

Spring 2015

Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Spring 2015

Portland State University Library

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From the Dean's Desk

As the academic year draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our library supporters. This newsletter highlights just a few of the ways that your generosity has allowed the library to better support and engage our students, acquire unique collections, and inspire scholarship and creativity at PSU.

Recently I had the opportunity to hear presentations from two of the art history students who researched and curated the Library Book of Hours display profiled in this newsletter issue. President Wim Wiewel was in the audience as well, and later tweeted, "Great exhibit of student work on medieval French manuscript. Deep engagement with any subject yields deep learning." Donor support helped make this possible—and this is just one example of the impact of giving I see every day.

In the last newsletter, I wrote about PDX Open, a library/faculty initiative to create open access textbooks made freely available to students. With five textbooks now finished, we estimate that these textbooks potentially saved students over \$23,000 in the first term of use alone. With generous support from donors Robin and Robert Holmes, we are working with faculty to build on this initiative by providing additional open access textbooks and course materials for students.

Donor support for books, journals, databases, and other online resources helps us to acquire needed collections and information resources for our faculty and students. Many of these funds are targeted for specific subject areas or collections. Funds for Special Collections help us to acquire, process, and make available unique sources important to PSU and the community.

Thank you to everyone who makes the Library and PSU a better place!

And congratulations, graduating students!

Sincerely,
Marilyn



A student makes creative use of the Library Sandbox during Fall term finals.



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What Students Love About the Library

When author Mitchell S. Jackson '99, MA '02 was scheduled to speak at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in March, we realized it was an uncommon opportunity for students to hear an award-winning writer and Portland State alum. With the support of donor funds, PSU Library purchased a bundle of tickets for Jackson's event, and we sent more than 55 students! To receive a ticket, students told us what they love about the Library. Here's some of what we heard:

"I love the welcoming atmosphere of the library. It's a great place to pause and collect my thoughts or study between classes—especially on the quiet floors."

– Angela P.

"I love that each of the floors in the library has their own personality. The first floor is bustling with students; the second floor is for socializing and studying; the third floor feels like a party at times; and the quiet floors are for the serious studying times. I also love all the windows and the shape of the building."

– Serena M.



"I love the way that the windows look out into the campus, into the green. I love the way that I can borrow any book from any of the libraries in the Pacific Northwest through Summit, and that I can pick it up right here in the library."

– Eli R.

"I like that there are so many different areas to fit my needs for that day. If I need silence, I can find it. If I'm looking for space to work in a group, there is always room. I really appreciate the time available with tutors as well."

– Ashlee M.



On March 10, Mitchell S. Jackson spoke at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall as part of the Multnomah County Library Everybody Reads program and in conjunction with Literary Arts. Jackson's book *The Residue Years* is an autobiographical novel about a young African-American man growing up in Northeast Portland in the 1980s and 90s.



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The College District, 1962-1966

A new digital collection of historical photographs shows the Portland State “College District” as it appeared from 1962-1966, in the early days of campus expansion. Compiled by Capital Projects and Construction Archivist Bryce Henry, this collection includes more than 300 images of single-family and duplex houses, businesses, and other commercial buildings in locations now part of the Portland State campus.



The Simon Benson House in its original location, on the corner of SW Clay & 11th, in September 1964.

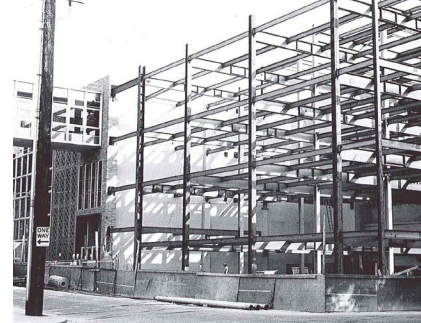
Learn more and view the College District collection: <http://library.pdx.edu/?p=4841>

Erin Goodling, Research Fellow



The goal of the competitive Special Collections Research Fellowship is to encourage meaningful engagement with the unique primary resources held by the Library, as exemplified by the research of 2014-2015 Fellow Erin Goodling, a PhD candidate in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning. Erin’s research focuses on the Willamette River area and the work of the Portland Harbor Community Coalition as a way to examine social and environmental justice activism in the context of the sustainable city. Erin is also a PSU instructor, and her spring term

class is conducting historical research using Special Collections and University Archives. Library friends Corey and Stacey Lohman have generously funded the fellowship for two years. The Library is grateful to Corey and Stacey Lohman for their generosity in supporting student research, and we are proud of the work done by our excellent Special Collections Research Fellows.



College Center addition
(Smith Center)
September 1964



J.N. Karafotias Grocery and Meats
May 1962
Current site of Stott Center



Muzak: The Planned Music Service
June 1962
Current site of Stott Center



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Book of Hours on Display

Texts of Time: The Portland State Book of Hours and the Medieval Manuscript Tradition

May 4th, 2015 – July 17, 2015



With support from the Gordon Hunter Fund, PSU Library recently acquired a 15th century French Book of Hours, an important text during the late medieval period. The Book is the first intact medieval manuscript in Library Special Collections. In winter term, Professor Anne McClanan led Art History students through extensive research on the Book, including a chemical analysis conducted by a chemistry student enrolled in the course. The students curated an exhibit on the Book of the Hours, now on display in the Library through mid-July.



Learn more and view the digital exhibit online: <http://library.pdx.edu/?p=5050>

Dark Horse on Display

The Dark Horse Comics Collection at PSU Library contains a browsing collection of all Dark Horse publications as well as a research collection of print materials and collectibles. Our winter and early spring exhibit by Library Special Collections presented just a few examples from the wide variety of genres and formats represented in the complete Dark Horse Comics catalog, including original comic series, licensed projects, manga, and collectibles. This exhibit, which featured familiar faces like Luke Skywalker and Han Solo as well as newer arrivals, like Domo-kun from Japan (pictured below), attracted students and visitors alike.



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