how we influence our current environment. Even though we still welcome more than 750,000 patrons to the library every year, much of our impact happens through outreach—whether exhibits, document delivery services, tutorial videos, instruction, chat reference, access to online journals and eBooks, digital collections and on and on—our library services are felt throughout the state and the world. This issue of Marginalia highlights a few of the ways that University Libraries reaches out to our constituents.

With almost one third of USU students not on the main campus in Logan, delivering library resources to these students is a critical outreach effort. Our regional library coordinator, Erin Davis, and our online learning librarian, Teagan Eastman, lead the way in delivering library content and instructional resources to our students around the state. They, with all of our librarians, work hard to make this happen.
Although the library hosts frequent exhibitions, many outside of Cache Valley only see these through a digital version, at least until this year. USU Libraries was selected by the Division of Utah State History to create a traveling exhibit honoring the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point May on 10, 1869. Through the efforts of exhibit curator Dan Davis and the help of capable students Tess Cramer, Frankie Urrutia-Smith and Michelle Hartvigsen, A World Transformed: Utah and the Transcontinental Railroad opened at the State Capitol in January. The exhibit will travel throughout the state of Utah this year, including a stop at the Merrill-Cazier Library July–September 2019.

In addition to more traditional outreach, we also try to offer public programming that helps bring the USU and local communities together. The visit of Native American Chef Nephi Craig highlighted one of several speakers we sponsored throughout the year. Gaining support from almost every college, his presentations were well attended and thought provoking.

Many of our librarians give back to the community through the Cache Valley Library Association, a wonderful advocacy group for library access for all residents of Cache Valley. USU Librarians were instrumental in starting this group and have played an important leadership role. And finally, we have a new short-term tenant as we welcomed the Latinx Cultural Center into the library while they await their new home on campus.

Keep in mind, this collection of outreach initiatives is just a sampling of all the wonderful things USU Libraries accomplishes. Thank you all for being such great Friends of the Library, and if you are not currently a Friend, please join!

- Bradford Cole
  Dean of Libraries
I consider it a great honor to have been recently elected the president of the Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library. While a USU undergrad in history, I spent many hours researching, writing, studying, and translating in the library. I attended its dedication ceremony in 2006, and the following year I contributed with others in my graduating class to the funding of a library study room. I then continued to use many of the library’s resources (print, digital, staff, computers, quiet space) while working towards a master’s degree from another university. In my subsequent professional and personal life, I’ve enjoyed getting to know many great USU librarians and staff.

The next time you’re on campus, whether you’ve been there once or a hundred times before, I encourage you to step into the Merrill-Cazier Library and discover everything on offer. Ask for a tour. It’s a marvelous place of information, humanity, connection, and wonder. If you agree, you are invited to become a Friend and join us in our mission to support and promote the library.

- Joseph N. Anderson
Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library President

Joseph N. Anderson is the assistant director and adult nonfiction librarian at the Logan Library. He is a past president and founding member of the Cache Valley Library Association and has also served in the Utah Library Association. A confirmed Anglomaniac, Joseph enjoys reading medieval English history and The Guardian, listening to the music of Vaughan Williams and the British post-punk revival, and observing UK politics. He resides in downtown Logan with his wife Amy and their five children.
In the Libraries’ Special Collections & Archives we work diligently to build culturally relevant collections that reflect Intermountain West community voices and lifeways. In March, Fife Folklore Archives Curator Randy Williams hosted Chef Nephi Craig on the USU Campus. Chef Craig is a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, half Navajo, and the founder of the Native American Culinary Association.

During his visit, Chef Craig shared impactful Apache and other indigenous culinary traditions with students, community members, faculty, and staff. His engaging presentations centered on food sovereignty and indigenous resurgence, including reclaiming traditional foodways altered by hundreds of years of violent disruptions to traditional growing, cooking, and eating practices. Chef Craig also gave a standing-room only cooking demonstration using indigenous foods, including the Three Sisters: corn, beans, and squash.

While on campus Chef Craig worked with USU graduate student Reagan Wytsalucy, whose thesis includes a study of cleome serrulata (common name Navajo spinach or beeplant) which she, and others, are now calling the fourth sister. Chef Craig also met with Fife Folklore Archive interns Bethany Budge, Emma George, and Shelley Jones. Financial support for Chef Craig’s visit came from many campus entities.

Chef Nephi Craig giving an indigenous foods presentation on USU’s campus.

The Three Sisters dish prepared by Chef Craig during a cooking demonstration.
Daniel Davis, Photo Archivist in the Merrill-Cazier Library’s Special Collections & Archives, was the principal curator for the Spike 150 Commission’s inaugural exhibition, A World Transformed: The Transcontinental Railroad and Utah, which opened on the fourth floor of the Utah State Capitol on January 23. The exhibition will be in Salt Lake City until May 26 and will then travel to Logan, Cedar City, and Park City over the next several months.

A digital version of the exhibition, curated by History senior Frankie Urrutia-Smith, is available at exhibits.usu.edu.
Visitors to the exhibition learn the history of the transcontinental railroad.

Elsner Curatorial Intern, Michelle Hartvigsen, and Larry Elsner Art Foundation President, Tami Leppert.

Visitors line up for the exhibition opening at the Utah State Capitol building.

Exhibit Curator Daniel Davis at the opening.

**Traveling Exhibition Schedule**

- **The Utah State Capitol**  
  January 4 — June 2019
- **The Merrill-Cazier Library**  
  July — September 2019
- **The Southern Utah Museum of Art**  
  October — December 2019
- **The Park City Museum**  
  February — March 2020
The Latinx Cultural Center now has a space in the Merrill-Cazier Library and invites students, faculty, staff, and members of the public who identify as Latinx or are invested in the issues that concern the Latinx community both locally and nationally to visit. Dr. Christopher González, Director of the Latinx Cultural Center, and Pamela Allcott, Sr. Coordinator of Programs for the Latinx Cultural Center, continue to work hard to provide programming, mentoring, talks, and other valuable initiatives that help the center to achieve its mission:

_The Latinx Cultural Center (LCC) at Utah State University serves as a conduit for service, engagement, advocacy, and visibility for the Latinx community on campus and in the Cache Valley and surrounding areas. The LCC is committed to empowering all who recognize a vested interest in the Latinx community by focusing on the pillars of academic, educational, personal, and professional growth._

Students with a strong connection to Latinx culture have already found a nurturing, productive space to study, read, write, work, collaborate, and create art. Most importantly, the center provides a place where all students can see Latinx culture reflected, honored, and appreciated on campus in a sustained and official way.

LCC Director Dr. Christopher González speaking at the center’s open house event.
The Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library have generously purchased three outstanding photograph collections to add to our growing Special Collections & Archives materials related to National Parks in the Intermountain West. First, a charming photo album with 92 pictures of Yellowstone National Park taken by F.L. Foshay (1927) depicts tourists feeding grizzly bears and their cubs, milling around Old Faithful, and many other iconic park destinations.

Also included in this purchase is a 1903 set of 100 stereoviews produced by Underwood & Underwood, the prolific New York City purveyors of stereoscopic images. This set documents the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest, the nearby Hopi Reservation, and scenes along the Colorado River.

The Friends also acquired a set of twelve larger format photographs taken ca. 1935 by George Alexander Grant, the official photographer of the National Park Service, featuring the future Dinosaur National Monument, Capitol Reef National Park, and Zion National Park. Taken together, these images document early 20th century tourism and travel to some of the most scenic destinations in the American West which are now jewels of the Park System.
As Utah’s land-grant institution, Utah State University services extend to over 33 campuses and centers across the state of Utah. Since many of our 16,000-plus regional campus and online students and faculty never enter the physical library, we go to them. As the Library Coordinator of Regional Campuses & E-Learning, I travel along with Teagan Eastman, our Online Learning Librarian, to many of these campuses every fall semester to meet with as many students and faculty as we can. We host “open houses” to talk with students about the library and point out relevant article databases and pertinent library resources that may be useful to them in their studies. During these visits, we also meet with instructors to ensure they know how to integrate library resources and modules into their courses.

Our outreach efforts encourage library use and raise awareness among regional campus and online students and faculty. From collaborating with faculty on incorporating information literacy instruction into the classroom and embedding librarians into subject-specific courses, to offering multiple ways for students and faculty to get their questions answered by librarians, we strive to be creative in our outreach efforts and serve all our students and faculty equitably.

Erin Davis
Library Coordinator of Regional Campuses and E-Learning

Erin Davis, left, and Becky Thoms, Head of Digital Initiatives, visited the campus of USU Eastern, Blanding and nearby Monument Valley.
I was introduced to the Cache Valley Library Association (CVLA) soon after joining the Merrill-Cazier team in 2013. Founded in 2012, the goals of the CVLA are to facilitate communication, networking, collaboration, mentoring, and professional development among all persons engaged in any aspect of library services. Like many of my USU library colleagues, I’ve contributed in several ways, including serving on CVLA’s Executive Committee, and most recently, as the 2018 CVLA President.

What makes this organization special is that it serves as an avenue for communication and sharing between librarians and library supporters from all different kinds of libraries in Cache Valley. It is all too easy to silo ourselves in academia, but CVLA recognizes that academic libraries are part of a larger information ecosystem and if we really want our patrons to become lifelong learners, we need to build community and rapport between all of the different libraries that patrons might visit throughout their journeys.

Whether through attending events, presenting, or serving in leadership roles, USU librarians are reaching out to our fellow library colleagues and supporters in Cache Valley. As robust as our contributions have been and continue to be within this organization, ultimately, we are fortunate to learn from the creativity, flexibility, and problem-solving skills of our colleagues in school, public, and special libraries.

– Dory Rosenberg
Reference Librarian
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Logan, UT 84322-3000

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