University of Idaho Library releases digital collection of historical Northwest postcards

The University of Idaho Library’s Digital Initiatives department has released a new collection of more than 800 digitized postcards featuring images of the late 19th and early to mid-20th century Northwestern United States. The Northwest Historical Postcards Collection displays unique and engaging images of people and places in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, British Columbia, and Alberta.

The collection includes rare depictions of turn-of-the-century buildings, thriving mining towns that later became ghost towns, and Mount St. Helens before the eruption. Browse the Northwest Historical Postcards Collection at www.lib.uidaho.edu/digital/postcards/index.html.

Vonnegut Library recipient of Banned Books Week grant

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library, located in Indianapolis, is the first library in Indiana ever to be awarded a grant from the Freedom to Read Foundation’s Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund grant in support of Banned Books Week, which will take place September 22–28, 2013. Only seven organizations nationwide were awarded this funding. The library is the first institution devoted to an individual to receive the grant.

“The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library encourages free expression and preserves the legacy left by Vonnegut and writers like him who aren’t afraid to fully explore the human condition,” said Executive Director Julia Whitehead. “We’re grateful to the Freedom to Read Foundation and to libraries everywhere for what they do.”

For this year’s Banned Books Week events, the Vonnegut Library will host an invitational juried art show and sale; hold a local writer captive in a “prison” of books; stage a First Amendment Film Festival; and present a talk on “Corrupting Our Kids: The Attack on YA Literature.” Visit vonnegutlibrary.org for more information on the library and the upcoming Banned Books Week events.

2013 ACRL Environmental Scan

Every two years, the ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee produces an environmental scan of higher education, including developments with the potential for continuing on impact academic libraries. The 2013 environmental scan provides a broad review of the current higher education landscape, with special focus on the state of academic and research libraries. The document builds on earlier ACRL reports, including the “Top Ten Trends in Academic Libraries” published in the June 2012 issue of C&RL News. The 2013 environmental scan is freely available on the ACRL Web site at www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/publications/whitepapers/EnvironmentalScan13.pdf.
Mark Cummings named CHOICE editor and publisher

Mark Cummings has been named editor and publisher of CHOICE Magazine, the premier source for reviews of academic books, electronic media, and Internet resources in higher education. CHOICE, a publication of ACRL, is headquartered in Middletown, Connecticut. Cummings served as CHOICE editor and publisher designate beginning June 17, 2013, and assumed the position full time effective July 7, 2013, upon the retirement of Irving E. Rockwood, who served CHOICE in this position for 17 years.

“I am delighted to have Mark join the ACRL/CHOICE team,” said ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen K. Davis. “His distinguished career in educational and library publishing will serve ACRL/CHOICE well as we continue to meet the needs of the higher education community in a rapidly changing environment.”

Cummings has worked in academic and educational publishing for almost 30 years, beginning his career in the reference and professional books division at Macmillan and continuing at Scribner’s and Oxford University Press. In the early 1990s, he joined Grolier Publishing Company as editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia Americana and went on to become vice-president and publisher of Grolier’s reference division.

Over the course of his ten years in that position, Cummings built an online business that reached millions of students in the United States and overseas. Since 2000 he has concentrated on educational technology, first at Scholastic and then at Weekly Reader, where, as vice president for business development, focusing on creating new reference and literacy products for the school and library market. Cummings holds a BA from Michigan State University along with MA and MPhil degrees from Yale University in East Asia–related fields.

The CHOICE editor and publisher provides ongoing strategic direction for the editorial, marketing, advertising, and production of a suite of print and digital products. The position directs the development and implementation of a long-term business strategy to maintain CHOICE’s competitive position in the higher education marketplace and ensure ongoing fiscal sustainability.

ACRL wishes to thank the search committee and staff panel who assisted with the search: Trevor A. Dawes, ACRL vice-president/president-elect; Kim Leeder, chair, ACRL Publications Coordinating Committee; Keith Stetson, chair, CHOICE Editorial Board; Don Chatham, AED, ALA Publishing; Mary Mackay, director, ALA Marketing; Cynthia Vivian, director, ALA Human Resources; Fran Graf, CHOICE editorial director; Lisa Gross, CHOICE production manager; Tom Radko, CHOICE operations manager; Rita Balasco, CHOICE customer service; Evelyn Elam, CHOICE library technical assistant; Pam Marino, CHOICE advertising sales; and Mary Jane Petrowski, ACRL associate director.
ProQuest debuts rebuilt Dialog

ProQuest announced a rebuilt version of the Dialog information service in early June. Now called ProQuest Dialog, the service reinvents a classic resource making its content—about a billion documents—accessible for the first time to searchers of all skill levels.

Dialog was the first commercial online information service, launched decades in advance of the Internet under the visionary leadership of Roger K. Summit. Dialog became a foundation for information professionals and researchers around the world who relied on the broad content collection and command line searching.

ProQuest Dialog provides a search mode for researchers at every skill level—from novice to expert information professional—with sophisticated tools that refine results and output to support a variety of workflows. Since initial deployment of a core scientific collection for DataStar customers in 2012, ProQuest Dialog has been under intensive development with a dedicated technology team. In-depth customer feedback has been used in solidifying functionality and adding Dialog-specific content and features. ProQuest Dialog will be “migration ready” in July. Account management and support teams will actively work with customers to transition to the new service by the end of the year, when the legacy system will be retired. To learn more about ProQuest Dialog visit www.dialog.com/proquestdialog/.

Picturing Appalachia at Western Carolina

The Western Carolina University (WCU) Hunter Library, in partnership with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, has released Picturing Appalachia, a digital collection of more than 1,000 early 20th-century photographs that provides a glimpse into the life, culture, and natural landscape of the Southern Appalachian mountains in and around Western North Carolina. The collection includes images by popular Great Smoky Mountains National Park photographer James E. Thompson, whose work is housed at park headquarters in Sugarlands, Tennessee.

Handbook of Academic Writing for Librarians

ACRL announces the publication of Handbook of Academic Writing for Librarians, by Christopher V. Hollister of the University at Buffalo.

The Handbook of Academic Writing for Librarians is the most complete reference source available for librarians who need or desire to publish in the professional literature. The handbook addresses issues and requirements of scholarly writing and publishing in a start-to-finish manner. Standard formats of scholarly writing are addressed: research papers, articles, and books. Sections and chapters include topics such as developing scholarly writing projects in library science, the improvement of academic writing, understanding and managing the peer review process (including submission, revision, and how to handle rejection and acceptance), assessing appropriateness of publishing outlets, and copyright.

This primary reference tool for the library and information science (LIS) community supports those who either desire or are required to publish in the professional literature. LIS students at the master’s and doctoral levels can also benefit from this comprehensive volume.

Handbook of Academic Writing for Librarians is available for purchase in print, as an e-book, and as a print/e-book bundle through the ALA Online Store; in print and for Kindle through Amazon.com; and by telephone order at (866) 746-7252 in the United States or (770) 442-8633 for international customers.
TinEye is a free reverse image search that lets users search the Web for a specific image, either by uploading an image file or by searching an image’s URL. Originally intended to track unauthorized uses of copyrighted images, TinEye is a great tool for reinforcing concepts of visual literacy. Students can use TinEye to discover the original location of an image, so they can cite images accurately. You can use the Web site itself or download a browser plugin, currently available for Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer, and Opera. There are also several fun features of the Web site, such as an option to search Creative Commons images by color. Although still in beta, TinEye is a useful tool to many in the visual arts disciplines.

—Kristin Henrich
University of Idaho

www.tineye.com