Library Announces New Department in Digital Scholarship Services

In 1997 the Lafayette Library, anticipating the need to support the faculty’s use of technology in the College’s new electronic classrooms, formed Instructional Technology Services. Today, we recognize a similarly critical need to assist faculty in their creation and use of digital scholarship.

Digital scholarship projects have taken off since 2005, when we hired our first librarian dedicated to digital initiatives, Eric Luhrs. With his deployment of the CONTENTdm and DSpace platforms for displaying digital image and document collections—as well as his development of tools like MetaDB, which allows scholars to collaborate virtually on cataloging—the Library has launched several large-scale digital projects. These include a collection of historical photographs from the College Archives; the entire 141-year run of The Lafayette student newspaper; the Lafayette Digital Repository for faculty scholarship; the Department of Geology’s John S. Shelton Earth Science Image Collection; the Department of Art’s Visual Resources Collection; and the East Asia Image Collection. The latter is now considered to be one of the strongest collections of its type anywhere in the world.

To build on these successes and offer continued support to faculty who wish to create digital projects for teaching and research, the Library has formed a Digital Scholarship Services (DSS) department. Initial department members reallocated from other parts of the Library are Eric Luhrs, Department Head and Digital Initiatives Librarian, and Paul Miller, Digital Production Manager. A search is currently underway for a Digital Library Developer. Kelly

Swank’s Film Streaming Service an Alternative to Placing Films on Reserve

This spring the Library is testing Digital Campus, a film streaming service offered by Swank Motion Pictures. Swank handles distribution rights for most Hollywood studios as well as for many independent, foreign, art house, and documentary films. Digital Campus delivers films through Moodle, thus providing an alternative to placing DVDs and videos on course reserve.

In order to be eligible for the service, faculty must assign a film for course-related viewing and agree to manage student access to the film via Moodle. Faculty requesting films on reserve in Skillman or Kirby libraries this semester will be contacted by a librarian if any of those films are available in Swank’s collection. If faculty agree to a streaming alternative, the Library will arrange for a Swank license.
Letter from the Editor

I am thrilled to be able to present to readers a long overdue redesign. Bytes & Books began in 1987 with an article about the automation of the Library Catalog. While the stories have changed through the years to reflect the advent of networked information, organizational restructuring, new media formats and collecting initiatives, and building projects, the black-and-white format has stayed remarkably the same.

The color and lightness of the revamped Bytes & Books is more representative of the modern and renovated Skillman Library, where many of us interact and collaborate during our working days in the café, in the stacks, in exhibition spaces, in classrooms, and in public program rooms. I hope this newsletter, with its visual update, offers the same sort of positive collision space, where articles about web conferencing brush up against articles about the acquisition of contemporary artists’ prints and 19th century whaling treatises.

Bytes & Books continues to be published biannually by the Library and to include items of special interest to faculty from the Library and from Information Technology Services. I would like to thank Kevin Hardy of the Communications Division for his fresh, sharp redesign, which I think makes the newsletter a much more pleasurable read.

- Rebecca Metzger

Lafayette Librarians Take Part in ICPSR’s 50th Birthday Bash

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. ICPSR is the world’s largest social science data archive, with over 500,000 data files and sixteen specialized data collections in topics such as aging, crime, and education. Access to the ICPSR data archive is through membership; currently there are 700 institutional members including Lafayette.

At ICPSR’s biennial meeting this past October, representatives from member institutions participated in a variety of discussions on data stewardship, working with the 2010 Census, and promoting data literacy on college campuses. Of noteworthy interest was the discussion of institutional support for data management in light of the National Science Foundation’s new data management plan requirement. Meeting attendees were also treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the different stages (and corresponding offices) in the life of a dataset as it is acquired, archived, and disseminated by ICPSR.

Lafayette faculty, students, and staff are encouraged to utilize this valuable data archive for research and teaching. Librarians are available to assist with accessing and utilizing ICPSR data; can provide support and advice on data management issues; and will work with faculty to promote data literacy in the classroom.

- Ana Ramirez Luhrs

New Staff

Kelly Smith (right), new Visual Resources Manager, graduated from Georgia State University in 2008 with a BA in History. She received her Masters in Library Science from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. While in graduate school, Kelly worked as assistant to the Visual Resources Librarian in the Design Library at North Carolina State University and to the head of conservation at UNC. In her spare time, Kelly is a fledgling book artist. She says about her new job: “I am interested in how images can be a cross-disciplinary resource for teaching and research. The Library’s commitment to staying ahead of the technological curve through pursuing new digital projects makes working at Lafayette College really exciting.”

(Digital Services, continued from page 1)

Smith, our new Visual Resources Manager, holds a joint appointment between DSS and the Department of Art.

The DSS department is currently developing several other research projects with faculty, such as a database to quantify and visualize 19th century local reading trends with Professor Chris Phillips; an expansion of the East Asia Image Collection with Professor Paul Barclay; and a digital archive of our Marquis de Lafayette Print Collection.

Scholarship—i.e., the content of teaching and research—is what brings faculty and students together, and thus we believe that the Library’s new digital scholarship initiative is of high importance in furthering the college’s central and abiding educational mission. It is the Library’s hope to secure additional resources to expand our Digital Imaging Center, to add expertise in the areas of digital humanities and data curation and visualization, and to provide further services to support digital scholarship at Lafayette.

To explore project ideas, faculty are encouraged to contact the DSS Department at digital@lafayette.edu.

- Neil McElroy

Letter from the Editor

Rights: Bytes & Books
editor Rebecca Metzger
Contemporary Alphabet Books Reinterpret the Genre

The alphabet book may have its humble origins in teaching children their ABCs, but contemporary book artists are creating sophisticated and intricately designed works that incorporate letters of the alphabet. Books can feature letters as design elements without text or as illustrations accompanied by poetry and fiction. The Library’s spring exhibit of alphabet books in the first floor corridor includes a variety of formats—pop-ups, accordion folds, miniatures, and a dimensional alphabet poster. From Marion Bataille’s ABC3D to Michael Kuch’s An Alliterative Abecedarium of Anthropomorphic Animals, these alphabet books boldly and playfully reinterpret traditional elementary school abecedaries.

Help Evaluate OneSearch

OneSearch, a new service being trialed by the Library, allows faculty and students to search across multiple databases and collections simultaneously. For example, a search in OneSearch for “Frida Kahlo” returns results from the Library Catalog, JSTOR, Art & Architecture Complete, and a myriad of other sources.

OneSearch is one of a number of new “discovery service” products that are designed to make it easier for library users to uncover the riches of a multitude of library databases. Lafayette librarians have been evaluating several of these services over the past year and OneSearch is the leading contender. We imagine that it would be most useful as a starting point for students, especially those still becoming acquainted with the tools available on the library web site.

Since getting OneSearch would add a hefty annual fee on top of the subscriptions we already pay for library databases, we want to be sure it’s worth the price. Faculty and students are encouraged to try OneSearch now through the end of the spring semester. You can access OneSearch from the trials page on the library web site at http://library.lafayette.edu/collections/trials. Please use the comments feature to let us know what you think or, if you prefer, email your comments to refdesk@lafayette.edu

-Pam Murray

Special Collections Opens the Archive of the Shakespeare Bulletin, 1982-2003

Special Collections is pleased to announce the availability of the archive of the Shakespeare Bulletin. Begun in 1982, this journal of performance criticism and scholarship was co-edited for 20 years by James P. Lusardi and June Schlueter, both of Lafayette’s English Department. The archive preserves all aspects of the journal’s activities from 1982 to 2003, and includes a complete run of issues from this period; production photographs; reviews, clippings, and advertisements; files on U.S. and international theatre companies; general information on Shakespeare films, videos, and audio; files on actors, directors, scholars, critics, and reviewers; and the business, production, and correspondence files of the journal.

Of special interest to scholars is the extensive collection of programs and production photographs of plays performed in New York, at Shakespeare festivals throughout North America, and in various venues across this country and internationally. The archive (26 cubic feet) is now available for use in Special Collections. A guide to the collection, compiled by June Schlueter, is available on the Special Collections web site. The journal continues as a quarterly publication, edited by Andrew Hartley at UNC Charlotte; access to current issues of the journal is available through the Lafayette Library Catalog.

-June Schlueter

Far left: From Aethelwold Etc : Twenty-Six Letters Inspired by Other Letters and Non-Letters and Little Bits of Poetry (2009) by Russell Maret

Left: From Hockney’s Alphabet (1992) by David Hockney

Far left: Photo from A Midsummer Night’s Dream presented by the New Shakespeare Company at the Open Air Theatre, London, 2000

Left: Program from 1999 Stratford Festival

- Terese Heidenwolf
Narrative of the Golden Age of American Whaling Purchased for Special Collections

Special Collections recently acquired a rich primary resource for studying the American whaling industry in the 19th century—*Gleanings of an Ocean Voyage: An Address Delivered Before Howard Temple of Honor, No. 10, on the Evenings of Sept 23rd, 1872, & Jan. 6th, 1873*, an address given by Abel Gardiner Courtis to a Templar lodge in Lynn, MA. The address is a narrative of Courtis’s two-year voyage on the whaling ship *Fortune*, which sailed out of the premier whaling port of New Bedford in 1856.

Many details of the golden age of whaling are incorporated, including a lengthy description of the whale’s anatomy and physiology. The reader is reminded of the dangers at sea as Courtis depicts crashing icebergs, harsh gales, and dangerous pack ice, as well as an incident in which he was almost swept overboard at Cape Horn.

An interesting footnote concerns the unfortunate demise of the *Fortune*. The ship was destined to become one of the sixteen granite-loaded vessels known as “The Stone Fleet,” sunk by Union forces in 1861. The event inspired Herman Melville, who had personal connections with a few of the doomed ships, to write his poem “The Stone Fleet: An Old Sailor’s Lament.”

Anyone interested in viewing this newly-acquired bound manuscript should contact Special Collections at 610-330-5148 or archives@lafayette.edu.

-Pam Murray

Faculty Test-Driving Moodle 2.0 in Advance of Campus Launch

 Twelve faculty are piloting a new version of Moodle in their spring courses. While not drastically different, Moodle 2.0 does offer several new features as well as improvements over existing features.

 One addition that will be tested extensively this semester is the ability to establish and grade Moodle assignments using a rubric. Other new capabilities include conditional activities and completion tracking, which allow activities to be hidden from view until certain conditions—like grades, date and time, or the completion of another activity—have been met. A mobile theme should improve the user experience when accessing Moodle on a mobile device. And moving to Moodle 2.0 will allow us to improve course creation and enrollment processes by tying the system more closely to Banner.

Other improvements that have been made on existing functionality are:

• The ability to drag and drop blocks, resources, and activities within Moodle;
• A more stable and easier-to-use wiki;
• Dragging and dropping of files directly into Moodle;
• Support for access to files stored in third-party services such as YouTube, Dropbox, Flickr, and GoogleDocs; and
• A “Private Files” area that allows for access to files across courses.

Usability testing is being conducted in conjunction with the pilot. Results of the pilot and usability testing, along with information gathered from a faculty survey last semester, will help focus additional improvements to the learning management system as we prepare to move everyone to the 2.0 version in the fall.

Information sessions and workshops on Moodle 2.0 will be held later this spring and summer.

-Courtney Bentley

New Electronic Acquisitions

**AUTOMOTIVE NEWS DATA CENTER**
Production, inventory, sales and other data on the automotive industry

**DICTIONARY OF AFRICAN BIOGRAPHY II**
Biographical information on the men and women who shaped Africa’s history from earliest times to the present.

**ENCYCLOPEDIA ISLAMICA**
An abridged translation of a Persian encyclopedia that is one of the most comprehensive sources on Islam and the Muslim world. Particularly strong in coverage of Shi’i Islam. Still a work-in-progress; not many volumes of the translation have been completed yet.

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHRISTIANITY**
New Jersey Artist Helen Frank Donates Master Prints to Lafayette; Retrospective Exhibition on View this Spring

The master print collection of New Jersey artist Helen Frank has been acquired by Special Collections. Donated by the artist and her husband, Sidney Frank ’49, the collection of nearly one thousand prints spans the last five decades and represents a remarkable array of printmaking techniques.

Throughout her career, Frank studied at many prestigious institutions, including the Art Students League, Cooper Union, the Tyler School at Temple University, the New School for Social Research, and Yale University. As her passion for printmaking grew, Frank focused on etching as her preferred medium and developed a very personal approach to her artwork. Each print reflects her life experiences, interests, and surroundings. Women’s issues, families, aging, New York, New Jersey, cities abroad, and social commentary are all represented in the collection. The majority of her master etchings were produced on a printing press in the basement studio of her home in Springfield, New Jersey.

Frank’s work is represented by numerous New York and New Jersey fine art galleries and held in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, Museum of Modern Art, and the New-York Historical Society. In celebration of the arrival of Frank’s master print collection at Lafayette, Special Collections will mount a retrospective of Frank’s work in the Simon Room this spring. An opening reception will be held with the artist on March 21 at 4pm, in conjunction with Women’s History Month. Special Collections is working this semester to process Frank’s master prints and create an online guide to the collection and a digital gallery of selected works.

-Elaine Stomber

Web Conferencing Comes of Age in the Workplace

When senior Ed Zhao defended his thesis proposal this past December, he had more than the Economics department to grapple with. While his thesis advisors sat around a table in Lafayette’s Simon G4 seminar room, Zhao used a combination of Adobe Connect and Skype to present from Los Angeles, where he was on a lunch break from his internship. That same week, Professor Andy Smith attended the Film and Media Studies thesis proposal presentations from London, England, where he was leading a semester-long study abroad trip. Using his MacBook Pro and Google+ Hangouts, Smith watched rough cuts of film projects, listened to conversations between students and other committee members, and asked his own questions.

While generally meant for one-to-one communication, web conferencing also works well in a one-to-many situation, where a group at one end of the connection is presenting to or viewing a single presenter. Faculty, staff, and students can use Skype, Google+, Facetime, and Adobe Connect to interface with remote colleagues, guest speakers, or interview candidates.

Instructional Technology still maintains and operates a videoconferencing facility in Kirby 10 and has been testing a portable HD system—which boasts the quality of a dedicated facility but the portability of web conferencing—to deliver an Italian language class originating at DeSales University. To support web conferencing, four Logitech HD web cameras with integrated microphones have been added to Skillman’s collection of circulating equipment.

Questions about web conferencing can be directed to the Instructional Technology group.

-Courtney Bentley
Q: What does information literacy mean to you as a professor of International Affairs?

A: Learning is based on accessing and interpreting information. I always tell students that the library is the ‘heart’ of the college. In the age of the web this has become less obvious to them but it is truer than ever. As an International Affairs professor, the need for better information literacy feels especially pressing. We live in a globally connected world, and there is a great deal riding on our ability to use and successfully manage those connections.

Q: Early on, you ask your FYS (“Overcoming the Wall”) students to use library resources to find varying definitions of Marxism. Why not just give them the definitions?

A: The class deals with the Cold War era division of Germany, so it’s important for students to understand what the dominant ideologies in East and West Germany were. Even more importantly, I want students to understand that all knowledge is constructed and that there are varying levels of quality and perspectives behind this knowledge. If twelve students come back with twelve different definitions, that’s good news because a big part of the lesson is that the source matters!

Q: You put a lot of emphasis on primary sources in your FYS. Many students go through college without ever learning about primary sources. Why do you consider them important?

A: The analysis of primary sources is a bit of a lost art, I fear. I ask that my students engage with them because I believe primary sources accomplish several things. First, they introduce a sense of time by bringing back voices of the past in all their immediacy. Second, they are often more exciting than a textbook. Third, as an interdisciplinary course, the FYS should introduce different methods of research and primary sources allow the humanities to play an important role. Finally, I hope that understanding the “sources of the source” (author, context, audience, etc.) will help students become more critical readers and, ultimately, better consumers of information.

Q: International Affairs is an interdisciplinary field. What kind of challenges does this present you in helping your students to become more information literate?

A: Interdisciplinarity does present certain challenges but I find them interesting. For example, if we communicate to students that today’s disciplinary divisions are the outcome of historic and social processes, “interdisciplinarity” becomes an exciting way to think outside the box. Because Lafayette is a liberal arts college, the students seem more open to utilizing terms and approaches from different disciplines. Information literacy in the FYS has to expose students not only to different materials but to different ways of interpretation.

Q: In your Research Methods course, students have to grapple with the difference between qualitative and quantitative data; where to find reputable sources of statistics; and field research. Are students surprised to discover that “research” is something more than what they’ve come to understand in their early college years?

A: I hope so! Each student chooses his or her own research topic so they are invested in their projects. My goal (beyond teaching different methods) is to educate students that there is a “field” out there with accumulated knowledge on their topics. They need to discover that field, its main arguments, and how their project fits into that intellectual discourse. Their research often relies on assistance from librarians and instructional technologists, who visit my class to talk about databases and Opinio. The individual projects and hands-on approach are more challenging and time-consuming than in an average class, but it makes for a successful student learning experience. The papers that take the issue of “research” seriously come out on top!

Q: What more do you think we – professors and librarians – could be doing to help students develop their critical thinking and information literacy skills?

A: Since coming to Lafayette I have been very impressed with the efforts of our librarians to educate students in this regard. I hope that all courses build in aspects to develop information literacy and challenge students to practice their critical thinking skills. So curricular development is maybe the most fruitful way to go.

Q: You introduce information literacy components at the FYS level and in your upper-level courses. What do you think students get out of library instruction at these different stages?

A: There are different developmental stages that students pass through and the information literacy aspects presented in each class must fit those stages. So, for example, the insights developed when different sources present varying definitions is an appropriate learning experience for a FYS. For an upper division class, that knowledge should be assumed. However, there are many other aspects to learn about, such as the “literature review.”

Q: In your Research Methods course, students have to grapple with the difference between qualitative and quantitative data; where to find reputable sources of statistics; and field research. Are students surprised to discover that “research” is something more than what they’ve come to understand in their early college years?

A: Yes. There is no deep level of learning if you don’t understand where knowledge comes from, how it is stored, how it can be accessed, how it is reproduced and spread. When students are grappling with complex and important issues such as gender inequality or social injustice it is vital that they are able to navigate sources that are challenging and can apply their critical skills judiciously and effectively. That’s for me what “information literacy” in the classroom is all about.
Lafayette Digital Repository’s Top Ten List

The Lafayette Digital Repository now contains over 200 faculty articles and book chapters that are available via open access. As 2011 drew to a close, we took a look at those that have been accessed most often by readers both near and far. The top eleven (with a two-way tie for tenth place) are listed below.

1. “Formosa through the consul’s eyes: Postcards from a ‘Japan hand’ on the eve of the Pacific War” by Paul D. Barclay. Deposited 4/09.


5. “Acting white or acting black: Mixed-race adolescents’ identity and behavior” by Christopher Ruebeck, Susan Averett, and Howard Bodenhorn. Deposited 5/10.


You can view these articles at http://dspace.lafayette.edu. To include your scholarship in the repository, complete the submission form at http://library.lafayette.edu/ldrform and library staff will deposit articles as allowed by copyright agreements.

-Terese Heidenwolf

Spring 2012 Information Literacy Grant Recipients

This year’s information literacy grant recipients are Ben Cohen, Engineering Studies, and Nandini Sikand, Film and Media Studies.

In Professor Cohen’s Capstone Seminar in Engineering and Society (EGRS 451), students will compile an annotated bibliography that includes a critical assessment of an author’s arguments in relation to others on the same topic. Students will also be expected to identify different disciplinary perspectives represented in different sources. Professor Cohen is collaborating with librarian Lijuan Xu on this course.

Professor Sikand is collaborating with librarian Amy Abruzzi to incorporate information literacy projects into FAMS 220, The Poetics and Politics of Film. One of the projects will require students to research the intellectual history of a particular theoretical movement or theory. In another project, students will identify and compare various types of conversations about a film, ranging from scholarly sources to film reviews to blogs. In their final papers, students will reflect on how their relationship to theory has changed and evaluate the research process.

(Swank, continued from page 1)

Once a license is established, the film is legally available online to students 24/7 while they are enrolled in the course. Interactive tools within Digital Campus allow faculty to attach questions, notes, discussion points, and supporting documents to a film and to highlight specific scenes. In addition, faculty can stream the film for in-class viewing.

Swank provides a list of the films available through Digital Campus at http://www.swank.com/digitalcampus. For more information on Swank or other streaming options at Lafayette, please contact Amy Abruzzi at ext. 5631 or abruzzi@lafayette.edu.

-Amy Abruzzi
Spring Lass Gallery Exhibits Feature Political Posters from Mexico

Mexico’s tradition of using printmaking as a way to protest injustice is highlighted this semester in exhibitions in the Lass Gallery. This rich and vibrant graphic tradition is represented by two portfolios of posters that have just been acquired by Special Collections from the Escuela de Cultura Popular Mártires del 68 (ECPM68) in Mexico City.

**CON O SIN PAPELES TODOS TENEMOS DERECHOS**
(WITH OR WITHOUT PAPERS WE ALL HAVE RIGHTS)

These fifteen posters take on a contentious aspect of the immigration debate in America: rights of undocumented immigrants. The posters were designed to remind immigrants that they are entitled to equal protection under the law and to due process, including the right to hire a lawyer; the right to a public education through grade 12 for undocumented children; and the right to emergency medical care from publicly-funded hospitals. This project was conceived as a response to the passage of SB1070 in Arizona last year, with the proceeds intended to support organizations working to address immigrant issues.  
*January 30-March 9*

**¡ANTE LE DESTRUCCIÓN AMBIENTAL, ORGANIZACIÓN!**
(BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, ORGANIZE!)

This poster series was screen printed at the ECPM68 in response to the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010. Some of the climate justice themes addressed by these visually stunning prints include the loss of wetlands, the cutting of forests, unbridled consumption of natural resources, the use of dirty energy, and the monopolization of water. The participants in the project developed the slogan: “No to climate change, yes to system change. No to environmental destruction, yes to the destruction of capital.”  
*March 19-July 31*

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*Left: Protest posters from the Escuela de Cultura Popular Mártires del 68 in Mexico City*