

Spring 2014

Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Spring 2014

Portland State University Library

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From the Dean's Desk

The start of the Spring Term finds many students looking forward to completing their coursework and graduating at the end of the term. Congratulations to all of our graduating students!

Library faculty and staff are also engaged in completing an important initiative and will reach a major milestone at the end of this term. We will be bringing up a new library system that replaces several individual systems as well as providing a new look and new ways of searching the library catalog. As you can imagine, this transition has involved an intense amount of effort and attention.



Dean Marilyn K. Moody

The new library system is a groundbreaking shared library system project of the Orbis-Cascade Alliance, a consortium of 37 libraries in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Portland State already benefits greatly from its membership in the Alliance, and this initiative is just another example of those benefits. In conjunction with the library system vendor Ex Libris, the Alliance is working to capitalize on the strong library collaboration already in place to develop the new system in ways that allow us to collaborate even more—with enhanced services for our users. Our faculty and staff are excited about the potential of the new system. Assistant University Librarian, Barbara Glackin, says: “The shared system will integrate a multitude of library resources into a single interface, making it easier for students, faculty, and other users to easily locate information and research materials.”

“The shared library system provides an opportunity to closely examine the ways libraries acquire, organize, and make discoverable library materials; to re-envision and streamline processes and workflows; and to collaborate among and across institutions.”

-Barbara Glackin, Assistant University Librarian for Resource Services and Technology

From our student and faculty’s point of view, they will still go to the library home page to get to a library search box as they do now. From there they will be able to find our PSU journals, books and digitized collections. They will also be able to continue to use the Summit system—allowing them to borrow some 9 million titles and 26 million individual items from Alliance libraries. As more and more of our library books and journals become available online, the new system will also allow us to develop new models of sharing e-books and journals within the Alliance consortium.



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The Third Floor...Transformed!

On March 4th, the University Library celebrated the grand opening of the new and improved third floor collaborative space. This area, formerly the microform area, was transformed into an open, flexible, technology-enhanced group study space. The space features mobile furniture and whiteboards that students can rearrange to fit their specific needs, embedded computers, and plenty of floor outlets for laptops and other devices. The design addressed a critical need in the library: students needed a comfortable, functional place to study and collaborate in large groups, and they needed a place that could support all the technology that is such an integral part of student learning. Though there are other, smaller spaces in the library that support group learning and are technologically integrated, the renovated third floor provides a casual, flexible space for larger groups to spontaneously congregate and individual students to work quietly.

Provost Sona Andrews, University President Wim Wiewel, and Library Dean Marilyn Moody spoke at the opening, praising the creative potential of the space, and noting that students were already embracing the space wholeheartedly. This area is now one of the library's most popular places for students to study, relax, and collaborate.

"I like to think of this space...as yet another chapter in what will be the ongoing effort to create the spaces that Portland State students need," said Wiewel. Andrews concurred: "This is the kind of space our students deserve," she said, going on to thank the donors who helped make the transformation possible.

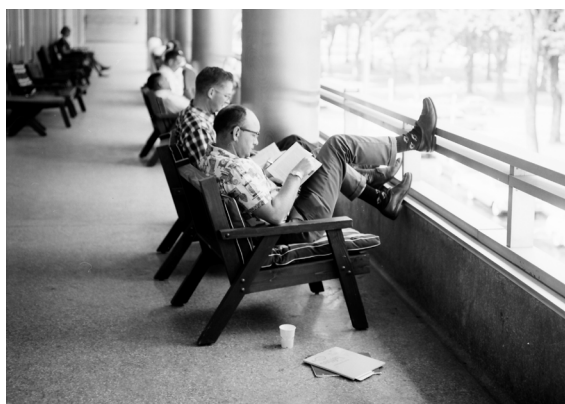


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Alumni Share Their PSU Memories

We are proud to announce the publication of *Alumni Remember*. We reached out to alumni from a range of graduating classes (including some from the very first incarnation of Portland State, the Vanport campus) and asked them to share their PSU memories. This project includes stories and vivid photographs from the Portland State Digital Archives, the online repository that documents the rich history of PSU. This diverse range of alumni memories provides an intimate portrait of the University's astonishing evolution, from its unlikely origins in the doomed city of Vanport to its integration into downtown Portland to its current status as the most populous university in Oregon. You can view the *Alumni Remember* project here: <http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/alumremember/1/>



Meet Our Advancement Council

This engaged group of donors and volunteers work as our partners in sharing the PSU Library story with alumni, community members and others interested in supporting the Library's mission. Under the leadership of the Dean of the University Library, members of the Library Advancement Council provide volunteer support by connecting others to the exciting intellectual work at PSU, participating in events, and helping us further our goals by making a personal philanthropic commitment to the University Library.

We gratefully recognize our Advancement Council Members who share their time, expertise and philanthropic support to further the mission of the University Library.

Kay Abramowitz, Esq.
Partner at Ater Wynne

Corey Lohman
President of Emerick Construction

Dan Halloran '68

Normandie (Robin) Holmes '73

If you would like to learn more about this growing council and our efforts, please contact libdev@pdx.edu.

Research Collections of Excellence: Make a Difference Today

We have many different priorities here at the library. We strive to create comfortable spaces for students to study. We provide critical technology to support student work in and out of the classroom. We invest in instruction and reference support to give the guidance our students need on their intellectual journey.

All of these goals serve our core role of serving as the intellectual center of PSU.

Providing access to research collections that support the mission of the University and the growing needs of the academic units is at the top of our list because our collections are absolutely critical to the learning experience of our students and the scholarly research of our faculty. Access to first-rate research materials allows the university to attract top-level faculty and support student learning.

Scholarly materials can be surprisingly expensive. For example, two current items on our librarians' wish list include the e-version of *The Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict*, at \$2363, and the World News Connection Archive, at \$3996. Though these resources can be costly, they are necessary to maintain the standard of information access our students deserve.

We ask for you to support acquisitions of the materials our students and faculty need for their work. They are going into our communities and changing the world. With your help, we can give them the tools to succeed. Please consider making a gift today.



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Accolades and Innovations

- PSU Library has recently released the Library DIY infrastructure as an open source platform for creating point-of-need instructional content. Library DIY is a system of learning objects designed to give students the quick answers they need to continue with their research or library use. The Library team of Meredith Farkas, Lisa Molinelli, Kim Willson-St. Clair, and Amy Hofer received the 2014 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section Innovation Award for this project.
- We are now part of the Oregon Library Passport Program! This state-wide library service allows community members who are cardholders at participating libraries to check out materials from the PSU Library. If you have a card from most public libraries in Oregon, please visit our Circulation Desk to sign up for your free community member borrowing card.
- Each day at Portland State, our students and faculty create relevant, thoughtful, and critical work. PDXScholar was created to share that work. In its third year, this open-source, digital database of faculty and student work boasts more information and a wider reach than ever, with 493 disciplines represented and nearly 80,000 page views. PDXScholar saw an increased rate in downloads this year, which means that more than ever, our student and faculty work is being read, critically considered, and is assisting in the creation of new knowledge worldwide. Scholars around the globe have taken advantage of this rich repository, with visitors from Australia, Malaysia, Iran, Brazil, Ghana, and beyond.

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