Phil Hardin Foundation gift funds new library at MSU-Meridian

Mississippi State University (MSU) officials dedicated the new Phil Hardin Foundation Library at the Meridian College Park Campus in December 2013. A $1.25 million gift by the Meridian-based foundation made possible the new 1,860 square-foot university library. The new facility was created through the renovation of three existing spaces formerly used for classrooms. Though MSU-Meridian has employed a faculty librarian for more than a decade, it represents the first physical library on the College Park Campus.

In addition to housing 8,000 print volumes and journals, the library’s resources include 16 public computer workstations, 15 laptop computers, a conference room, a microfilm reader print station, and an instructional laboratory and teacher station with capacity for 30 students. The Hardin Foundation Library offers access to the same services and resources available on MSU’s Starkville campus.

WSU joins SCOAP3

The Washington State University (WSU) Libraries recently joined the Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics (SCOAP3), an international publishing initiative of more than 1,000 libraries, library consortia, and research organizations to provide open access to articles published in high-energy physics research.

“SCOAP3 has been developed through negotiations between many of the publishers of high-energy physics research—including the Institute of Physics, Springer, and Elsevier—as well as libraries and funding agencies to change an entire field of research from a subscription-based model to an open access model,” said Kay Vyhnaneck, WSU Libraries’ scholarly communication librarian. “This is a unique initiative that will make high-energy physics published articles available through open access to any researcher around the globe who has access to a computer. It will help speed the development of new research in the field.”

For more information about the SCOAP3 initiative, visit http://scoap3.org/.

White paper urges new approaches to assure access to scientific data

More than two dozen data repositories serving the social, natural, and physical sciences recently released a white paper recommending new approaches to funding sharing and preservation of scientific data. The document emphasizes the need for sustainable funding of domain repositories—data archives with ties to specific scientific communities. “Sustaining Domain Repositories for
ACRL announces the publication of *Virtually Embedded: The Librarian in an Online Environment*, edited by Elizabeth Leonard and Erin McCaffrey. This casebook, a blueprint for embedding academic librarians in online environments from undergraduate to science-based graduate schools to MOOCs, is the first to extensively explore how librarians can play a key role in the virtual academic landscape.

The authors of the book’s 12 chapters, academic librarians representing a broad range of colleges and universities, explore the evolution of the embedded librarian from physical to virtual, suggest how to develop and implement unique programs in and out of the classroom and explain how to scale programs once they are embedded.

*Virtually Embedded: The Librarian in an Online Environment* 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.

ACRL is also the sponsor of the new Jossey-Bass publication *Interactive Open Educational Resources: A Guide to Finding, Choosing, and Using What’s Out There to Transform College Teaching* by John D. Shank. This one-of-a-kind book demonstrates the best tools, resources, and techniques for discovering, selecting, and integrating interactive open educational resources (OERs) into the teaching and learning process.

Shank examines many of the best repositories and digital library websites for finding high-quality materials, explaining in depth the best practices for effectively searching these repositories and the various methods for evaluating, selecting, and integrating the resources into the instructor’s curriculum and course assignments, as well as the institution’s learning management system.


**Digital Data: A White Paper,** is an outcome of a meeting convened June 24-25, 2013, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The meeting, organized by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, was attended by representatives of 22 data repositories from a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines.

Five recommendations are offered to encourage data stewardship and support sustainable repositories: commit to sustaining institutions that assure the long-term preservation and viability of research data; promote cooperation among funding agencies, universities, domain repositories, journals, and other stakeholders; support the human and organizational infrastructure for data stewardship as well as the hardware; establish review criteria appropriate for data repositories; and incentivize principal investigators to archive data. The white paper can be
ACRL is seeking applications from all types of higher education institutions for 100 teams to participate in the second year of Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success (AiA), made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Librarians will each lead a campus team in developing and implementing an action learning project that examines the impact of the library on student success and contributes to assessment activities on campus. They will be supported in this work by a professional development program with sequenced learning events and activities at key junctures.

The AiA program, part of ACRL’s Value of Academic Libraries initiative, employs a blended learning environment and a peer-to-peer network over the course of the 14-month long program, which runs from April 2014 to June 2015.

In order to apply, each prospective institution must identify a team consisting of a librarian and at least two additional team members from other units (e.g., faculty member, student affairs representative, institutional researcher, assessment officer, or academic administrator). The application requires two essays—the first describes the team’s project goals and the second describes the goals of the librarian team leader—and statements of support from the library dean/director and campus chief academic officer.

Complete details on the program application process, including program goals and expectations, are available at www.ala.org/acrl/AiAapplication. Online applications are due 5 p.m. Central on March 7, 2014. Selected teams will be notified April 8, 2014.

NCSU Libraries captures video oral histories of computer simulation pioneers

The North Carolina State University (NCSU) Libraries, in collaboration with the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at NCSU and with support from the National Science Foundation, has launched a video oral history archive of noted computer simulation pioneers. The video oral histories are the latest addition to the libraries’ Computer Simulation Archive, established in 2003, and feature leaders in the field of computer simulation such as Nobel Prize winner Harry M. Markowitz, Stanford University Emeritus Professor Donald E. Knuth, Syracuse University Professor Emeritus Robert G. Sargent, NCSU Distinguished Alumni Richard E. Nance, and NCSU Professor James R. Wilson.

The Computer Simulation Archive is supported by an endowment to facilitate the addition of more collections, expedite processing of materials in the archive, and enable the digitization of selected materials documenting the history of computer simulation. With the assistance of simulation scholars, the NCSU Friends of the Library, and individual donors, the archive continues to develop, providing researchers with valuable insights into the history of the field. Supporters of the archive include the Association for Computing Machinery and the Informs Simulation Society. The archive is available online at http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/computer-simulation.

EBSCO introduces RIPM e-Library of Music Periodicals

RIPM e-Library of Music Periodicals is now freely downloaded at http://datacommunity.icpsr.umich.edu.

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PollEverywhere offers an easy way to poll an audience during a class or presentation, using participants’ cell phones to text a response (texting rates apply) or via a web browser. Polls are either multiple-choice or open-ended. The results appear in real time, providing a quick, interactive way for gathering feedback. Librarians can use polls to encourage feedback or ask for input from students during a class, or to assess understanding and retention of your presentation’s content. The free account enables you to create polls with up to 40 responses per poll; there are various paid plans that allow greater numbers of responses and have added features. When presenting, you access the polls directly from the PollEverywhere site or embed them in a PowerPoint or website.

— Britt Fagerheim
Utah State University

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