Emory, Georgia Tech to open joint Library Service Center

Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) will break ground soon on a new joint Library Service Center (LSC). The LSC is a collaborative project that will house a shared collection of materials, provide delivery services, and free up space on the main campuses at both universities.

The majority of collections currently in the Georgia Tech Library will move to the LSC, providing space for the Library Renewal Project, a multi-year plan to reimagine Georgia Tech’s library spaces and services for the 21st century. For Emory, the LSC will provide a single off-site location for consolidating materials already housed at other locations, and free up much needed space from its main campus library.

Site preparation for the LSC, located at Emory’s Briarcliff Road property, is underway, with building construction completion expected in fall 2015. The LSC will house high-density shelving designed to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to library collections.

The ultimate goal of the LSC partnership is to create a seamless collection with all Emory and Georgia Tech resources (eventually including electronic resources, where possible) available to students, faculty, and staff in both institutions.

NCSU Libraries explore data mining historical content

The North Carolina State University (NCSU) Libraries has signed a pioneering license that enables its researchers to data mine the extensive archival collections that the Gale publishing firm holds for texts and other materials important to historians and humanists. While data mining is widespread in the social and natural sciences, publishers have traditionally not offered blanket rights to mine historical archives. The agreement with Gale marks the first such license ever signed between an academic research library and a major commercial publisher of historic archival collections.

With research-friendly, electronic access to the material in Gale’s databases—including the ability to mine archival data on NCSU servers—NCSU scholars can further their use of data mining strategies to take the next groundbreaking steps forward in the digital humanities.

Caribbean history and economics of agriculture materials to be made available online

The University of Florida (UF) and the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) are collaborating on an initiative to make
Friends in academic libraries

Across the country, academic librarians and development officers are finding that having an effective and active Friends group can be an important resource both for fundraising and community engagement. The two most important words in that last sentence may well be “effective” and “active.” While from time to time, conversations pop up about moribund groups or groups that just aren’t worth the investment of time and energy, other academic librarians are making great headway with their Friends’ help to bring in more revenue, increase library programming, and as a bridge between the library and the community it serves.

There is currently a movement afoot to help academic librarians make the most of their Friends groups and to start a group if one doesn’t currently exist. Led by Kettering University Library Director Charles Hanson, a group of academic librarians has begun working with ALA division United for Libraries to develop resources to help academic Friends groups be successful, create a 50 state contact list to get the word out about the resources that are currently available, and encourage an ongoing dialogue between academic librarians about how to work effectively with their Friends.

This special task force has met several times by conference call and many activities are already underway. For example, Hanson was able to convince ACRL to include a question about whether academic librarians have a Friends group in the 2013 ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey. The results? Nearly 28% of academic libraries have a Friends group and the task force is hoping that this number will increase over time.

In addition, the task force held a discussion group at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas so academic librarians could talk about how to improve their work with Friends, how Friends can raise money for the library, and how to work successfully with the college or university development office—working collaboratively and not competitively.

Public libraries have been relying on Friends for additional support for years and in today’s economy and the increasingly unfriendly economic environment that libraries of all types are often facing, they find that Friends can be an indispensable for advocacy, engagement, and library promotion.

United for Libraries is working with the Academic Friends Task Force to develop even more resources for academic Friends groups. Our goal is that every academic library has a dedicated group of academic library supporters to ensure that the library is seen by all as central to the academic achievement of its students.

Members of the task force include Charles D. Hanson, coordinator, Kettering University; John W. Berry; Alice Calabrese-Berry; Rodrigue Gauvin, Acadian Enterprises LLC; Carrie Gardner; Sam Huang, University of Florida; Denise Hooks, Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative; Kathy Irwin, Central Michigan University; Michael LaCroix, Creighton University; and Jill Stodt, Mott Community College.

—Sally Gardner Reed, executive director, United for Libraries
Owning and Using Scholarship: An IP Handbook for Teachers and Researchers

ACRL announces the publication of Owning and Using Scholarship: An IP Handbook for Teachers and Researchers by Kevin L. Smith. Copyright and other types of laws regulating intellectual property create an increasing concern for contemporary scholarship. The digital environment has created exciting new opportunities and possibilities for scholars to work and distribute their work. But these new opportunities also create issues that did not arise in the analog world.

Owning and Using Scholarship demystifies intellectual property, and especially copyright law, for academic authors and independent scholars who face these dilemmas. It also serves as a comprehensive resource for librarians who are asked to assist with these new and challenging decisions.

Throughout the book, a clear explanation of the law is coupled with concrete examples drawn from actual issues encountered by scholars. This balance of theoretical background and practical application is designed to appeal to both those who want a quick discussion of potential approaches and those who prefer to know "why." In addition to applying this approach to copyright issues that arise for research and teaching, the volume also discusses the options and obstacles that confront authors wishing to publish their work in new environment.

Owning and Using Scholarship: An IP Handbook for Teachers and Researchers 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. The book is also available in an open access edition on the ACRL website at http://bit.ly/owning-OA.

Funding for the project comes from Project Ceres, a partnership of the Center for Research Libraries, the United States Agriculture Information Network, and the Agriculture Network Information Center. The partnership was formed to support the ongoing preservation and digitization of collections in the field of agriculture.

New IS Tips and Trends

The ACRL Instruction Section Instructional Technologies Committee has published their latest Tips and Trends covering Online Presentation Creation Tools by Brad Sietz and Caroline Sinkinson. Tips and Trends introduce and discuss new, emerging, or even familiar technologies that can

available print materials published between 1962 and 1988 pertinent to contemporary and historical agriculture and essential to the study of Caribbean history and economics of agriculture. In addition, a comprehensive bibliography of materials available for future digitization will be created. The project completion date and availability of the online materials is August 31, 2015.

UVI will digitize the materials and provide metadata that increases discoverability of the materials, and will identify items for ongoing preservation. UF’s role will be to create a bibliography of agricultural publications as a means to prioritize future digitization efforts.
Tech Bits . . .

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

Need to do some quick photo editing? How about creating a meme for your library’s social media? Need a graphic fast and don’t know where to start? PicMonkey.com is your answer. It has four settings: Edit, Design, Touch Up, and Collage. Most features are free and can be used without an account. If you decide you really like the site, you can pay $4.99/month or $33/year to access the Royale features (indicated by a crown). To get started you can either drag and drop your photo into the browser or open it from a file. With an intuitive interface, PicMonkey can make your photos look snazzy in just a few clicks.

— Emily Thompson
University of Tennessee-Chattanooga

picmonkey.com