Yale restores Sterling Memorial Library nave

The entrance nave in Yale University’s Sterling Memorial Library (SML) reopened to the public on August 25, marking the completion of a major restoration project that has returned the nave to its original architectural splendor and brought about improvements that will better serve the needs of library users in the 21st century. The restoration, which took 18 months, was made possible by a gift from Richard Gilder ’54 and Lois Chiles, in honor of President Emeritus Richard C. Levin ’74 and Jane A. Levin ’75.

A major component of the project was a complete restoration of the nave’s stained glass windows, which are among the approximately 3,300 windows that artist G. Owen Bonawit designed for placement throughout the library.

The three service desks in the nave—circulation, information, and library privileges—were combined into a single service desk in the north aisle. The built-in card catalogues, which were at one time a prominent feature of the original nave, have been reduced, while some have been preserved in place. The resulting open space now holds computer workstations and seating areas for conversation and study.

NCSU Libraries offering grants to help faculty develop free or low-cost open textbook alternatives

In the latest of several initiatives designed to help students reduce the expense of textbooks as part of their university educations and make it easier for faculty to explore and create new resources for their teaching, the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Libraries is inviting NCSU faculty to apply for grants to adopt, adapt, or create free or low-cost open alternatives to today’s expensive textbooks.

Ranging between $500 and $2,000, the competitive Alt-Textbook grants will be awarded to help faculty pursue innovative uses of technology and information resources that can replace pricey traditional textbooks. Larger grants may be available for larger-scale or especially high-impact projects.

The Alt-Textbook initiative builds on a successful partnership with the university’s Physics Department that resulted in a free physics e-textbook that is now used by 1,300 NCSU students each year. Other NCSU Libraries initiatives to reduce costs for students include providing at least one copy of every required course book on reserve each semester, supplying online reserves to electronically disseminate materials within the bounds of copyright law, and Library Course Tools, an innovative use of the libraries’ website to present custom, course-related library content for every course at the university. Alt-Textbook is supported by a grant from the NCSU University Foundation.

Syracuse University Libraries, Emerald Group Publishing partner for Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities

The Syracuse University Libraries have brokered an agreement with Emerald Group Publishing to secure an extensive collection of ebooks and ejournals for use by participants.
What would you put in the ACRL 75th Anniversary time capsule?

It’s 2040. ACRL members are gathered to open the ACRL 75th Anniversary time capsule. You are watching a live feed of the event on your iPhone 16. The first item is pulled from the time capsule. It is a . . .

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a time capsule as “a container used to store for posterity a selection of objects thought to be representative of life at a particular time.”

What would you put in our time capsule?

This is your invitation to suggest items to be placed in the ACRL 75th Anniversary time capsule. The best items to put into a time capsule are things that will remind you of a specific time. Items can also recall a particular event. The business of predicting the future is a tricky one. But it’s almost as difficult to imagine what life was like in the past. Anything that captures the spirit of the present is a candidate.

What is unique about ACRL? We need a mix of items from the sublime to the trivial related to ACRL. To have your item considered for inclusion, send a description of the item, a photo, and dimensions to ACRL 75th Anniversary Celebration Task Force Chair Pamela Snelson (pamela.snelson@fandm.edu).

If accepted, you will need to provide the item to the ACRL office no later than March 1, 2015. It goes without saying that your item will not be returned.

The ACRL 75th Anniversary time capsule and contents will be exhibited at the ACRL 2015 Conference to be held March 25–28, 2015, in Portland, Oregon. A dedication ceremony will take place at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

ACRL will register the time capsule with the International Time Capsule Society, based at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.
ACRL is offering approximately 175 scholarships worth more than $110,000 for the ACRL 2015 Conference, “Creating Sustainable Community,” to be held March 25 – 28, 2015, in Portland, Oregon.

ACRL typically funds about 100 conference scholarships and this year initiated a new Kick Start the Future campaign in honor of the association’s 75th anniversary that seeks to raise the $50,000 needed to fund the 75 additional scholarships. While donations to the campaign are rolling in, the association currently needs an additional $14,000 to meet its goal. Information on donating to the campaign is available on the ACRL 75th Anniversary website at http://acrl.ala.org/acrl75/?page_id=244. The deadline to apply for all ACRL 2015 scholarships is Friday, November 7, 2014. More information, including scholarship categories, is available on the conference website at http://conference.acrl.org/scholarships-pages-162.php.

HBCU Library Alliance to hold Sixth Biennial Membership Meeting
The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance will hold its sixth biennial Membership Meeting October 26–28, 2014, at the Hilton Garden Inn and the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library in Atlanta. The HBCU Library Alliance is the consortium of the libraries of White House-designated HBCU institutions and exists to serve and strengthen member libraries through leadership development, staff training, and collection preservation.

The meeting theme is “Transforming Libraries for the 21st Century and Beyond: Sustaining the HBCU Library Alliance.” Sessions will address scholarly communications, assessment, marketing, and promotion, as well as celebrate the 125th year of the 1890s Land Grant Institutions. The keynote speaker is Lorraine J. Haricombe, dean of the University of Kansas (KU). KU is a founding member of the Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions, and Haricombe serves as the University provost’s designate for open access implementation. For more information about the HBCU Library Alliance, please visit www.hbculibraries.org.

EBSCO eBooks to indicate Choice Outstanding Academic Titles
An agreement between Choice magazine, a publication of ACRL, and EBSCO Information Services will highlight EBSCO eBooks that have been named Choice Outstanding Academic Titles. This agreement will allow librarians to easily identify and acquire the titles that have been designated as excellent in presentation and scholarship, bringing exceptional support to the research of their students and faculty and increasing the value of their overall library collection.
Each year, Choice publishes a list of Outstanding Academic Titles that reflects the best in scholarly titles reviewed by Choice for the previous year. The selective list enjoys the extraordinary recognition of the academic library community and represents approximately 10 percent of the works reviewed in Choice each year. EBSCO eBooks offers more than 600,000 ebooks and audiobooks and EBSCO proactively acquires new content in critical areas, based on the dynamic needs of libraries. Visit www.ebscohost.com/ebooks for more information.

Google Docs add-on for ProQuest Flow launches

ProQuest Flow, a cloud-based research management solution, has released an add-on to interoperate with Google Docs. The new add-on expands the collaborative writing capabilities of Google Docs by integrating the document management tools of Flow during the authoring phase of research. As a result, researchers can find, share, and annotate documents in the cloud, then author as a team in a common virtual workspace, supported by automated citations and bibliographies. The free add-on is available in the Google Add-on Store.

Launched in 2013, ProQuest Flow enables students and researchers to read, annotate, organize, and cite their research, as well as collaborate with friends and colleagues by sharing collections. The Google Docs add-on integrates Flow’s document management tools during writing sessions. Collaborators’ document collections are accessible via a right-navigation pane within the Google Doc, making them visible while team members author papers, eliminating the need to toggle between screens, tools, and notepads. The add-on’s selection of 3,000 output styles also simplifies the creation of bibliographies and citations. More information on ProQuest Flow is available at http://flow.proquest.com/.

Tech Bits . . .

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

Postach.io is a free blogging platform that uses your Evernote or Dropbox accounts to effortlessly post content to the web from anywhere and on all of your devices. Simply tag your Evernote/Dropbox content as “publish” to add it to your blog. In addition to your own content, you’re also able to embed from multiple platforms, including Twitter, Slideshare, Flickr, YouTube, and many more. Sign up is simple, and there are how-to videos and an in-depth FAQ page. The basic service is free, but there is the option to go premium for $5 a month. I’ve used this product to create beautiful webpages of my presentations, photos, events, and instructional aids. Postach.io makes all of this content easily accessible and shareable to my colleagues, students, etc.

—Jaki King
Clark College

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Springer adds CrossMark service for journal content

Springer recently added CrossMark, an identification service from CrossRef, for forthcoming journal articles. All Springer journal articles, will contain a CrossMark window on SpringerLink on the article HTML page that provides bibliographic metadata of that article and a statement about updates of the content. Springer content updates shown through the CrossRef service will include errata and retractions.

CrossMark is a multipublisher initiative providing a standard way for readers to locate the authoritative version of an article or other published content. The system is an optional service of CrossRef, a not-for-profit association of scholarly publishers that facilitates reference linking and other sustainable cross-publisher services for the scholarly community. To learn more about CrossMark, visit www.crossref.org/crossmark/.