Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Spring 2011

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Donor Spotlight: Governor Barbara Roberts

In the literary world we often find that people are either “savers” or “spring cleaners.” Special Collections and University Archives depend on donations from generous “savers” to keep history alive and accessible to our current and future students, faculty, and greater Northwest community.

Governor Barbara Roberts is one of those “savers” who generously donated her collection to the University Library as part of the Oregon Political Leadership Archives. Her collection includes personal papers, newspaper clippings, campaign materials, manuscripts, photographs, and public speeches from over 30 years of public life.

Barbara Roberts was elected the first woman Governor of the state of Oregon in 1984, serving from 1985 through 1990. Prior to her tenure as Governor, Barbara Roberts was a member of the Oregon House and was Oregon’s first female House Majority Leader from 1982 to 1984. She was reelected to that position in 1984. She was elected the first Democratic House Majority Leader from 1983 to 1984. She was elected the first Democratic Governor of Oregon. Gov. Roberts was one of the first 10 women to be elected in her own right to the position of governor in the United States and has been the second gubernatorial mentor published from the oregon group of groundbreaking women.

Governor Roberts chose to donate her materials to PSU because “it felt like home.”

The Portland State University Library is at the heart of the Portland State community, and is committed to providing excellence and innovation in research, teaching, and learning support. Along with its diverse collection of information resources, the University Library offers special collections and archives that feature unique materials of regional and scholarly interest; produces an extensive array of user-centered information services; and delivers a strong instruction program dedicated to improving students’ academic success. Founded in an iconic building in the beautiful South Park Block, the Portland State University Library serves the largest student body in the Oregon University System, providing collaborative study spaces and technology-enhanced environments designed to enhance students’ learning experiences.

Upcoming Library Event

May 3
Lincoln Hall, Room 75, 7pm
Professor Scott Burns and Professor Marjorie Burns will present on the second edition of their book, Cataclysms on the California Coast. Book signing and light refreshments after the lecture.
Focus on Service: University Library Technologies

Just over a decade ago, Portland State University Library was faced with some of the effects of technological revolutions that were fundamentally changing the way we provided services. The most significant was the impact of the World Wide Web on communication. Within just a few years, research, writing, and technology support responsibilities for the Library were increased, and with the Library’s efforts shifted towards the provision of online resources and services, the staffing and infrastructure changes necessary to accomplish these new projects.

Today the Library continues to grapple with the same challenges and opportunities, but with a whole new set of technological tools. To meet the diverse needs of its patrons, the PSU Library’s infrastructure has grown to encompass everything from digital reserves, and custom-developed web applications. Efforts to innovate and improve technology-use have enabled the Library to offer an innovative, resources-rich experience to patrons, whether in person or online.

The Library building offers an interactive, resource-rich experience to students. Throughout the Library, there are group study rooms, including computers, projectors, and video monitors. There are also group study rooms where students can take advantage of a number of technological tools to support their studies, including computers, projectors, and video monitors. However, students need to be aware of the need for research competencies to preserve the integrity of scholarly materials. As students mature in their understanding of how policy gets made, they will become more conscious of the many details and complexities involved in the creation of public policy, and recognizing the importance of the elected official’s papers and are often used. The Library building offers an interactive, resource-rich experience to students. Throughout the Library, there are group study rooms where students can take advantage of technological tools to support their studies.

Access includes:
• 300 searchable databases
• 20,000 electronic books
• An online system to reserve group study rooms

With each passing year, the Library’s dedication to innovative technology strategies to play a dynamic role in the university’s changing needs. As the student population continues to increase, and at technology becomes increasingly embedded in the curriculum, the Library’s resources need to also evolve to serve even greater needs.

Focus on Librarianship: Professor Sharon Etter

Association Professor Sharon Etter returns to the Library as a Librarian to students. Throughout the Library, there are group study rooms where students can take advantage of technological tools to support their studies, including computers, projectors, and video monitors. However, students need to be aware of the need for research competencies to preserve the integrity of scholarly materials. As students mature in their understanding of how policy gets made, they will become more conscious of the many details and complexities involved in the creation of public policy, and recognizing the importance of the elected official’s papers and are often used. The Library building offers an interactive, resource-rich experience to students. Throughout the Library, there are group study rooms where students can take advantage of technological tools to support their studies.

The University Library, the Center for Women, Politics & Policy, the Department of History and the Black Studies Program have continued to build a growing archive of political papers from Oregon’s trailblazing women leaders. The Oregon Political Leadership Archive is part of Portland State University Library’s Oregon Collections and includes approximately 162 hours of primary documents and original materials, representing voices from six important women in Oregon’s political history.

The Archive includes the papers of Honoré Davis, Hon. Fred Grundy, Hon. Gevina Kabury, Hon. Vida Keitz, Hon. Barbara Roberts, and Hon. Betty Roberts. The materials within this collection hold particular cultural and historical significance, as these women were on the front lines of Oregon’s trailblazing women leaders. The materials within this collection hold particular cultural and historical significance, as these women were on the front lines of Oregon’s trailblazing women leaders. The materials within this collection hold particular cultural and historical significance, as these women were on the front lines of Oregon’s trailblazing women leaders. The materials within this collection hold particular cultural and historical significance, as these women were on the front lines of Oregon’s trailblazing women leaders.

What makes the Archive special is that it will provide a new lens with which to view the creation of public policy, rounding out the official records and the media narratives with the many details and complexities of how policy gets made. In the Archive, you might find a finding aid, or a finding aid to the Access to the Archive provides access to the decision-making and intellectual development of our political leaders and allows us to understand the thinking evolved over time, bringing the complete story of political life in Oregon to life.