Digital Initiatives are Underway at Buley

In July 2010 a digitization committee was formed to implement digital collections at Buley Library. The members of the committee are Jackie Toce (chair), Steve Collison, Paul Holmer, Cindy Schofield, and Lisa Carlucci Thomas. The group has been busy discussing many aspects of digitization including technology requirements, metadata standards, and workflow. The committee is also currently working on recommending a submission process that would determine what content goes into digital collections. This could eventually result in a digital repository of student and faculty work as well as partnerships with different departments on campus and the community.

At this time the library also began a one-year subscription to a hosted content management service called ContentDM. The software, licensed by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), enables libraries to upload a diverse range of digital file types including PDF, JPG, and TIFF. So, the library can upload content that has been scanned, photographed, or that is “born-digital”. The content management web interface will allow patrons to search keywords across collections stored in the library’s system.

The first collection that was chosen for digitization is a collection of postcards from the David C. Libbey Collection of Library Ephemera. Dr. Libbey was a professor in the Library and Information Science Department at Southern for 19 years. He donated his collection to the library in 1990. It includes pamphlets, postcards, photographs, miscellaneous library ephemera, and books. The collection of antique postcards is mainly of library buildings from the New England area. A large portion of the postcards are from Connecticut. The library has an opportunity to make these unique resources more available to the Southern community and to the world because mounting the images in a content server will make them more accessible on the web while keeping the original items preserved.

Most of the work on the digitization project is being completed in the technical services division. In August Jackie Toce went to the Eastern ContentDM Users Group Meet-
There are two major issues that I would like to discuss in this column: the library building project and the budget. I am very excited to tell you that planning for the renovation of Old Buley is finally underway. The project stopped in March 2009 due to lack of funds. Dr. Stanley Battle, Interim President at SCSU, convened a small committee (President Battle, Selase Williams, Jim Blake, Paul Loesch, Wendy Chang and myself) this past summer to upgrade the plans from 2001 to meet today’s needs. A Library Consultant, Jay Lucker, retired Director of MIT Libraries, was brought in to work with us, gather as much information as he could and to provide the committee with a summary of his observations and recommendations regarding the current and future use of space in Buley Library.

One of the most exciting recommendations is to have a Learning Commons (a combination of a Library Commons and a Technology Commons) on the main floor. Also, the Library’s Special Collections will once again be located in the Library, much of which will be utilizing compact storage. Other recommendations for program additions include moving the First Year Experience Program into the Library, integrating art gallery space throughout the Library in addition to having a dedicated exhibit area, a café, a 24/7 study area within the Library, and more group study areas.

There were also a few recommendations for program deletions and/or re-arrangements in West Point, New York. She participated in training that was conducted by representatives of OCLC. Many of the steps in the library’s ongoing projects have required learning new processes for everyone involved from scanning images to inputting Qualified Dublin Core metadata into the new software interface. For the first step, Arlene Balkauskas and Kim Wilk have learned to scan and save images using file formats and image resolutions that conform to industry standards. Next, Marilyn Terlaga transcribed messages and captions from postcards that were handwritten from the 1900’s. Finally, Mary Migliaro generated metadata that conformed to the Dublin Core standard.

The postcard collection is just the beginning. The library intends to create a digitization studio to process images of materials in special collections that include books, pamphlets and realia. The studio will include photographic equipment, computers, and scanners that will enable library staff to capture images of these diverse collections.

The library is in the final stages of “branding” the content management interface and expects to unveil the final product by the end of the semester. To take a peek at the progress of the digital collections, you can visit http://scsu.contentdm.oclc.org/.

Christina D. Baum, Ed.D.
Director of Library Services
Hilton C. Buley Library

Digitization - continued from page 1
Open Book: SCSU Freshmen Read

This year, Buley Library was a moving force behind an entirely new program at Southern, Open Book: SCSU Freshmen Read! Open Book is a common reading program for all first year students. The book chosen for the inaugural program was Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman’s Quest to Make a Difference. The book was chosen by soliciting the university campus for recommendations and creating a list that was then whittled down to four finalists which were given to a selection committee consisting of faculty, staff, and students who read all four and voted on their favorite.

Buley Library purchased copies of the book for all incoming first year students. Librarians distributed copies of the book to all students during New Student Orientation in June and invited students to join the Facebook group that had been set up for the program.

Students returned to campus the last week of August to move in to their dorms. All students attended a one-day mandatory program that included an introduction to Outcasts United by Dr. Patrick Heidkamp of the Geography Department. Dr. Heidkamp used the online geographic tool Google Earth to provide a visually riveting discussion of how satellite imagery can be used to study forced migration. He also spoke of students needing to expand their own boundaries to make connections with fellow students and make the most of their college experience. Afterwards first year students met in small groups for discussions of the book.

The following day students participated in the Backpack Project, stuffing backpacks with school supplies for refugee children in New Haven.

On September 15, Southern welcomed Outcasts author Warren St. John to campus for a talk at Lyman Hall. St. John shared with the students how he came to write the book, recounted how he first encountered the refugees of Clarkston, Georgia, and discussed some of his own early college experiences, echoing how important it is to step outside of one’s boundaries and meet people unlike oneself.

Much of the program was given over to a question and answer session of which Southern students took full advantage. Many were interested in how the refugees from the book are doing now. The talk was followed by a book signing, and many students waited in line for half an hour to meet the author and thank him for the book.

The semester’s events continued with the First Year Experience soccer tournament, a hotly contested title which had SCSU soccer players coaching students from the Inquiry seminar courses. Staff from the New Haven organization IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) spoke at Southern in late October, and Professor of Anthropology Kathleen Skoczen will give a lecture with student Daniel Trust, a refugee from Rwanda, on November 1, from 6:30-7:30, in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

This has been an exciting program for Buley Library to be involved in, and we look forward to it becoming a permanent part of the university experience for Southern students.

Lisa Bier, Reference Librarian
Collection Development and Teaching, Learning, and Research

Are you asking yourself, “Who cares, what does this have to do with me?” Well, you are probably not alone! While “collection development” is a term that most of Buley’s users are probably not familiar with, it is crucial to faculty and student success in their academic pursuits. It is not easy to put this complex library function into one sentence but we might state that collection development and management is that which defines and supports the life cycle curation and management of all information resources that the Library makes available to its community. In this capacity, collection development emphasizes innovative models for managing collections within the context of user needs, digitization and digitized resources, local and shared storage, and resource sharing.

The change of a large portion of the information resource landscape from paper-based material to digital information reinforces our need to completely rethink the way in which the Library acquires and provides access to knowledge and information for our varied constituencies. Students can now access digitized journal articles from JSTOR at 2 am from their dormitory rooms while faculty can search for electronic books from their offices. Research shows that there is increasing user comfort and satisfaction with online access to these digital materials. In keeping with this changing landscape, Buley Library has transitioned many of its journal subscriptions from print to online and is increasing its collection of electronic books. Regardless of the explosion of digital information resources, the Library will continue to provide our users with the information that they want, in the format that they can best use it, at a time and place of their choosing. While the trend is toward increased online information products the economics of academic publishing cannot support a totally digital environment. The Buley Library will need to envision and implement new collections programs while continuing to provide our users with effortless access to needed resources whether they are in paper or electronic format.

One of the main thrusts of collection development and management is assessment of our users’ needs and the information resources available to meet those needs. The Library aims to ensure a culture of assessment in order to constantly gauge changes in these areas as well as the University curriculum. There are many methods to assess our collections (such as circulation data of print materials and usage statistics for online products). Through these, and other methods, the Library is updating its Collection Development Policy which will be a document that relates Buley’s collections directly with the University’s teaching and research needs and curricular offerings. This entails the library liaisons assessing our current collections in each subject area to ensure that our collections are at the appropriate academic levels to support SCSU’s programs. This draft document should be completed by the beginning of the Spring semester after which we expect to be able to discuss the results with the academic departments.

If there are any questions about the collection development and management activities at Buley Library, our Collection Development Policy or trends in information resources (print or digital), please contact David Feinmark at 2-5731 or feinmarkd1@southernct.edu

David Feinmark, Collection Development Librarian
The year 2001, the first year of the 3rd millennium, (remember, no year zero in the Gregorian calendar) was full of landmark events: George W. Bush was sworn in as the 43rd president, foot and mouth disease was rampant in the UK, terrorists unleashed their evil on US soil and (drumroll please…) Southern Connecticut State University was reaccredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Only one of these events will be repeated in 2011 and the Southern community has already begun preparing for it.

NEASC is one of six regional, voluntary, self-governing bodies in the United States responsible for accrediting educational institutions. By requiring member institutions to go through a regular evaluation process, the Association assures the public that schools and colleges who are NEASC members provide a quality education that meets agreed upon standards.

The NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education adopts policies and sets standards for the evaluation of colleges and universities. There are eleven standards that articulate various dimensions of institutional quality and include virtually all aspects of university life from evaluating the clarity of an institution's mission and purpose through planning, governance, academics, faculty credentials, student satisfaction, finances, technology, infrastructure and of course, library collections and service. Institutions of higher education are evaluated against the standards every 10 years.

So, it is the NEASC accreditation review that will be repeated in 2011. In preparation for a NEASC team visit in October of 2011 the university is undergoing a comprehensive self study. Many staff, faculty members and students are currently serving on self study committees and additional input will be requested through surveys, small group meetings and town hall gatherings. The library administration, faculty and student volunteers are in the process of writing the Standard 7 (library) section of the accreditation self study report. Such things as the depth of the collection, service satisfaction, program effectiveness, use of technology, and the suitability of the building are all being looked at and reviewed. The group is reviewing the results of various studies that have been done on library user satisfaction since the 2001 review, and is also gathering new information to gauge levels of library effectiveness.

Please look for opportunities to provide feedback by participating in surveys and focus groups as they are announced or by contacting the library director, librarians or staff with comments. The accreditation process provides an opportunity to evaluate offerings against standards and peer institutions. The end result will be recognition of the things done well, and inspiration to move forward in the areas that need improvement.

Cindy Schofield, Head of Technical Services

“The institution demonstrates sufficient and appropriate information resources and services and instructional and information technology and utilizes them to support the fulfillment of its mission.”

NEASC Standard 7 (Library and Other Information Resources)
Staff News

Welcome David!

David Feinmark joined the Buley Library faculty this past August as the Acquisitions/Collection Development Librarian. He has 30 years of experience in the field having served as Acquisitions Librarian and then Coordinator of Collection Development and Management at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. While at Washburn University he coordinated several editions of Washburn’s Collection Development Policy, developed their electronic journal and database offerings, and initiated their Institutional Repository as well as their Scholarly Communications Program. While in Kansas David served as a member of the Kansas Digital Library Steering Committee and the Kansas Regents’ Libraries Database Consortium. Active in ALA’s Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, he served two terms on their Administration of Collection Development Committee and is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Collection Development Librarians of Academic Libraries Discussion Group. He has an MS in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston and an MBA from Washburn University. Born in New Haven and raised in Milford, David is happy to “be home again.” He is especially proud to become a part of the Library faculty at Buley and is anxious to help the Library move forward in fulfilling its mission of serving the entire SCSU community.

Activities

Reference librarians June Cheng and Rebecca Hedreen were appointed to the Provost’s Textbook Cost Containment Committee last year. Rebecca has also been doing some projects involving Open Access Educational Resources. She has taken an online workshop on Open Access Textbooks, and has given two Faculty Development workshops this October: “Open Access Publishing” aimed at authors and researchers, and “Using Open Educational Resources” for teaching faculty.

In the spring a number of Buley librarians attended the New England Instruction Group annual conference, “Meeting Digital Natives Where They Are,” held at the Yale University West Campus in Orange. Included were Lisa Bier, Winnie Shyam, Paul Holmer, Carol Skalko and adjunct Martha Lipowski.

Technical services librarians Cindy Schofield-Bodt and Jackie Toce presented a poster session in June at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, DC called “You need it? We got it! Outreach Opportunities for Technical Services Departments.” Library Technician Tom Celentano reported that he attended the vendors’ area at the same conference where he leaned to navigate Midwest Library Service’s new online database.

Technical Services librarian Kathy Swenson joined Cindy Schofield-Bodt and Jackie Toce at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in early October for a workshop titled: “Good Practices for Great Outcomes Cataloging Efficiencies that Make a Difference.”

Librarians Lisa Bier and Paul Holmer attended the October Conference hosted by the Dartmouth Biomedical Libraries recently. The emphasis was on tools for teaching and outreach. Both were gratified to see a Buley Library product, the Information Chinese Menu, used as an example of a successful handout by a presenter from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

continued on page 7
David C. Libbey

The Postcard Collection of David Libbey is the first digitization project for Buley Library (see page 1). David Carleton Libbey (1916-1990) was an Associate Professor of Library Science at SCSU from 1964 to 1983. A native of Maine, he was an alumnus of Colby College and held graduate degrees from the University of Chicago and Columbia University. During the Second World War he served in France where, remarkably enough, he was able to do some book-scouting. Later he was reference head at Rutgers and Washington State University. In addition to ephemera, he collected books on library history and the gay experience. Professor Libbey wrote about his collections in “My Library History Collection,” in The Journal of Library History.

Paul Holmer, Special Collections Librarian

Staff News – continued from page 6

Technical Services librarian Hing Wu (cataloging/media) was the speaker at the October 20 showing of Patrice Leconte’s film, My Best Friend (Mon Meilleur Ami) [2006] at the Russell Library in Middletown. The screening was one of the offerings of “Common Ground: 2nd Middletown International Film Festival.”

This semester Buley Library has been hosting to a library intern, Inuwa Bukar, from Nigeria. Inuwa is in Connecticut to get his Master’s in Library Science from SCSU, and has been working with reference librarian Rebecca Hedreen exploring the many facets of reference service. Back home, Inuwa is a cataloger at the American University of Nigeria.

Information Services librarian Xiaojun Cheng (known to many as June) recently published a major collection of materials dealing with cross-cultural librarianship: International and comparative studies in information and library science: a focus on the United States and Asian countries (Scarecrow, 2008). June is in charge of the education subject area at Buley and we are all impressed that she has had time to mount such an effort.


Paul Holmer, Special Collections Librarian
New at the Library

Leisure Reading Collection

Especially at the beginning of the semester, before the assignments start piling up, and at the end, when people need study breaks, we get questions about leisure reading. Novels, fiction, light reading, just for fun, whatever people call it, there is a hunger for reading outside the classroom.

Thanks in part to a donation of several novels, Buley Library now has a Leisure Reading Collection. The collection is housed in a separate bookcase on the first floor of the library, on the main traffic corridor. A few selected new books will also be displayed on these shelves.

What’s in the collection? So far we have books by Margaret Atwood, Rita Mae Brown, Mary Higgins Clark, Stephen King, Louis L’Amour, John LeCarre, Terry Pratchet, and Nora Roberts, to name a few of the more famous authors.

What’s next for this collection? The collection is not meant to be a replacement for a public library, so it won’t ever be too large. More books will be added from our literature collection, though popular authors whose works are currently used in classes, such as Toni Morrison, probably won’t be added. Given the current budget situation, it’s unlikely that new books will be bought specifically for this collection in the near future, though books bought to support past literature classes may be added if they aren’t in high demand for current coursework. Donations will be selectively accepted. (As per current policy, donations not added to the collection will go to the annual Friends of Buley Library book sale.)

Rebecca Hedreen, Reference Librarian

“I just want a book to, you know, read.”

Spring Library Book Sale

The Friends of Buley Library is planning the Spring Library Book Sale to benefit Buley Library. Please watch the library website or contact Shirley Cavanagh, cavanaghs1@southernct.edu, (203) 392-5768 for more information.

Chronicle of Higher Education

The library now provides campus-wide online access to the Chronicle of Higher Education. Off campus access is also available via the regular library login service (current SCSU students, staff, & faculty):

Buley Bulletin Staff includes:

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