Noteworthy

News Briefs from PA Libraries

Linda Neyer & Larissa Gordon

News Co-Editors, Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice

Welcome to the newly revamped “Noteworthy: News Briefs from Pennsylvania Libraries.” PaLRaP is changing our approach to gathering news items about the Pennsylvania library community. Starting with this issue, rather than publishing a series of short articles, each with their own PDF and DOI, we are combining the information received into one article.

Our news co-editors, Linda Neyer and Larissa Gordon, have also devised a simpler submission system, which should make it easier for you to share your news with PaLRaP readers.

You can submit your news with us via this online form: bit.ly/1rkSdcR

We look forward to making your Pennsylvania library accomplishments, experiences, events, and news part of the PaLRaP conversation.

Specter/Kennedy Assassination Exhibition at Philadelphia University’s Library


Opening in the fall of 2013 around the time of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, the exhibition was produced through a collaborative, 18-month-long effort of university faculty, staff, and students, with Library Director Karen Albert coordinating the project. Most of the creative team of designers, scriptwriters, and exhibition component builders came from the Graphic Design, Architecture, and Law & Society programs at Philadelphia University.
The exhibition takes visitors through the assassination events and historical context, focusing on the late U.S. Senator Arlen Specter’s thought process in reviewing the evidence and developing the Single Bullet Theory. This concept was key to the Warren Commission report’s conclusion that a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, assassinated Kennedy.

The exhibition’s centerpiece is a to-scale model of the Kennedy limousine, in which visitors can sit to view the single bullet trajectory from Oswald’s nest in the Texas Book Depository. Opposing theories and subsequent controversies are also addressed.

Originally set to run through mid-April 2014, the exhibition has been extended until July 18, 2014. Over 700 people have already visited the exhibition. This is the inaugural exhibition of the Arlen Specter Center for Public Service at Philadelphia University, which began as a result of the donation of Specter’s archive of papers and memorabilia. This large collection is currently being housed and processed at the University of Pittsburgh, thanks to a collaborative agreement forged between the two universities.

For more information, visit the Philadelphia University website for this exhibition (bit.ly/1m7StwZ) or contact the Specter Center via e-mail (spectercenter@philau.edu). You can also view news reports about the exhibition from the PhilaU Today blog (bit.ly/1fN6yrv).

Submitted by Karen Albert, Philadelphia University

Penn State University Libraries Honored for Offering Cutting-Edge Services

State College, PA – Penn State University Libraries was one of four libraries recognized by the American Library Association (ALA) for offering cutting-edge technologies in library services.

The ALA Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) and the Library & Information Technology Association (LITA) annually showcase libraries that are serving their communities using novel and innovative methods. Penn State University Libraries was recognized for its One Button Studio app, developed in partnership with the university’s Information Technology Services department, to enable easy video creation for faculty and students across Penn State campuses.

With only a flash drive and the push of a single button, users can activate a video camera, microphone, and lights to begin recording. In its first year of use, 4,200 people created more than 270 hours of video. The app also reduces production costs due to changes in the type of equipment required as well as the number of staff needed to provide assistance.

“This was a very competitive year for cutting-edge applicants. Those recognized . . . stood out in the ways they creatively solved problems, engaged library patrons, and strengthened library services and visibility,” said Marc Gartler of Madison Public Library (WI), who chaired the selection subcommittee. “We are excited to recognize these four projects, several of which already have proven their potential to be successfully replicated by libraries around the globe.”
The other three libraries recognized by the American Library Association were Edmonton Public Library, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, for its “Me Card” technology; Somerset County Library System, Bridgewater, NJ, for its Cut-rate Digital Signboards; and North Carolina State University (NCSU), Raleigh, NC, for its My #HuntLibrary photo app.

Additional information about all four libraries is available from ALA’s Cutting-Edge Technology in Library Service’s website (bit.ly/1pKz46J).

Submitted by Jazzy Wright, American Library Association

PA Librarians Become Digital Public Library of America Community Reps

Boston, MA – The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) recently launched an outreach program centered on Community Reps—volunteers who engage their local communities by leading DPLA outreach activities, such as workshops, presentations, Wikipedia editathons, hackathons, or even working with educators to develop class projects or assignments involving DPLA research. In January 2014, DPLA welcomed its first class of 100 Community Reps, hailing from 36 states and three countries. Among them are four Pennsylvania-based librarians:

- Nabil Kashyap, Reference and Digital Projects Resident at Swarthmore College
- Chad Nelson, Application and Repository Developer at LYRASIS in Philadelphia
- Kristen Yarmey, Digital Services Librarian at the University of Scranton
- Anna-Sophia Zingarelli-Sweet, a Master in Library and Information Science student in Archives and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh

Each Community Rep will coordinate at least one DPLA outreach event in 2014, beginning in February with GLAM Hack Philly, a weekend-long hackathon Nelson is organizing that will focus on open data from galleries, libraries, archives, and museums.

Submitted by Kristen Yarmey, University of Scranton

Cahoy Publishes New Information Literacy Articles

State College, PA – Librarian Ellysa Cahoy has recently published a number of articles that add to the growing body of knowledge on information literacy.

Cahoy, Education and Behavioral Sciences Librarian at Penn State University Libraries and Assistant Director in the Pennsylvania Center for the Book, had two articles published in the latest issue of Communications in Information Literacy, an open-access, independent, peer-reviewed journal on information literacy in institutions of higher education. This special issue focused on "Rethinking the Standards.” Her first article is titled “Affective Learning and Personal Information Management: Essential Components of Information Literacy” and is available from the journal’s website (bit.ly/1fb4kYb).

The second article (bit.ly/QFuBmd) is a transcript of a session held at the Pennsylvania Information Literacy Summit, July 2013, during which Cahoy, past chair of the of the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards
Committee, discussed the pending revision to the ACRL information literacy standards with Craig Gibson and Trudi Jacobson, current co-chairs of the ACRL Information Literacy Standards Revision Task Force. The article is titled "Moving Forward: A Discussion on the Revision of the ACRL Information Literacy Standards for Higher Education."

In addition, LOEX Quarterly, a self-supporting, nonprofit educational clearinghouse for library instruction and information literacy information, published “The Quarterly Interview with Ellysa Stern Cahoy” ([bit.ly/1nCgV92](bit.ly/1nCgV92)), in which Cahoy discusses affective information literacy, personal archiving and the forthcoming revision of the ACRL information literacy standards.

For more information, contact Cahoy at ellysa@psu.edu.

Submitted by Catherine Grigor, Penn State University

Penn State University Libraries Acquire Chip Kidd Archives

State College, PA – Penn State University Libraries have acquired the archives of the renowned designer and writer Chip Kidd. Dubbed “the closest thing to a rock star in graphic design” by USA Today, Kidd studied graphic design at Penn State before starting work at Alfred A. Knopf in 1986. At Knopf he created memorable book jackets for authors such as John Updike and Michael Crichton, including the iconic cover for Jurassic Park.

Kidd’s archives include works from his youth up to the present. His student portfolio work from Penn State as well as drafts for the cover of Jurassic Park are among the more than 250 boxes of materials now housed in the Eberly Family Special Collections Library, in the Paterno Library on the University Park campus.

Approximately one terabyte of digital data complements these items, including files from nearly the entirety of Kidd’s career. As much of Kidd’s artistic and literary composition over the past fifteen years has been born digital, this portion of the archive includes the full record of many of his most iconic designs, as well original drafts of his written works, lectures, and working notes.

The Kidd archive is a major acquisition for the libraries, according to Tim Pyatt, the Dorothy Foehr Huck Chair and head of the Eberly Family Special Collections Library.

For more information, or if you have questions about access to the collection, including accessibility needs, please contact Tim Pyatt at tdp11@psu.edu.

Submitted by Catherine Grigor, Penn State University
Professional Accomplishments for University of Scranton Faculty

Scranton, PA – The University of Scranton has announced a number of promotions, tenure, and title changes for library faculty:

- George Aulisio, Public Services Librarian and Outreach Coordinator, has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.
- Sheli McHugh, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, has been appointed Learning Commons Coordinator of the Reilly Learning Commons. The Reilly Learning Commons will undergo major construction this summer and will officially open for the start of the Fall 2014 semester.
- Donna Witek, Public Services Librarian and Virtual Reference Coordinator, has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.
- Kristen Yarmey, Digital Services Librarian and Associate Professor, has been awarded tenure.

Submitted by George J. Aulisio, University of Scranton

Furlough Named Executive Director of HathiTrust

State College, PA – Mike Furlough, Associate Dean for Research and Scholarly Communications for the Penn State University Libraries, has been named executive director of HathiTrust.

HathiTrust is an international partnership of more than 90 academic and research institutions that owns and operates a digital repository containing more than 11 million public domain and in-copyright volumes, digitized from partnering institution libraries and other sources.

Furlough, who will leave Penn State in April 2014, notes, “HathiTrust has dramatically increased access to the published record and created a membership structure that governs a shared, distributed infrastructure for preservation and innovative use. We’re poised now to build upon those achievements and to transform the ways that research libraries collaborate to produce knowledge.”

During Furlough’s eight-year tenure at Penn State, he has overseen the development of a number of important initiatives related to digital publishing, research data curation, and e-records management. This included the creation of ScholarSphere, a research repository service offered by the Penn State University Libraries and Information Technology Services. He has also played an integral role in the Libraries’ strategic planning process.

“I am grateful for his many contributions and glad that he will be at the helm of a very important initiative for Penn State and libraries in general. We look forward to working with him in this new and critically important capacity,” said Barbara Dewey, Dean of the University Libraries and Scholarly Communications.

Submitted by Catherine Grigor, Penn State University
Kutztown University Welcomes Stevenson as New Director of Library Services

Kutztown, PA – Rohrbach Library of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania welcomes Martha Stevenson as the new Director of Library Services. Stevenson comes to Kutztown from Misericordia University in Dallas, PA, where she served as Director of Library Services. Stevenson has also held various positions at the libraries of Minot State University in Minot, ND, and Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.

Submitted by Dale Bond, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

PA Forward Civic and Social Literacy Conference with Judge Rendell

Carlisle, PA – Keynote speaker Marjorie O. Rendell, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and 43rd First Lady of Pennsylvania, will discuss her vision of civic literacy at the PA Forward Civic and Social Literacy one-day conference “Engaging the Next Generation of Civic Leaders: Resources, Programs, and Partnerships.” The conference will be held at the Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, PA, on Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

Attendees will discover resources, program ideas, and partnership opportunities designed to help build the capacity of Pennsylvania communities through volunteerism and civic engagement. Presentations will cover local government, trials, generational communication, and social media engagement.

PA Forward is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) designed to strengthen libraries’ resources in order to improve literacy levels across Pennsylvania. PA Forward has partnered with leaders from business, government, education, and the nonprofit sector, to develop resources and programs in five areas: basic literacy, information literacy, civic and social literacy, health literacy, and financial literacy.

Members of the Civic & Social Literacy Team include representatives from libraries and from the following PA Forward partners:

- Judicial Independence Commission of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Department of State
- County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Municipal League
- Pennsylvania Newsmedia Association
- State YMCA of Pennsylvania, Inc.
- Pennsylvania Humanities Council

For more information on the program, contact Laura Ax-Fultz at lja10@psu.edu or Carrie Cleary at ladyccleary@gmail.com. For more information about PA Forward, visit the initiative’s website (www.paforward.org).

Submitted by Laura Ax-Fultz, Penn State Dickinson School of Law
Hswe Appointed to Digital Library Federation Advisory Committee

State College, PA – Librarian Patricia Hswe, Digital Content Strategist, Head of ScholarSphere User Services, and Co-director of the Department of Publishing and Curation Services at Penn State, has been appointed to the Digital Library Federation (DLF) Advisory Committee, within the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) in Washington, DC. The committee advises the DLF director on matters relating to program activities, initiatives, partnerships, and strategies.

CLIR is an independent, nonprofit organization that forges strategies to enhance research, teaching, and learning environments, in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher learning. It aims to promote forward-looking collaborative solutions that transcend disciplinary, institutional, professional, and geographic boundaries in support of the public good.

Dean of Penn State University Libraries Barbara I. Dewey notes, “Hswe’s participation in the DLF committee will bring Penn State to the forefront in a program that aims to build and support a robust, engaged community whose members share an interest in advancing research, teaching, and learning through the application of digital library research, technology, and services.”

Hswe points out, “My work heading user services for Penn State’s ScholarSphere repository service has given me a solid foundation of experience with which to raise its profile and deepen collaborations among digital library developers, project managers, and all who are invested in digital library issues.”

Hswe and two other new committee members will serve three-year terms and will expand the DLF Advisory Committee to eight members representing both the university and public sectors.

Submitted by Catherine Grigor, Penn State University

Tell us all about it

Don’t be shy! Submit your “Noteworthy” news items to Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice using this online form.

bit.ly/1rkSdcR