NEW FROM THE FIELD

David Free

UW Libraries Snapshot Day
Library Snapshot Day was held April 12 at the University of Washington (UW) Libraries. Library staff and students wielded cameras, solicited comments, and gathered statistics for a 24-hour period to illustrate the value of libraries through stories, photographs, and data. The event covered UW Libraries from Friday Harbor on San Juan Island to UW Tacoma and Bothell, to the UW Health Sciences Library.

The initiative was held as part of a nationwide event during Library Week (April 10–16), as well as a Washington state-wide effort by libraries to gather photos and comments to illustrate the wide range of activities and resources the libraries provide.

UW students, faculty, and staff were invited to post photos and comments via Facebook and Twitter, or share photos and videos on Flickr. Participants were asked to complete the sentence, “The Libraries are important to me because ______ ” in person at any library, or electronically.

Visit the UW Snapshot Day Flickr group at www.flickr.com/groups/uwlibsnap11/ for more images.

2011 ACRL Legislative Agenda
Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an ACRL Legislative Agenda. Drafted with input from the ACRL Scholarly Communications and Copyright Committee, along with additional committees, ACRL leaders, and ALA Washington Office, the legislative agenda is prioritized and includes objectives for legislative action at the national level on issues that may affect the welfare of academic and research libraries.


Duke athletics to start library fund
Starting with the 2011–12 soccer seasons, the Duke University Department of Athletics will commit a portion of ticket sales from Blue Devil regular season home sporting events to the Duke University Libraries. The Duke Athletics Library Fund will generate significant unrestricted revenue for the Duke University Libraries to support teaching and research across the institution.

According to the arrangement, the Athletics Department will contribute $1 from each individual ticket sold to home regular season athletics events in 2011–12 to the Duke Athletics Library Fund. The first year of the initiative will not include football tickets since the sales process for 2011 began in January. Actual game tickets will include printed language indicating that $1 has been added and will be invested in this fund.
ACRL adopts Plan for Excellence

The ACRL Board of Directors has adopted a new Plan for Excellence for the association. Developed over the course of the past year by the Board, with continuous input from the ACRL membership, the Plan for Excellence takes the place of ACRL’s current strategic plan, Charting Our Future: ACRL Strategic Plan 2020. The Plan for Excellence will become effective July 1, 2011, and is available on the ACRL Web site at http://bit.ly/acrlplan (PDF).

“The development of the ACRL Plan for Excellence was an iterative and inclusive process that drew upon the best thinking of hundreds of ACRL members, our committees, sections, interest groups, and the Board of Directors,” said ACRL President Lisa Hinchliffe of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “This is truly a plan that reflects our collective vision of the future of academic and research librarianship and the role of ACRL and our members in creating that future.”

The strengths and capacities of ACRL have enabled the association to sustain exemplary programs and results for its members that help them effectively participate in the broader higher education framework. ACRL’s new Plan for Excellence continues that path and focuses attention on three areas that capitalize on the association’s strengths, deliver high member value, and heighten its impact:

- Value of Academic Libraries
- Student Learning
- Research and Scholarly Environment

These strategic areas will be supported by financial and operational planning and will guide the development and implementation of programs and services that target education, advocacy, and member engagement.

“The new Plan for Excellence provides ACRL with a focused agenda to guide our collective efforts while providing continued support for individual opportunities and professional growth,” noted ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect Joyce Ogburn of the University of Utah. “Implementing the plan will be my highest priority, and I anticipate that the outcomes will greatly benefit our members and increase our impact in the profession and contributions to higher education.”

ACRL’s leadership views strategic thinking and planning as an ongoing process. Adoption of this new plan affirms the general intent and direction articulated by the association’s core ideology, envisioned future, and shorter-term goals and objectives. Progress will be assessed annually and will guide the operational planning process. The Plan for Excellence will be updated based on achievement of the goals and their continued relevance as new needs and opportunities arise.

CrossRef, International DOI Foundation collaborate on linked-data-friendly DOIs

CrossRef and the International DOI Foundation (IDF) have announced that all 46 million CrossRef Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) are now enabled for use in linked data applications, effective immediately. The term “linked data” describes a set of best practices for exposing data in machine-readable form using the standard HTTP Web protocol. These best practices support the development of tools to link and make use of data from multiple Web sources without the need to deal with many different proprietary and incompatible application programming interfaces (APIs).

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Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI), IDF, and CrossRef have enabled the DOI Web proxy (which is located at http://dx.doi.org) to support content negotiation for DOIs. Initially, programs requesting machine-readable data from CrossRef DOIs using content negotiation will receive the metadata that the CrossRef member publisher has registered at CrossRef. As publishers start to implement content negotiation on their own sites, they may want to return richer and more complete representations of their content, at which point CrossRef can direct content-negotiated requests directly to the publishers’ sites.

For complete details, visit www.crossref.org/CrossTech/2011/04/content_negotiation_for_crossr.html.
UPCC eBooks coming to Project MUSE
Project MUSE recently announced a new partnership with the University Press e-Book Consortium (UPeC) to bring UPCC e-Book Collections to Project MUSE. UPeC will offer peer-reviewed books from university presses and scholarly publishers to Project Muse subscribers beginning in January 2012.

University presses offering books via UPCC on MUSE include New York University Press, University of Michigan Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, and University of Texas Press. This new initiative will supplant MUSE’s previously announced Project MUSE Editions e-book program.

Updates and details about the book collections, publishers that will offer books, and background information about the Project MUSE UPeC partnership are all available on the MUSE Web site at muse.jhu.edu/about/new/ebook_collections.html.

ebrary launches usage-triggered short-term loans

ebrary recently announced the availability of usage-triggered short-term loans. Currently in beta, this new model provides libraries with all of the benefits of traditional short-term loans with the added advantage of only paying if titles are used. The new short-term loans can be implemented as a standalone service, or used in conjunction with ebrary’s Patron Driven Acquisition program to offer an additional layer of mediation before titles are triggered for purchase.

ebrary’s new Short-Term Loans are available for one- or seven-day periods. When the loan is triggered, libraries receive a notification and are given a number of flexible options, including purchasing the title, making it available for purchase through Patron Driven Acquisition, or offering another Short-Term Loan. Libraries may offer up to three loans per title. Loans are available any time through any Web-enabled device including the iPad.

Scholarly Practice, Participatory Design and the eXtensible Catalog

ACRL announces the publication of Scholarly Practice, Participatory Design and the eXtensible Catalog, edited by Nancy Fried Foster, Katie Clark, Kornelia Tancheva, and Rebekah Kilzer. This exciting new title examines the application of forward-thinking, collaborative research, and design principles to the software development process.

As part of the development of eXtensible Catalog (XC), a project sponsored by the University of Rochester’s River Campus Libraries, four institutions conducted 80 interviews and numerous workshops to understand how researchers learn about, acquire, and use scholarly resources.

Research findings informed the design and development of XC, a set of open-source applications that provides access to resources across a range of databases, metadata schemas, and standards.

In Scholarly Practice, Participatory Design and the eXtensible Catalog, members of the project team report on key findings of the user research that was done at Cornell University, Ohio State University, University of Rochester, and Yale University. The team members discuss the value of including library users and technology specialists from many disciplines in the software design and development process. The book will prove useful to librarians working with Web usability, user interface development, or library catalogs, along with anyone interested in applying ethnographic research to a variety of development projects.

Scholarly Practice, Participatory Design and the eXtensible Catalog is available for purchase through the ALA Online Store (www.alastore.ala.org), Amazon.com, and by telephone order at (866) 746-7252 in the United States or (770) 442-8633 for international customers.
Rojeski wins WESS Coutts Nijhoff International Grant

Mara Degnan Rojeski, social sciences liaison librarian at Dickinson College, has been selected to receive the Western European Studies Section (WESS) Coutts Nijhoff International West European Specialist Study Grant. Sponsored by Coutts Information Services, the grant provides $3,000 to support a trip to Europe, to be presented during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

The primary criterion for awarding the grant is the significance and utility of the proposed project as a contribution to the study of the acquisition, organization, or use of library materials from or relating to Western Europe.

“We are delighted to award the 2011 WESS Coutts-Nijhoff Award to Mara Degnan Rojeski for research which will result in an annotated bibliography of a group of German propaganda pamphlets produced in the early 20th century and are now scattered in collections in Germany, Australia, the United States and beyond,” said award committee chair Sarah E. How, research and learning services librarian at Cornell University.

Rojeski’s project will involve constructing a bibliography of the pamphlets of the Deutscher Fichte Bund, a propaganda organization active in Hamburg, Germany, from 1914 to 1941. The research trip will involve visiting the several libraries in Germany that hold pamphlets, as well as other primary source material and government documents related to the group.

Notable entries in the collection include a 1932 article called “And Now the Neutron”; the 1954 article prophetically entitled “Computers in Business”; and the landmark 1988 single-topic issue “What Science Knows About AIDS,” featuring contributors Robert C. Gallo and Luc Montagnier, the co-discoverers of HIV. The archive is available at www.nature.com/scientificamerican/archive.

Correction

The name of Lucy Eleonore Lyons, author of the “Human rights” Internet Resources article, is misspelled on page 290 of the May 2011 issue. The editors regret the error and apologize to Ms. Lyons.