Marginalia no. 45

Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/marginalia

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

This Journal/Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Libraries at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Marginalia by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.
MARGINALIA
FALL 2020

MERRILL-CAZIER LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Utah State University
Dear Friends,

Recently a friend asked me if I had ever thought I would be a library dean. I answered no. Then they asked if I thought I would ever be a library dean during a pandemic. I emphatically answered no, but here we are. The past eight months have been challenging for everyone in the library, to say the least. Even though our external circumstances have changed, our core library mission of helping students and faculty succeed remains the same. Our amazing library staff continue to deliver excellent library services for our patrons during this stressful and anxiety-ridden time!

Even while dealing with the pandemic, we continue to focus on new and critical initiatives. Two actions aimed at helping our students began this fall—one, led by First-Year Experience Librarian Katie Strand, seeks to help first year-students make the transition to college, and the other, led by Reference and Instruction Librarian Rachel Wishkoski, creates a more targeted outreach effort to our graduate students. One other initiative, led by new Digital Assets Librarian Darcy Pumphrey, will be to implement our digital preservation program. This program will allow us to preserve digital materials that we are currently collecting.

The library was also excited to welcome our new Fife Folklore Archivist Terri Jordan, and our new Archival Cataloging Librarian Paul Daybell. Both will be instrumental in continuing the extraordinary work of our Special Collections & Archives division.

As you can tell by this issue of Marginalia, great things continue to happen at the University Libraries. To our many great Friends, we thank you for your support!

- Brad Cole
  Dean of Libraries
Former Digital Projects Coordinator Darcy Pumphrey was recently hired to serve as the Digital Assets Librarian, where she will build workflows and create procedures to acquire, ingest, and preserve the Libraries’ digital assets. Because this is a new position, Darcy is looking forward to working on solutions related to digital preservation and the opportunity to collaborate with librarians doing similar work at other institutions. She received her MLIS from the University of North Texas, but has been in Logan since 2011. She enjoys renovating her 120-year-old home, hiking with her miniature schnauzer, and spending time with her new son.

Terri obtained an MLS and an MA in Folklore, both from Indiana University, Bloomington. She has worked in many archival institutions including Native American language archives, private art collections, local history and genealogy archives, and university special collections. She has also been the leader of the American Folklore Society’s Archives and Libraries Section and is a member of the Oral History Steering Committee of the Society of American Archivists. She is excited to learn the stories of the Fife Folklore Archives and the USU and Cache Valley communities as well. Terri enjoys volunteering for animal rescues, crafting, and voraciously consuming books and other media in various genres.

Paul Daybell was recently hired into the Archival Cataloging Librarian position after serving as the Special Collections Cataloging Assistant at USU Libraries. As Archival Cataloging Librarian, Paul will serve as the administrator for the Libraries’ archival management system and oversee Special Collections & Archives projects as they relate to Encoded Archival Description finding aids. He is excited to make library resources more discoverable and useful to patrons. He received his MLIS from Emporia State University after getting his undergraduate degree from USU. When he’s not shuttling his kids around to youth sporting events, he enjoys podcasts, movies, and watching sports.
Academic libraries can sometimes be uncomfortable, intimidating, and confusing places for new students. To help relieve some of that library anxiety, USU Libraries created the First-Year Experience (FYE) Librarian position. Katie Strand occupies this role and offers all first-year students a friendly face and a single point of contact.

Through outreach and instruction, our goal is to ensure our students are aware of the library resources available to them and develop their confidence in navigating the library early in their academic careers. By coordinating library instruction for first-year programs, the FYE Librarian has designed and initiated library instruction that empowers and engages our students.

Building stronger relationships with USU’s first generation students, transfer students, parents, and high school educators will help us better serve our first-year students moving forward.
Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion at USU Libraries

As the United States grapples simultaneously with a pandemic and a racial reckoning, libraries everywhere are taking a closer look at how library systems impact marginalized voices. USU Libraries wholeheartedly joined in this effort, and in summer of this year, Dean Brad Cole formed a USU Libraries Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Taskforce.

This group is composed of staff from across the library and is charged with investigating how the library can better foster an open and welcoming environment. Further developing representative collections is one area in discussion. EDI can mean different things for different people, and an important first step for the taskforce is discussing what EDI means for USU Libraries. Conversations are ongoing and ultimately the goal is to make USU Libraries a better place for all.
In March 2020 when COVID-19 required a sudden shift to remote work for many, the staff at USU Libraries saw an opportunity to make headway on a valuable project.

Transcribing historical documents facilitates easy discovery, and when transcriptions are created according to appropriate standards, content is much more accessible to researchers with varying abilities.

Staff members in Digital Initiatives and Library Administration collaborated quickly to prepare materials for transcription and developed workflows that made it possible for all USU staff, and even students, no matter their location, to participate in the effort.

Since March, more than 40 students and staff have dedicated time to this transcription effort, with priority given to issues of *Student Life* (the precursor to the *USU Statesman*) from 1902-1924. Thanks to this great teamwork, 500 issues (5000+ pages!) of *Student Life* are now keyword searchable.

Explore the results of this project at: digitalcommons.usu.edu/newspapers
Supporting USU Graduate Student Scholarship

USU Libraries collaboratively supports graduate students with their digital projects. A recent example includes one history student’s work collecting oral histories from Utah immigrants. The student wanted their research to be openly available for both K-12 teachers as well as other researchers. The final result was a digital exhibit tailored for one audience while the complete oral histories, research, and associated lesson plans are hosted in USU Libraries’ institutional repository.

Librarians in three different units collaborated to support another graduate student’s text-mining project for a doctoral dissertation. They determined how copyright law and contract law applied to the chosen content and negotiated for permission to use subscribed journals in the way that was needed. This scholarship support was the first of several similar projects in this new field.

These are just two of the myriad examples of librarians collaborating with USU graduate students to support their learning and research.

Rachel Wishkoski, Reference and Instruction Librarian, recently added Graduate Student Outreach and Engagement to her job responsibilities. While projects such as those described above are already part of the Libraries’ portfolio, Rachel’s role will bring a timely level of coordination and streamlining to services offered to graduate students.
From the opening of the Agricultural College of Utah in 1890 to present-day Utah State University, women have had a significant impact on the campus and the community. To celebrate USU’s Year of the Woman, USU Libraries proudly announces the launch of *Telling Our Story: 130 Years of Aggie Women*.

This digital exhibit presents a selection of notable Aggie women and their extraordinary stories. The highlighted women served as trailblazers in a world where women had to fight to make their voices heard. Please join us in celebrating these women whose legacy and influence have been instrumental in the development of the university and community.

Agricultural College of Utah basketball team, 1909.
Photo courtesy of Winnie Thomas

Explore USU Libraries’ newest digital exhibit!
Scan here or visit EXHIBITS.USU.EDU
From databases to basic applications, most of our library staff use technology in their day-to-day work activities. When COVID-19 hit in March, many of our employees started working from home. We asked our Library IT unit (LIT) to assist our staff with the technology they would need to be able to continue to deliver much-needed services to our students, faculty, and staff.

LIT staff have been instrumental in providing solutions for staff to communicate better, both at the office and home. One example includes the implementation of the Slack application, which provides faster and more secure communication between units and individuals than what other tools like email offer. LIT also created an online academy page that assists staff with all kinds of technical information and help.

LIT assisted and educated staff with Internet connections basics, computer security, technologies for holding online meetings, CDC guidelines on cleaning computer equipment, audio and video equipment, and many other technology-related urgencies. It has been a busy time for our computer people and we appreciate all their vital work.
Digital Preservation at USU Libraries

USU Libraries recently embarked on building sustainable digital preservation programming with the goal to accurately authenticate and render, over time, the digital and electronic content collected and curated by the library.

Based on the concept of a trustworthy repository, this cooperative effort included members of Library Administration, Cataloging and Metadata, Digital Initiatives, Information Technology, Research Data Management, and Special Collections & Archives. This important work specifically involves planning and executing new or revising existing policies, procedures, and processes in the areas of organizational infrastructure, digital object management, and technical infrastructure.

The success of the program will depend on building important and lasting connections between the digital content and its creators, curators (i.e. library), and users. The ultimate goal is to build a sustainable long-term digital preservation program that guarantees access for future generations of researchers.
BECOME A FRIEND
of the library

Two ways to give:
1. Visit usu.edu/giving
2. Select Merrill-Cazier Library
3. Select Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library

Send a check for a minimum of $25 to:
Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library
3000 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-3000

MARGINALIA © 2020
Published by: Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library
Issue Coordinator: Trina Shelton
Graphic Designer: Shay Larsen
Photographers: Devin Greener, Kellianne Gammill
Contributors: Kellianne Gammill, Darcy Pumphrey, Katie Strand, Becky Thoms, Todd Hugie, Todd Welch, Alana Manesse, Dory Rosenberg, Rachel Wishkoski

Curious about library events and services?
Follow us @USULibraries