UBC Okanagan Campus Library leads project to bring local history to life

A new online resource has brought the faces and names of the Okanagan’s colorful and vibrant history into the 21st century. Coordinated by the University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus Library and featuring rich, local content from project partners, this new website brings the people and places from the Okanagan region onto the screens of valley residents. Recently launched, Digitized Okanagan History (DOH) currently includes nearly 4,000 photos and documents dating back to the turn of the last century.

The goal of the project is to provide a centralized portal to support research and generally improve access to local resources. Prior to the launch, anyone interested in accessing a photo or document dating back to the past century would have to visit the local museum or historical society—many of which are run by volunteers and have restricted hours. DOH links people to all 11 repositories and many of the hidden historical treasures on a 24/7 basis. Explore the project’s digital collections at http://doh.arcabc.ca.

UBC Okanagan students Eamon Riordan-Short and Sharon Hanna scan in materials at the Peachland Museum in spring 2017.

Represent ALA on IFLA standing committees

Would you like to represent ALA on an International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) section standing committee? The biennial appointment process to represent ALA on relevant IFLA standing committees is currently underway for terms running from 2019 through 2023. The ACRL Board of Directors endorses candidates for election to a number of IFLA standing committees, with the ACRL Leadership Recruitment and Nominations Committee (LRNC) acting in an advisory capacity to the Board in recommending approval for appointment. Complete details on the application process are available in ALA Connect at http://connect.ala.org/node/274591. The deadline for nominations is May 4, 2018. Contact LRNC Chair Jennifer Nutefall at jnutefall@scu.edu with questions.

Newberry revises digital re-use policy

The Newberry Library has announced a major revision to its policy regarding the re-use of collection images. Images derived from collection items are now available to anyone for any lawful purpose, whether commercial or noncommercial, without licensing or permission fees to the library. Applying to everything from the pictures researchers take in the library’s reading rooms to the 1.7 million high-resolution Newberry images currently available online, the revised policy is intended to encourage users to interact more freely with collection items as they produce new scholarly and creative work.

Many Newberry items now available online are part of the public domain and can be used and shared freely without violating copyright law. These items include more than 30,000 French Revolution pamphlets recently added
ACRL Board to establish new equity, diversity, and inclusion initiative

At the 2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, the ACRL Board of Directors voted to add to the ACRL Plan for Excellence a new signature initiative focused on the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). The creation of a signature initiative is distinct from the goal areas currently highlighted in the Plan for Excellence, which are meant to be re-examined for continuance every three-to-five years. As such, a signature initiative represents a strategic priority designed to permeate the work of the association, cutting across the four established goal areas, as well as all ACRL committees and communities of practice.

Building on work over the course of the past year, the signature initiative on EDI provides an opportunity to convene a division-wide focus on one of the association’s core values. Establishing this initiative will enable the association to further examine and develop support in these critical areas at a time when many in our profession regularly express concern and feel a threat to our core values.

The Board has recently undertaken a variety of steps to reinforce and reinvigorate the core values of the association, and has released numerous statements on issues ranging from the condemnation of white supremacy and racism to support for Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students. The Board also endorsed the Diversity Standards: Cultural Competency for Academic Libraries in 2012 and has actively supported and promoted the ACRL Diversity Alliance, which was formed in 2016 and currently has 38 members.

During the ALA Midwinter Meeting, the ACRL Board reviewed the updated language around EDI in the Plan for Excellence and charged a Board working group to explore ways to address these issues effectively and strategically across the association. Additionally, ACRL leadership began an important conversation on EDI during the Leadership Council meeting with Communities of Practice and general membership, offering suggestions on what directions the association might take that would be of most benefit to the membership. The Board will review these ideas and looks forward to continuing the conversation at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference. The Board is committed to devoting resources to carry out new, high-impact EDI initiatives.

to Internet Archive and made available as a data set as part of a “Digitizing Hidden Collections” grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.

The Newberry’s new image rights policy follows the recent expansion of its digital collections, including the addition of a significant portion of the Everett D. Graff Collection. The Graff collection totals more than 130,000 images of books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, and other objects documenting indigenous peoples in the Americas and the settlement of the American West. All subsequent additions to the Newberry’s digital collections, including a soon-to-be-released collection of sheet music and significant additions to the Edward E. Ayer Digital Collection, will also be freely accessible.

University of Washington Press joins UW Libraries

Starting March 1, 2018, the University of Washington (UW) Press joined the UW Libraries and now report to UW Vice-Provost of Digital Initiatives and Dean of University Libraries Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson. The press and the libraries currently collaborate on a number of joint initiatives, including exploration of digital publishing platforms, open access publishing, open educational resources development, and support for digital scholarship. The press has also published a number of books in association with the libraries, including Rural China on the Eve of Revolution; Mary Randlett Portraits; Roots and Reflections: South Asians in the Pacific Northwest; and Shadows of a
Fleeting World: Pictorial Photography of the Seattle.

IMLS accepting Native Hawaiian Library Services Grant applications
The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is accepting applications for the Native Hawaiian Library Services grant program. Native Hawaiian Library Services grants are available to nonprofit organizations that primarily serve and represent native Hawaiians. These grants, awarded in amounts of up to $150,000 for two years, are designed to enhance existing library services or implement new ones. Successful grant projects will align with one of three project categories: preservation and revitalization; educational programming; or digital services. Funded projects include those that support individuals’ needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, and digital literacy skills; improve the quality of and access to library and information services; or enhance the skills of the current library workforce and leadership. The deadline for submitting applications is May 1, 2018. See the IMLS website for grant guidelines at www.imls.gov/grants/available/native-hawaiian-library-services.

LYRASIS releases guidebook for open source sustainability
LYRASIS recently released a new guidebook as the culmination of the “It Takes a Village: Open Source Software Sustainability” project. The guidebook is designed to serve as a practical reference source to help open source software programs serving cultural and scientific heritage organizations plan for long-term sustainability. This sustainability effort includes ensuring that commitment and resources will be available at levels sufficient for the software to remain viable and effective as long as needed. The project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The guidebook can be accessed at www.lyrasis.org/technology/Pages/IMLS-OSS.aspx.

Choice publishes white paper on new directions for institutional repositories
Choice published the first in a series of occasional white papers designed to provide actionable intelligence around topics of importance to the academic library community in February 2018. This first paper, “The Evolving Institutional Repository Landscape,” offers a look into the current state of and future prospects for institutional repositories (IR), a particularly timely topic in light of the recent upheaval in the landscape. Researched and written by Judy Luther, president of Informed Strategies, the white paper provides an overview of IRs based on in-depth interviews with industry leaders supplemented by an open survey that gathered data from more than 150 North American universities. The work explores current usage patterns and practices, where IRs fit in an evolving scholarly and academic ecosystem, and realistic paths for future development.

Commenting on the publication of this first paper, Choice Editor and Publisher Mark Cummings noted, “Ms. Luther’s research provides a wealth of information about current practices and rich material for further reflection on the role of the academic library in the scholarly communication network. We hope it will make a positive contribution to that discussion.”

Funding for this research was provided by a generous contribution from the Taylor & Francis group. “The Evolving Institutional Repository Landscape” has been published under a CC BY-NC 2.0 license and is available on the Choice 360 website at www.choice360.org/librarianship/whitepaper.
MLA International Bibliography adds new subject modules

In January 2018, the Modern Language Association (MLA) launched four new subject-area modules to accompany its online course “Understanding the MLA International Bibliography.” Each module focuses on searching the bibliography for scholarly publications in one of four disciplines: folklore, linguistics, film (including television, video, and other broadcast media), and rhetoric and composition. Students who complete the new modules can earn badges in each of these four subject areas.

The main course, “Understanding the MLA International Bibliography,” consists of five units and covers basic and advanced database search techniques, peer review, publication types, and finding full-text publications using bibliography citations. The course and its accompanying modules are free and available for reuse and modification under a Creative Commons license, but students must have online access to the MLA International Bibliography through EBSCO. Visit mla.moonami.com to access the course and new modules.

OCLC extends WorldShare Management Services mobile capabilities

Following a successful launch in the United States, OCLC is extending its Digby mobile app to libraries worldwide, offering student library workers, volunteers, and staff greater efficiency, accuracy, and independence working with WorldShare Management Services (WMS). As a suite of web-based applications, WMS allows library staff to do their work in the library, at home, or on the go. The design of the Digby app provides instructions for handling pull-list and reshelving tasks. Digby lets workers scan library materials in the stacks, saving them time and reducing their reliance on paper slips. More information on WMS is available at www.oclc.org/en/worldshare-management-services.html.

Project MUSE releases new platform beta preview

Project MUSE has launched a beta preview of a newly redesigned platform. The beta site is a work in progress, with additional development and new functionality occurring on an ongoing basis and will run in parallel with the current site for the next several months leading up to the formal release of the new site in mid-2018. A feedback form is available on the beta site and comments, questions, and suggestions are encouraged. The beta site is available at https://t.e2ma.net/click/tc0r0d/9gmwj/1awhn1.

Tech Bits...

Brought to you by the ACRL ULS Technology in University Libraries Committee

Recently, the ACRL University Libraries Section’s Technology in University Libraries Committee, used Zoom, a cloud-based enterprise video and audio conferencing platform for its midwinter virtual meeting. Given how straightforward it was to use, I knew it would make a great Tech Bits column. A subscription-based service, Zoom has seen uptake in the higher education arena, though individuals can also subscribe. I was impressed by the high quality of our conference call, which enabled eight of us to hear and see each other without friction, irrespective of whether participants enabled both audio and video, audio-only, or joined via cell phone. Some of Zoom’s many features include an easy-to-use chat box, the ability to share meeting recordings with participants quickly, and ADA compliance.

—Jane Nichols
Oregon State University

...Zoom
http://zoom.us/