Penn State presents information literacy awards

The Penn State University Libraries expanded its information literacy awards university-wide this year and honored 71 undergraduate students and three graduate students participating in their respective campus-wide research exhibition events. The university’s Undergraduate Exhibition, held at the University Park campus each spring, welcomes students from all campuses to participate. University Libraries faculty librarians created and presented the Information Literacy Award to recognize those student participants whose original scholarly work demonstrates careful background research using primary resources, or a bibliography or literature review of research, in a relevant field of study.

In recent years, individual libraries among Penn State’s Commonwealth Campuses began expanding the award program beyond University Park. This year, the program was established at nearly all of Penn State’s undergraduate degree-granting campuses. A full list of award recipients is available at https://bit.ly/2l4f0Ok.

Newberry Library releases 200,000 digital images from Americana collections

For decades, the Newberry Library has been a physical destination for the study of early America and the westward expansion of the United States. And it’s increasingly becoming a digital destination, as well. Now anyone with an Internet connection can access more than 200,000 high-resolution images from a range of primary sources—maps, manuscripts, books, pamphlets, photographs, and artwork—documenting Europeans’ evolving conception of the Americas, early contact between colonial forces and Indigenous peoples, the expanding boundaries of the United States, and the imaginary construction of “the West.” These images come from the Edward E. Ayer Collection, one of the strongest collections of American Indian history and culture in the world; and the Everett D. Graff Collection, a substantial aggregation of Western Americana that ranks among the most extensive in the country.

Together, the two collections allow users to explore the complex history of America from a variety of perspectives: colonizers, missionaries, government officials, immigrant families living on the American frontier, Cheyenne warrior-artists resisting U.S. expansion, dime novelists weaving stories about Jesse James and Billy the Kid, and Indigenous leaders grappling with questions of identity, tradition, and political expediency.

The availability of the Ayer and Graff collections online coincides with a new open
ACRL is pleased to announce the first recipients of its Academic Library Impact Research Grants in 2018. These grants of up to $3,000 each support new research on library contributions to student learning and success in areas suggested by the 2017 report Academic Library Impact: Improving Practice and Essential Areas to Research, prepared for ACRL by OCLC Research.

The selection committee from ACRL’s Value of Academic Libraries committee chose eight proposals from a highly competitive round of applications. The grant recipients are:

- Rebecca A. Croxton and Anne Cooper Moore (University of North Carolina-Charlotte) for a project titled “Quantifying the Library’s Value: Aligning Library, Institutional, and Student Success Data;”
- Maggie Epstein, Jason Paul, and Bridget Draxler (St. Olaf College) for a project titled “Assessing Student Success through Collaborative Data Collection and Analysis;”
- Nick Faulk and Emily Crist (Champlain College) for a project titled “Let’s Get to Know Each Other: A Mixed Methods Study on Library-Online Patron Communication;”
- Starr Hoffman and James Cheng (University of Nevada-Las Vegas) for a project titled “Researchers on Academic Library Impact: Characteristics and Perspectives;”
- Rebecca K. Miller, Carmen Cole, Stephanie Diaz, and Julie Porterfield (Penn State University) for a project titled “Activating Library Classrooms: Evaluating Formal Learning Spaces for Active Learning and Student Engagement;”
- Marjorie Schreiber Lear, Hilary Smith, Kelly Estrada, and Rhianna Casesa (Sonoma State University) for a project titled “Communicating Value and Enhancing Library Use through Finding Common Language;”
- Rachel Scott and Brannen Varner (University of Memphis) for a project titled “Empowering Parenting Students to Succeed;” and
- Theresa Westbrock (University of Northern Iowa) for a project titled “Students Helping Students: Creating and Evaluating a Collaborative Service Model in the Library.”

“The research projects funded through this initiative significantly advance the research priority areas set forth in ACRL’s Academic Library Impact report,” says Alan Carbery, chair of the Value of Academic Libraries committee.

“It’s exciting to see a geographical and institutionally diverse set of research grants recipients. The outcome of their work will undoubtedly benefit library practitioners demonstrating the impact of academic libraries at the institutional level.”

ACRL is excited to support this new research and looks forward to working with these researchers as their projects develop. Another round of research grants is anticipated in 2019.
Temple University joins Portico
Portico has announced that Temple University has joined its ejournal and ebook preservation services. Temple joins more than 1,000 libraries around the world that support digital preservation—including more than 80% of Association of Research Library members.

To date, 1,023 libraries from 21 countries participate in Portico. More than 500 publishers, representing more than 2,000 societies and associations, also participate. The Portico archive holds more than 1.4 billion files—with more than 900,000 ebooks and 26,000 ejournals. More information is available at www.portico.org.

FEDLINK announces annual awards for federal librarianship
The Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK) at the Library of Congress announced the winners of its national awards for federal librarianship at the FEDLINK Spring Exposition in Washington, D.C.

The awards recognize the many innovative ways that federal libraries, librarians, and library technicians fulfill the information demands of the government, business and scholarly communities, and the American public.

The 2017 FEDLINK award winners are recognized in the following categories:
- Federal Libraries/Information Centers of the Year—Large Library/Information Center: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center Library, Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- Federal Librarian of the Year: Edward J. Poletti, chief of Learning Resources at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Federal Library Technician of the Year: Ozella Lee Gates, library technician at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Command in Fort Gordon, Georgia.

For the latest information on the awards, please see the FEDLINK website at loc.gov/flicc/.

CLIR Recordings at Risk grants
The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) recently announced that 16

ACRL program proposals for 2019 ALA Annual Conference
ACRL invites its committees, sections, interest groups, and individual members to consider submitting program proposals for the 2019 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

For the second year, program proposals will be submitted via a centralized submission site for all ALA divisions, round tables, committees, and offices. ACRL members must choose “ACRL” on the first screen of the submission form in order to have the program included in the ACRL pool of programs to be reviewed.

ALA Annual Conference program proposals for 2019 are due August 31, 2018. The ACRL Professional Development Committee will review proposals and select the 2019 ALA Annual Conference programs, with notifications issued in November 2018.

More details about the ALA Annual Conference program process, including a link to the proposal site, are available on the ACRL website at www.ala.org/acrl/conferences/confsandprecons/annual/annualprogramfaq. Contact ACRL Senior Program Officer Megan Griffin at mgriffin@ala.org or ACRL Manager of Professional Development Margot Conahan at mconahan@ala.org with questions concerning the program proposal process.
institutions have been awarded Recordings at Risk grants in the program’s third grant cycle. Recordings at Risk is a national regranting program that supports the preservation of rare and unique audio and audiovisual content of high scholarly value. Funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Recordings at Risk will award a total of $2.3 million between January 2017 and April 2019. More detail on this year’s funded projects can be found at www.clir.org/recordings-at-risk/funded-projects/.

**Library Assessment Conference travel grants**

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is accepting applications for ten $1,000 scholarships for attendance at the 2018 Library Assessment Conference: Building Effective, Sustainable, Practical Assessment in to be held December 5-7, 2018, in Houston, Texas. Each award will include conference registration plus $1,000 to cover travel costs and/or workshop registration fees. The Library Assessment Conference builds and furthers the library assessment community by bringing together interested practitioners and researchers who have responsibility or interest in the broad field of library assessment. Since 2014, scholarships have been awarded to individuals from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to attend the conference. Applications are due Friday, August 3, 2018. Complete details, including eligibility requirements, are available on the ARL website at https://bit.ly/2sUnH1Y.

**EBSCO, Five Colleges Consortium announce EBSCO FOLIO beta partnership**

EBSCO Information Services (EBSCO) and the Five Colleges Consortium have agreed to an EBSCO FOLIO Beta Partnership. The consortium includes Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. These institutions will leverage the FOLIO Library Services Platform in a variety of institutional scenarios. FOLIO, which stands for the Future of Libraries is Open, is a community coming together to develop a reimagined library services platform, one that supports traditional resource management requirements and functionality, yet is engineered for innovation and growth through industry collaboration. FOLIO allows for extensibility into new services for libraries and will dramatically change the technology ecosystem available to libraries, service providers, and technology developers. More information about FOLIO is available at www.folio.org/.

**Tech Bits . . .**

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

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—Rosalind Fielder-Giscombe
Chicago State University Library

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