Built in 1975, the James E. Brooks Library was designed to hold 1 million volumes and serve 7,000 students. Today, the library holds 1.3 million volumes and serves 11,230 students. The library continues to develop its persona as the academic hub of campus. It remains the home of the Student Academic Success Center, it has become the home of the Wildcat Tutoring Center which will move into permanent space on the fourth floor once the Archives and Special Collections Unit moves to its new, more secure space on the second floor. Most of the second floor which has housed the serials’ stacks will be transformed into a commons area capable of serving as a multi-functional space for student activities. I truly believe that the new Dean will find a library ready and willing to move forward with additional concepts and ideas that will strengthen its place as the academic hub of the campus.

Finally, I have to thank my administrative team. Department Chair Julia Stringfellow has been a critical help in my understanding the workings of this library. Ginny Blackson, my Associate Dean, was the moving force behind the transformation of the second floor. Ginny’s counsel has been vital to helping the library continue to change and grow. She is one of those folks to whom one can say “Make it so,” and it happens. Shelley Berry and Kim Hansen made the Dean’s Office function. All of those little things, like keeping track of the budget, making sure things got ordered, interviews got scheduled, those things that must happen if the Dean is to do his job were done with consummate professionalism.

Whatever successes the Library has enjoyed this year are the result of the team work exhibited by the faculty, staff, and administrative team. Whatever failings are solely mine. Godspeed to all of you.

Greg Paveza
Interim Dean of the Libraries
Library Instruction: Here, There and Everywhere

Spring quarter can be full of excitement for those graduating, anxieties about figuring out next steps, and relief from knowing that summer is just around the corner. In the classroom, spring is a time of reflection and transition. In looking back, the library faculty has reached 3,810 students through information literacy instruction this year. In the library, outside the library, and online, information literacy instruction comes in many forms and we’ve had opportunities for a variety of instruction. During the winter quarter, our instruction team was temporarily joined by Sabrina Juhl, an MLIS candidate completing her internship as part of her degree. In order to develop and deliver dynamic instruction, library faculty is always engaging in dialog with the classes we teach information literacy to and it was a good year for learning. With developments in current events, changes in information sources, and adjustments in class focus, instruction never gets stale.

Spring is also a time of celebration and recognition. Thanks to the proceeds generated from last year’s library gala, we were able to fund the Brooks/Cutright Scholarship which awards $1,000 to a student in the LIS Program. This year’s winner of the scholarship was April Duncan, a student in the Library & Information Science Minor. Ms. Duncan is majoring in Professional & Creative Writing and has completed a number of courses in the LIS program. Being able to celebrate achievement and support students in the LIS Program was a highlight of this year’s Library Gala on April 14th where Ms. Duncan was recognized for the scholarship award. We are also excited to celebrate all of our students graduating from the Library and Information Science program. Like anything challenging, maintaining commitment to coursework in librarianship requires dedication and time. The significance of library work—critical information skills, research knowledge, diverse materials, community building—is as important today as it ever was. Seeing students graduate with intent to use those skills in the field is truly heartwarming.

What is Digital Initiatives?

The expectation has become that everything is online. However, it is complicated, time consuming and expensive to digitize a physical resource, such as a book or newspaper and make it available online. The term digital initiatives encompasses all the steps necessary to do just that. Scanning has become faster and easier, but there is more to it than that. Even before scanning, choices must be made. CWU has many rare and fascinating items from which they choose the collection(s) to digitize. Each item must be described accurately and thoroughly, so that the resource will be found upon search. The resource also needs to be as usable and intuitive as possible, within budgetary constraints.

Let’s go through an example. The Central Washington Yearbooks are digitized and available to search online. How did that happen? The yearbooks were chosen as a collection to digitize because they are a frequently used resource. People use yearbooks for genealogical research, sociological research or just to get a look at grandma’s bouffant.

Each yearbook has to be individually scanned. It is less expensive to scan an unbound book, so if an extra copy was available, it was unbound and scanned. If not, the book was scanned on a different type of scanner. To search a book, the text must be readable, so during the scan the book also goes through Optical Character Recognition (OCR). This is an imperfect process, so the text must be checked.

Once we have a scanned file, we must describe the yearbook in a spreadsheet. We add information such as the date of the yearbook, publisher, copyright information, and preservation and other technical information. This process is repeated for each yearbook. Then all the yearbook files and the spreadsheet are uploaded to a specialized software that will then display each yearbook with its description.

Since the yearbook is something users often want to flip through and look at pictures, we recently added a view where the user can flip through the book, as if it was in hand. The search within this view is also more intuitive. Even once the book is online and available, we still work to improve it.

And that is digital initiatives.

International Activities

Ping Fu. Professor and Head of Library Technology Services, recently has been invited by the Office of International Studies and Programs (OISP) as an International Liaison Partner serving as a designated person for international business matters with partner institutions in China. Ping Fu has been involved in assisting the OISP and academic departments and colleges in establishing partnership with Chinese universities and colleges since 2014 when he was sent by the university administration to China to seek educational cooperation opportunities with counterparts in China. Since then, Professor Fu has visited a number of Chinese universities and colleges by taking advantage of opportunities to attend conferences or take vacations in China. He introduced Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (NUAA) and Lanzhou University of Finance and Economics (LUFE) to CWU. A Memorandum of understanding (MOU) and a couple of 3+2 agreements for specific programs have been signed between CWU and NUAA.

Most recently, a LUFE delegation led by its Vice President for International Cooperation & Programs and consisted of two deans and two faculty members paid a visit to CWU on April 24. The delegation met with some CWU administrators, the OISP leadership team, some academic deans, chairs and faculty members during their visit. A MOU between CWU and LUFE is under review by the CWU Contract Office.

For the past three years, six CWU faculty have visited NUAA and taught a 2-week short term course there. Two CWU faculty are planning to visit NUAA this summer. CWU also accepted a visiting scholar from NUAA who is currently with the Music Department. Professor Fu also started to sponsor a Chinese visiting scholar in 2017. In 2018 the library expected to accept three more visiting scholars from China.

As a part of the OISP new strategies, Professor Fu will accompany Sherri Fujita, Director of University English as Second Language, to visit some Chinese partner institutions in early June.

In addition, Professor Fu also spent much of his own time helping visiting scholars sponsored by other CWU academic departments with their housing application and settling down in Ellensburg.
The fifth anniversary of the Brooks Library Gala was a great opportunity for Friends of the Brooks Library to share in celebration with faculty, staff and the community. The family of Dr. James E. Brooks was honored with the recognition of his legacy and former Dean Patricia Cutright was recognized for her leadership in creating a more dynamic space. Interim Dean Paveza and President Gaudino gave opening and closing remarks and attendees were treated with insights from present and past students who shared their experiences at Central. The theme of the annual program this year was “Transforming the Brooks.”

The second floor was closed this year; a poster was in place providing an overview of the upcoming changes at the planning stage. CWU Archives is moving and so is the periodicals section and its bound volumes. This theme of ‘libraries in a process of transforming’ is very much a part of the conversation throughout the state as the Washington State Library sponsored live online discussions of the Aspen Institute Report in April. The aim is to encourage leaders to engage their communities in dialog about the future of libraries nationally and locally. The redefinition of the library as a ‘platform’ was discussed as many of our materials are becoming accessible digitally and leave communities of all sizes and library types to engage in a conversation about the best use of our resources to meet present and future needs. Actually there are three pillars. With ‘platform,’ the report’s redefinition includes ‘people’ & ‘place’ as fundamental for the visioning process.

I’m sharing this discussion less directly in LIS 411, the class I’m auditing Spring quarter at Brooks Library. As I learn about Archival Theory and Practice at CWU Archives I am reassured that our support and advocacy are ever more important to the library endeavor and its continuity. We extend a sincere thank you to Scott Templin for serving as president for the past three years; join us as we welcome new FOL Brooks Board members Cynthia Pengilly, Allie Sheldon, and Patricia Erickson. Fall Book Sale happens November 2nd & 3rd! Please put it on your calendar. Thanks for reading!

Diane Huckabay

For more information about the Friends of the Brooks Library, contact Diane Huckabay 509-933-4051 or Maureen Rust, Library Liaison 509-963-2102.

Contributors to this issue of Notes from the Stacks include Elizabeth Brown, Ping Fu, Diane Huckabay, Gregory Paveza, Maureen Rust, Amanda Smith, Julia Stringfellow, and Maura Valentino.

University Libraries Dean Search

The search for a new dean of University Libraries began with the organization of the search committee in March. The search committee is comprised of Tim Englund, Dean of the College of the Sciences (Committee Chair), Elizabeth Brown, Instruction Coordinator, Research Librarian, and Associate Professor; Katherine Boswell, Director of the Learning Commons; Ruben Cardenas, Director of the Veterans Center; Veronica Gonzalez-Vilchis, Assistant Director of the Diversity and Equity Center; Colton Pope, Junior Year Student and Library Student Worker; Scott Robinson, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and Professor of Theatre; Chad Schone, Director of the Multimodal Education Center; Kerry Slaughter, Head of Library Circulation and Media Services; Julia Stringfellow, University Archivist, Library Faculty Chair, and Professor; and Lily Vuong, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Staci Sleigh-Layman, Executive Director of Human Resources, serves as Ex Officio and Kim Hansen, Library Administrative Specialist, is Search Committee Secretary.

The search firm overseeing the search is Storbeck and Pimentel. The position ad for the dean is available on the search firm’s website in June at https://www.storbeckpimentel.com/, and will also be posted on the library and CWU Human Resources websites. The search will continue through the summer with anticipated onsite interviews occurring in September with an estimated start date of January 2019 for the new dean. The former dean, Patricia Cutright retired in August 2017 after a seven-year tenure. Interim dean Gregory Paveza completes his contract on June 30, 2018. An interim dean selected from the Registry http://www.registryinterim.com/outcomes/index, will begin July 1.
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