Marginalia no. 44

Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Libraries are amazing places—and the people who work in libraries are even more amazing.

Like all of our Friends, our world turned upside down this spring due to the outbreak of the coronavirus. Starting in early March, the Merrill-Cazier Library quickly moved from being the physical center of campus to becoming a virtual library. We have successfully made this transition and are now engaged in figuring out how to continue to support the campus community remotely, and at the same time, beginning to figure out what types of services we can offer on campus as we gradually reopen over the summer. The library has kept the first floor computer commons area open for the small number of students who have technology needs. Our very dedicated circulation workers have been helping daily to close the library!

Otherwise, I am pleased to report that we have been able to find remote work for all of our employees and have also been able to extend remote work opportunities to our student workers.

Even with this life changing event we are still moving forward in making the presence of libraries felt on campus and in the lives of our students. This issue of Marginalia highlights the great collaborative efforts between our staff and USU students. We were excited when we were able to engage USU engineering students to develop a water and temperature detection system for our Special Collections & Archives. The system sends out alerts to our staff when water is detected or temperatures change.
We also highlight the work of student Chloe Miller in developing a pamphlet about women’s suffrage in Cache Valley, which includes a short walking tour for Logan city sites that tie into the suffrage movement. We relish these opportunities to work with students on projects that enhance library services while giving them meaningful work that will help them in their future careers.

In our continuing desire to excite our students about the value of lifelong learning we are thrilled to start a new program this coming fall under the direction of Katie Strand, our new First-Year Experience Librarian, to enhance our engagement with first year students.

Finally, we thank our Friends for offering to help underwrite the creation of Open Education Resources through a matching grant program. Through June 30, the Friends will match your donations to our OER fund that creates stipends for faculty to create OER for their courses. In this current environment students need all the financial help we can give them, and low or no cost textbooks helps meet this goal!

Every year brings a new challenge and this year is no different. We are excited to continue to provide library services and to help our great USU faculty and students.

Cheers,

Brad Cole
Dean of Libraries

Special thanks to Joseph N. Anderson for his service as President of the Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library.
Former Teaching Assistant Katie Strand has accepted a new position at USU Libraries as the First-Year Experience Librarian. Her primary role will focus on coordinating the library’s first-year programming efforts such as the English Composition Library Instruction Program and library freshman orientation. She’s passionate about making students aware of helpful library resources and developing their confidence in navigating those resources early in their academic career. Katie received her master’s in Library Science from Emporia State University after earning her bachelor’s in English from Idaho State University. She has lived in Logan for six years and loves to hike, kayak, and camp. We are excited to have Katie in this position!

Katie Strand
First-Year Experience Librarian
WARDING AGAINST WATER DAMAGE

Special Collections & Archives, Government Information, and Art Books house some of the most precious items in the library. Located on the lower levels, foundational and overhead pipe leaks are always a concern to these units.

USU Libraries and the College of Engineering have collaborated to create a leak detection system as part of four engineering students’ capstone project. Kylan Knight, Reem Ghabayen, Kamila Khamidova, and Michael Whipple brought in specially designed sensors that will notify library personnel via email and text if any water is detected. The students also developed a mount for these sensors and placed them throughout the archives.

Before the system was installed, student workers and curators had to visually inspect the collections up to six times a day. This process was not only tedious to staff and faculty, but it was extremely hard to detect leaks before damage was irreparable.

Though leaks are the largest concern, the sensors also detect changes in temperature and humidity. Library personnel can now rest assured that these irreplaceable collections are more protected than ever.

An example of water damage on a 16th century book.
Chloe Miller, a history major and student manuscript assistant in Special Collections & Archives, recently completed an educational pamphlet entitled Women’s Suffrage: Voting Rights in Cache County, Utah, 1870-1965. The pamphlet celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the 150th anniversary of the first votes cast by women in Utah.

Working with SCA’s manuscript curator, Clint Pumphrey, and the library’s graphic designer, Shay Larsen, Miller pulled together photographs and stories from archives across Utah to show how the national suffrage movement impacted Cache County on a local level. A “Notable Women” section explores the contributions of local leaders including Mattie Hanson, Louisa Lula Greene Richards, Mary Ann Weston Maughan, and Adeline Hatch Barber. “Notable Events” places local happenings in the context of those occurring at the statewide and national level, while “Notable Places” highlights Logan sites and structures where important gatherings took place. The pamphlets are free and will be available in the Special Collections & Archives reading room and the Cache Valley Visitors Bureau.
The library exhibition committee brought traveling exhibit *Utah Women Making History* to the library atrium at the end of February to celebrate USU’s Year of the Woman. The year 2020 marks three significant women’s rights anniversaries: the 150th anniversary of the first votes cast by women in Utah, the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

*Utah Women Making History* showcases Utah artist Brooke Smart’s illustrations of Utah women who worked to advocate for women and advance their communities. The exhibit was formerly on display in Hyrum and other locations throughout the state before coming to the Merrill-Cazier Library.

Visitors to the *Utah Women Making History* exhibit enjoy Utah artist Brooke Smart’s illustrations.
The library exhibition committee brought well-known artist Pilar Pobil to the atrium this Spring. Pilar was born in Spain at a time “when women were not encouraged to pursue their ambitions.” She got married, moved to the United States, and raised three children. It wasn’t until Pilar was in her forties that she began to focus on her art. The self-taught artist currently resides in Salt Lake City in a well-painted home that will become a studio for young artists.

On February 20th, Pilar visited the library for a walk around her exhibit. She explained what each piece meant to her and what her process looks like. When asked what she does when she hits a creative block she simply answered, “That has never happened to me. I have trouble filtering out ideas, not coming up with them.” The colorful exhibit was well-received and circulation noted an especially robust interest from students.
USU Libraries and the Office of Research co-hosted their first Datapalooza on Fat Tuesday, February 25th. This all-day workshop helped students and faculty develop critical data skills such as managing storage, ensuring reproducibility, and confirming data usage. Almost 100 interested attendees signed up for this workshop. Data Services Coordinator Betty Rozum and her team put a lot of work into creating this fun and informative event.
Help the Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library support Open Educational Resources (OER)!

Make a donation any time between now and June 30th, 2020 and the Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library will match your donation up to a total of $1,000.

OER are high-quality, openly licensed, online educational materials that offer an extraordinary opportunity for people everywhere to share, use, and reuse knowledge. When implemented in the classroom in place of traditional textbooks, OER can save students hundreds of dollars each semester!

Visit oer.usu.edu to learn more.
The Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library made a generous and much-needed donation to purchase a 3B Smart Anatomy Human Muscle Model for the library. The model is a three-quarter life-size human replica that depicts deep and superficial musculature in addition to the body’s major nerves, vessels, tissues, and organs. The internal organs are removable and show interrelationships of human morphology. The model is dual sex and has over 45 removable parts for students to get the best learning experience.

Every 3B Scientific Smart Anatomy model comes with 23 digital anatomy lectures, 117 different virtual anatomy models, and 39 anatomy quizzes accessible via QR code.
BECOME A FRIEND of the library

Two ways to give:
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Send a check for a minimum of $25 to:
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