FROM THE DEAN

The University Library started the 11/12 academic year by anticipating the challenges of an ever-expanding digital landscape. We began by exploring critical questions: How will the Library continue to advance scholarship in a changing information climate? What innovative methods will the library embrace to help students become critical information users and creators? How can the Library further support campus initiatives? These questions stimulated lively discussions leading to informed planning and thoughtful innovation. Take a look at some of the ways we are building the Library for the future.

LIBRARIANS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Putting us solidly into forward-thinking mode are two new members of the Library faculty - Felicia Palsson, Instructional Coordinator, who came to us from the University of Southern California, and Nicole Lawson, Public Services Coordinator, from the University of California Santa Cruz. They have deepened our planning efforts by developing and evaluating new ways to integrate library instruction and research support. Expect to hear much more from Felicia and Nicole.

21st CENTURY LITERACY

Today's students are called upon to decode information that is created in more formats than ever before. While students still need to know how to judge information for bias, understand the credentials of an author, and determine if facts are current, they now contend with a culture of instantaneous output created by expert and not-so-expert participants.

To help students and faculty navigate the mass of information, our instruction program focuses on transforming students into savvy information consumers and informed citizens. This year, 4,400 students participated in library instruction. We initiated an innovative assessment project that uses multiple tools to measure student-learning outcomes. Findings are helping us improve instructional programming for first-time freshmen and students in the majors.

In addition to face-to-face instruction, we also reach students with online learning tools incorporated into class web-modules. Library instructional efforts extend to faculty as well, offering workshops on media literacy, incorporation of Library resources into Moodle, and development of information literacy learning outcomes.
DIGITAL COLLECTIONS, e-BOOKS, STREAMING MEDIA

College students and faculty have an expectation of ready online access to information. Mobile technology is on the way to becoming the norm at SSU. In response, the Library is expanding electronic access to collections. We now have over 100,000 electronic books covering all disciplines. And with our growing collection of streaming videos, faculty can embed documentaries and feature films directly into online courses.

This past year we continued to digitize our unique cultural heritage collections, making special materials accessible to researchers worldwide. The Camp Amache digital project illustrates daily life for Americans of Japanese ancestry interned at the Amache Relocation Center in Colorado during World War II. Many internees were from the North Bay area. The Roy Maxwell Talbot Papers also went online, presenting the life of a customs official in China (1908-1943) with photographs, diaries, and artifacts.

ENRICHING STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Supporting the “whole student” is a priority for the library. We encourage learning in many forms and venues. For example, the exhibits in the Library Art Gallery provide real-world experience for student artists and curators. Using the Gallery as a lab, students are exposed to the various aspects of curating an exhibit. And with the Diverse-City art show, students experienced the pride of having their work on display.

The Library Lobby gave student musicians a place to perform once a month. The thrill of practicing in front of a live audience proved invaluable. Ensembles included voice, guitar, clarinet, and dazzling instrumental combinations.

Practical experience was provided in Library-sponsored student internships and class projects. This year, a student group undertook a comparative study of space use for an Anthropology course, a Math student used his analytical skills to assess library use statistics, and a History major evaluated, researched, and digitized a unique archival collection.

SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

Expectations about scholarly publishing are changing as the Open Access model is embraced by a growing number of content creators. The outstanding intellectual assets of the SSU community are now being preserved and showcased in the SSU ScholarWorks digital archive, developed and hosted by the Library. The goal is to make the full text of unique works by faculty and students available and easily searchable online.
Preparing for tomorrow calls for a forward-looking attitude, and here in the University Library we view change as opportunity. As we accelerate toward a complex and unpredictable future, we are confident that the thoughtful combination of flexibility and creativity that made 2011/2012 a successful year will take us to the next horizon.

With appreciation to our friends and supporters,

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