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Utah State University

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What is a Book? The answer to this question may seem obvious, or a decade or two ago it did. But now we plainly recognize that we are at a historical divide. We see two kinds of books before us, the traditional paper based book, technically called a codex, and the electronic book. Clearly we are in a transitional period, but what is not clear is the form this new electronic book will ultimately take. Indeed to suggest that there is a single form is an indication of how our past experience with the book conditions our ability to envision the future.

The functionality and concept of a book is highly dependent on form. We need merely look at the shift from roll to codex in the fourth century AD to see how the adoption of a new format in the codex changed both the concept of the book and how it functioned. We now have pages with text on both sides all surrounded by a protective binding. With the invention of printing in the fifteenth century, the codex becomes ubiquitous and synonymous with the Renaissance and the creation of the modern world. But there have been many forms of the book throughout history (cuneiform clay tablets) and around the world in other cultures (palmleaf books in Southeast Asia). Each of these kinds of books has been shaped and formed by its physical structure.

Today it is in some part the absence of a physical structure that makes the electronic book so different. The potential of the electronic book lies in breaking links to the past. Not exist in the old paradigm, but this is just a bare beginning on a journey whose end we cannot know. Several libraries around the world are engaged in fascinating experiments with new digital books that break out of the old codex mindset; and the USU Press has partnered with the University of Illinois, Ohio State University, Miami University of Ohio, the Illinois Institute of Technology, and the Institute for the Future of the Book to create a USU Press imprint, Computers and Composition Digital Press to publish innovative, multimodal digital books that are freely available in our Digital Commons. The USU Press is leading the way in using new digital technologies to transform the traditional printed book, and our Digital Commons is providing the platform that makes it so.

What will the book look like in twenty years? I suspect we will still have our comfortable traditional printed books with us, because after all, formats are not exclusive. But the dominant form of the book will be digital, and the real question is how will that digital aspect transform the concept and functionality of the book. We are beginning to see glimmers of what is to come in the dynamism of combining various media and the potential of new kinds of collaborative authorship in experiments now ongoing at the USU Press and in our Digital Commons. This is one of the most exciting and significant developments in academic libraries and publishing today. The implications are enormous. Hold on to your seat; the ride has just begun!

Richard W. Clement, Dean of Libraries
Three students took top honors at the 2011 Leonard J. Arrington Writing Awards competition at Utah State University. The awards are offered in conjunction with the annual Arrington Mormon History Lecture traditionally held in the fall.

The competition is open to university students studying at any of the region’s universities. This year, the top three winners all attend USU.

John Brumbaugh, a graduate student in history, took the top prize with a first place award of $1,000. The $500 second place prize went to Alexander Fronk, a master’s student in family, human and consumer development with an emphasis on human development. The third place award of $250 went to Matt Bagley, a senior with a dual major in finance and economics and minors in Spanish and management.

The three winners were recognized Feb. 15 on the USU campus during the Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library spring lecture. The cash awards are provided by the Leonard J. Arrington Lecture and Archives Foundation.

The students’ winning essays were submitted to the competition following the fall 2011 Arrington lecture that featured Richard V. Francaviglia who presented “Like the Hajis of Meccah and Jerusalem — Orientalism and the Mormon Experience, 1820-1970.”

“Like many Americans in the early 19th century, the Mormons were fascinated by the Orient,” Francaviglia said in advance of his lecture. “The association of the Mormons with varied Oriental cultures — including ancient Egyptians, Jews and Muslims — provided ammunition to those who argued that Mormons were strange or even dangerous, and yet it also helped generate intense interest in the Mormon faith.”

Students entering this year’s Arrington Writing Awards competition responded to and expanded upon Francaviglia’s theme.

“We are pleased the interest in the writing competition continues to grow, and we congratulate this year’s winners,” said Brad Cole, of USU’s Special Collections and Archives and ex-officio member of the Leonard J. Arrington Foundation board.

This year’s top essay was submitted by Brumbaugh, who captured the third-place award in last year’s essay competition. The title of his first-place effort is “A Systematic and Orderly and Unusually Intelligent Fight: The Perpetuation of Mormon Orientalism During the Reed Smoot Hearings.”

Brumbaugh is a Montana native. He said his research interests include Western, Utah, social and cultural issues. His projects have appeared in “Journal of the West,” “Utah Historical Quarterly” and the “Journal of Mormon History.”

Fronk’s second place essay is titled “Egypt and Mormonism: Oriental Traits of the Latter-Day Saints.”

Fronk said he’s spent most of his life in Providence, Utah, and he is the oldest of 13 children of Dr. Thomas Fronk and Monica Fronk. He said his hobbies include teaching himself Latin, penny-whistle and reading practically anything — including eye-witness accounts of historical events. He recently returned from Kigali, Rwanda, doing the initial interviews for his thesis at the Kinamba Project, or Meg Foundation School.

Bagley, a senior, who will graduate from USU in December 2012 is from North Logan. The title of his winning essay is “Mormons and Muslims: Living in an Intolerant World.”

During the summer of 2011, Bagley participated in the Go Global South America study abroad program with USU’s Jon M. Huntsman School of Business. He is currently a member of the New Venture Consulting Group with the Huntsman School. Like many USU students, he works while attending school and is employed in Logan at the Kater Shop. He said his hobbies include playing basketball, racquetball and spending time with family and friends.

The Arrington Mormon History Lecture is hosted by Special Collections and Archives in USU’s Merrill-Cazier Library.

Patrick Williams
Internal & Legislative Communications
Occasionally an opportunity arises to purchase a truly great book for the Merrill-Cazier Library. Last fall such an opportunity occurred when the library was offered a chance to acquire the Liege Hours of the Virgin and of the Passion, an Illuminated manuscript on vellum, ca. 1270-1300. The acquisition of this Book of Hours was realized due to a generous donation from the Friends of the Merrill-Cazier Library, coupled with support from the Caine School of the Arts and the Merrill-Cazier Library.

The desire to acquire such an item came from the relationship between Special Collections and Archives curators and Art History associate professor Alexa Sand. Dr. Sand’s classes frequent Special Collections to examine our holdings of medieval manuscripts and early printed books. When asked what type of acquisitions would help her instructional efforts, Dr. Sand, replied another Book of Hours. Upon hearing of this acquisition Dr. Sand commented:

I can’t decide what I find most exciting about the addition of this Book of Hours to the library’s collection; that it will allow me to expose my students to the same kinds of hands-on research experiences with historical objects and texts that inspired me to become a manuscripts specialist, or simply that the book itself, previously almost unknown, is one of the earliest examples of a free-standing, illuminated Book of Hours which makes it ripe for study and publication. Both ways, this acquisition is a real coup, and will put USU on the map for people in my field.

Helping purchase items for the library in general and Special Collections specifically is not a new role for the Friends of the Library. Over the past year the Friends have helped Special Collections and Archives acquire nine new items including the Book of Hours. Of my favorites three stand out. First is an exquisite copy of Francis Parkman’s Oregon Trail illustrated by western artist Maynard Dixon. This book fits well into our western Americana focus adding a wonderful design and art element. An English broadside sheet tells the story of buying votes in a local election. Sung to the tune of “Derry Down” this broadside helps illustrate how ballads moved from oral tradition to the printed word. This document will be useful when instructing patrons about our Fife Folklore ballad collections. Finally, a wonderfully printed copy of Benjamin Franklin’s The Art of Making Money plenty in every man’s pocket adds to our pedagogical collection about early printing and design.

The Merrill-Cazier Library greatly thanks our Friends!

Brad Cole  
Associate Dean, Merrill Cazier Library  
Special Collections & Archives
Dean of Arts and Sciences Carlton Culmsee used this title for an article he wrote in 1962 to commemorate the centennial of the Morrill Land-grant College Act. On July 2, 2012, another 50 years will have passed since President Abraham Lincoln signed the legislation that made possible the founding of USU.

Sponsored by Congressman Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont, the Land-grant College Act provided public land to the various states and territories in accordance with their representation in Congress. The sale of these lands could be used to help establish agricultural colleges. Morrill proposed his “noble idea” to make education more accessible by pleading for the establishment of colleges “as might rightfully claim the authority…to scatter broadcast that knowledge which will prove useful in building up a great nation.” Not only a nation “great in its resources of wealth and power,” he professed, “but greatest of all in the aggregate of its intelligence and virtue.”

Morrill’s revolutionary educational concept of providing broad practical education was championed in Utah by Anthon H. Lund. Lund introduced his bill to establish the Utah Agricultural College (now USU) to the Utah Territorial Assembly in 1888. It was signed into law by Governor Caleb W. West on March 8. USU has observed this date ever since as “Founder’s Day.”

The impact of the Morrill Act is nowhere better exemplified than in Utah. Economic and educational circumstances would have precluded many early students from attending more traditional nineteenth century colleges. USU, however, was both affordable and accessible. Students were charged only a $5 entrance fee. For those lacking the necessary academic skills to pass the entrance exam the College also included a preparatory department.

While the institution existed primarily “to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts…,” music, literature and the arts were also encouraged from the very beginning. As a result of this broad approach early graduates went on to achieve prominence in a variety of academic, governmental and commercial positions. Elmer G. Peterson, William M. Jardine and F. David Farrell, for instance, all went on to become presidents at land-grant institutions, Peterson at USU and Jardine and Farrell at Kansas State University.

USU’s land grant tradition was particularly important for women who had been largely excluded from higher education until passage of the Morrill Act. Sarah Walker Eddy, a member of the College’s first faculty, celebrated this transformation during the College’s dedicatory exercises, September 4, 1890. “The day of hair-breadth distinctions between the sexes is past,” she declared. “Now the young lady may enter side by side with her brother, and if sufficient mental power be hers, she may keep by his side, or per chance go ahead.”

USU’s student-centered environment of learning, discovery and engagement has been consistent for nearly 125 years. Discovery and research began with the initiation of the Agricultural Experiment Station concurrent with the institution’s founding in 1888. In 1959 the Space Dynamics Laboratory provided a “key research role” for the university within the national space program. The Innovation Campus has encouraged discovery since 1985 by supporting student and faculty research in partnership with private industry. Multiple other research centers at USU currently generate more than $186 million in external grants.

Engaging Utah’s citizenry in the latest research emanating from the University began early at USU. In 1896 the State Legislature passed the Cazier Bill to provide for holding farmer “round-ups” in each of the State’s counties. This marked the official beginning of Extension work at USU.
Common Literature Experience: 2012

Each year Utah State University offers incoming first-year students, campus and community the opportunity to participate in a Common Literature Experience. We invite you to read this year’s selection, *Beast in the Garden* by David Baron.

Baron explores the issues, policies and historical events relating to cougar attacks in Boulder, Colorado, in the early 1990s. The response prior to and following these attacks reflects the controversy inherent in discussions of environmental preservation.

According to Lisa Hancock, Program Administrator of New Student Orientation, “*Beast in the Garden* is a strong selection because it examines conflict, compromise, and the difficulty of drawing the line between man and nature. There are several parallels between Cache Valley and the Boulder, Colorado, community which should make for an engaging read for students and community members alike.”

Susanne Clement, Chair of the Common Literature Experience Selection Committee comments on the book selection process: “The committee, composed of students, faculty, staff and members of the community, reviewed many excellent nominations and selected *Beast in the Garden* for its balanced and fair discussion of the complex environmental issue related to human-wildlife interaction.”

The author is scheduled to speak on Saturday, August 25 at 9:30 a.m. in the Kent Concert Hall and it will be broadcast online at http://aggiecast.usu.edu. To view photos from the book or for more information on the author, reviews or related information, go to the author’s website: http://www.beastinthegarden.com/Home

Kacy Lundstrom
Reference Librarian
Merrill-Cazier Library

“Democracy Enrolls at the College” Continued ...

Extension work was further enhanced in 1914 with passage of the federal Smith-Lever Act. This legislation created the Cooperative Extension Service and established formal relations between land-grant colleges, such as USU, and the USDA to set up county extension offices throughout the state.

USU anticipated the Smith-Lever Act by several years when it appointed Luther M. Winsor as the State’s first county extension agent in 1911. Winsor later described the informality of his appointment: “I went to Vernal in a leather Spring Stage Coach with John A. Widtsoe (President), E.D. Ball (Experiment Station Director), and W.W. McLaughlin… I was given a horse to ride and was sent to my new job.”

From farmer round-ups through the beginnings of the Extension Service, USU has continued with its encompassing program of engagement. During the 1950s University Extension expanded internationally, first to the Middle East and then later to Latin America. These early efforts have continued to create exciting opportunities for students to study abroad, or for international students to study at the University.

The promotion of learning while expanding access to education is a central component of USU’s land-grant mission. Regional campuses at Brigham City, Tooele, and the Uintah Basin provide greater access for working and non-traditional students. The addition of satellite campuses at USU-Eastern in Price and Blanding further enhances these learning opportunities.

With 29 County Extension offices, seven Service Centers and multiple other Distance Education sites, USU maintains a vibrant tradition of learning, discovery and engagement. USU encircles the state to provide the very best in the land-grant tradition.

Bob Parson, University Archivist
‘Forgotten Photographs’ of the Union Pacific Railroad

The exhibit, assembled by Special Collections and Archives Photograph Curator Daniel Davis, was displayed in the Merrill-Cazier Library atrium Jan. 17 through Feb. 17, 2012. A reception for the exhibit was held Feb. 15 in conjunction with a lecture by Davis for the Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library.

In this exhibit Davis explored the history of the Union Pacific Railroad through photographs and the work of A. J. Russell. The exhibition presented several of the well-known and idealized scenes of the railroad’s construction (1868-69) as photographed by Russell while under the commission of the Union Pacific Railroad. In addition to the well-known images, the exhibit presented examples of stereoviews taken by Russell and other photographers that offered a more complete and less sanitized version of the railroad’s history. The stereoviews selected for the exhibit were produced more for the general public. Davis said the 900-plus stereoviews produced by Russell give a more complete picture of the railroad.

“Russell’s large-format views, for instance, tend to mythologize the building of the railroad and the men who did it,” Davis said. “His stereoviews, however, fill in the details of what was a very messy, ugly business.”

As photo curator, Davis has collected stereoviews for 10 years. Visitors to the exhibit had the chance to view eight stereoview reproductions through a stereo-viewer.

“Who were the surveyors, graders, spikers and engineers who lived and died to get the thing done?” Davis asks. “Where did they come from and where did they go after the railroad was built?”

“Today, much has been produced about the political corruption, corporate shenanigans and the violent ‘Hell on Wheels’ towns. On the other side there are enthusiasts who know every minute detail of how a railroad mechanically functions. The in-between history of the Union Pacific is still mostly unknown.”

During a 2010 sabbatical Davis traveled from Omaha, Nebraska, to Promontory, Utah, re-photographing the landscapes and structures originally captured by Russell. He is currently writing a biography of Russell to include a catalog of the stereoviews.

Patrick Williams,
Internal & Legislative Communications

“A library may look like a single building, but please don’t be misled by the walls. It’s a single link in an enormous chain. It’s a single being in a gigantic ecosystem of words and thoughts and ideas.”

Shurla Klinger, from Beyond Words
Jack London Society coming to Logan

The Merrill-Cazier Library’s Special Collections and Archives Division will host the Jack London Society’s 11th biennial symposium October 4-6, 2012, at the Marriot Springhill Suites Riverwoods Conference Center in Logan. The symposium will consist of papers and presentations on the life and works of Jack London.

The Merrill-Cazier Library’s Special Collections and Archives Division has the world’s second largest Jack London collection. The collection consists of a complete set of inscribed, first editions of every London work. The inscriptions are to his wife Charmian, and also include a tipped in photograph of London. SCA houses a portion of his personal library and a significant number of his personal papers. The majority of his papers consists of letters, both original and file copies, written to and by the author. This correspondence includes letters to and from his wife, those connected with London through the years, such as business managers and secretaries and literary personalities such as Sinclair Lewis. There are also some miscellaneous holograph materials by London, various photographs, newspaper clippings, articles and reviews. Also included in the collection are such things as his wills, passport and correspondent’s notebook. Other items of interest include the “Diary of a Tramp,” and material from his days as a news correspondent covering the Russo-Japanese War. The collection was obtained by purchase and through a gift from the Jack London Estate in California during the 1960s.

As part of the symposium, Special Collections and Archives will create an exhibit from their London Collection for the atrium of the library. An opening gallery talk and reception will be hosted by the Merrill-Cazier Library Special Collections and Archives Division.

Yes! I would like to join Friends of Utah State Merrill-Cazier Library

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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!
Lectures:


Presentations:


Williams, R. et al. (October 14, 2011). “What Happens to the Fieldwork? Biases and Balances: A Discussion of Neutrality in Archives, Museums, and Other Folklore Collections.” Panel presented at the 2011 American Folklore Society Meeting, Bloomington, IN.

Publications:

