

Spring 2017

Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Spring 2017

Portland State University Library

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY UPDATE

NEWS FOR SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

Spring 2017

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From the Dean's Desk



Dean Marilyn K. Moody

The PSU Foundation staff held a meeting at the Library recently and asked me to talk about a top ten list of things they should know about the Library. At the top of the list was:

We are dedicated to helping our students succeed.

One important way we help our students succeed, instruction by our librarians, is highlighted in this newsletter. These efforts make such a difference in our students' lives. Helping our students understand how to conduct the research for their classes, how to evaluate and think critically about information resources, and how to identify and use the rich resources the Library makes available are just some of the important areas taught. The ultimate result is that PSU librarians teach our students the information seeking and research skills they need to be successful in the classroom and in life.

Another way we help our students succeed is by providing the online and print journals, books, eBooks, databases, streaming films, archival materials, and more they need for their courses and research. Donor support is key in helping us to do this. In this issue, we're honored to provide a spotlight on library donor David Dengler.

The Library is a leader in the use and creation of open textbooks.

Open textbooks help reduce the cost of a PSU education for our students. Included in this issue is an update on the progress and ongoing impact of the open textbook initiative. I'm especially grateful for the support and leadership of the PSU Alumni Association as our partners in this initiative.

It's Portland and we have Comics!

The Library's unique comic collections, including the generous and ongoing donation of comics, graphic novels, and other items from Dark Horse Comics, are important to the growth of the PSU Comics Studies program. One great ongoing event highlighted here is PSU's annual program to celebrate Will Eisner Week.

Thank you to all of our donors who support the PSU Library every day in so many ways!

Marilyn K. Moody
Dean, University Library



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Helping Students Succeed

PSU librarians teach students how to find the best information so they can succeed in their next research project. Research is more available than ever before, but students feel overloaded as they navigate this vast and ever-growing information landscape. Our goal is to work with the whole classroom, so students develop confidence in their research and can find reliable, relevant, and up-to-date research.



Librarian Kris Kern teaching first-year students

PSU librarians start teaching research skills to incoming students and first-year students, guiding them as they start their college careers. We meet the changing needs of students through classroom instruction, online guides, one-on-one consultations, and immediate help with reference services.

We first work with students in the classroom, as well as one-on-one as they develop their research skills. We also create online research guides for students so they have easy access to find the information they need, no matter where they are.

A gift to the Library Fund is one of the most significant ways to contribute to helping students continue to succeed.

Hear From Our Students

// Thanks so much for speaking to our class. As a post-baccalaureate student... this information was incredibly valuable and appreciated. You made learning about journal search engines & the library FUN"

// Thank you again for talking with me and for all the ideas and information you shared with me. Our conversation helped me to see how my project might be shifted in a productive direction, and ultimately, to decide that a major shift was necessary. Thanks!"

// This step by step process was very helpful. Before this class I was very confused and overwhelmed with how to find an academic journal and get the full text the right way. Now I understand how to do this."

Alumni Association Partnership

The PSU Library is partnering with the Alumni Association to reduce costs to students – while still providing high quality, innovative education.

The PSU Library received generous support from the Alumni Association to continue expanding the open textbook initiative, PDXOpen. PDXOpen textbooks are free to everyone and are tailored for Portland State classes.

The textbooks can also be easily updated by the PSU faculty authors, so students no longer have to worry about new editions that are too expensive. Students can also access their textbook anytime and from anywhere, even after they graduate.

This partnership has a huge effect, serving a large number of students and reducing the cost of their education by providing textbooks free of charge. Continued funding allows the PSU Library to continue to expand PDXOpen, and to have an even greater impact on our students.

// Reducing textbook costs for students is an important cause for PSU... I'm happy to say that many students will benefit a great deal from this project for years to come."

Emiko Konomi, PSU faculty author

PDXOpen Statistics

10 - Textbooks created as of Fall 2016

159 - Countries using PDXOpen textbooks

1,000 - PSU students using PDXOpen

13,000 - PDXOpen textbooks downloaded

\$100,000 - Dollars saved by PSU students

Student Spotlight: Jordan Norris



Jordan Norris balances being a student in PSU's Graduate Teacher Education Program with a full-time job and time with his family. Jordan's program requires him to keep up on current research in his field. He uses the Library's online resources to access the latest research, whether he is in the Library or at home. When he is at the Library, he works with his classmates to make lesson plans in the group study rooms.

// I can find research for class from anyplace, at any time through the PSU Library. This helps me out and saves me money because I don't have to buy as many textbooks."

Donor Spotlight: David Dengler

In 1961, David Dengler was drafted by the US Army and stationed at Fort Huachuca in southern Arizona. The unique and beautiful birds of that area ignited a passion for birding that continues to this day.

David also experienced a good deal of international travel – beginning as a youngster. His parents founded SITA (Student International Travel Association) in 1933 while still college students. They believed that a vehicle for achieving peace in the world was to bring young people of different languages and cultures together face to face. They started taking college students on tours of Europe on bicycles. The business continued to expand and after his military service, David joined the family business – conducting tours and staffing regional offices.

Combine these two influences and you get a collection of amazing books about birds purchased from around the world. In 2012, David decided to make these books available to others by donating them to the PSU Library. Many of the books are available for circulation. Some of the books are so remarkable that they are housed in Special Collections. They need special care and protection, but they are still available to be viewed and studied. The Head of Special Collections, Cris Paschild, is a champion of helping people access original documents for their research and study.

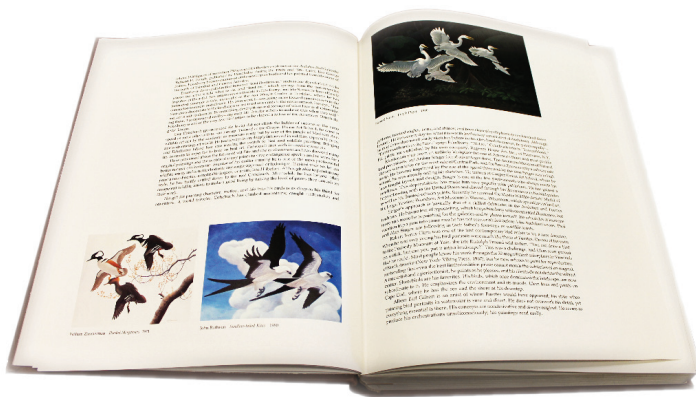


David Dengler visiting PSU Special Collections

Recognizing that the Library needs funds to provide the best spaces, resources, and staff support for students, and the right care and storage for the Archives and Special Collections, David donates financially to the Library as well.

Another part of David's story is his PSU connection. Although he had already studied and earned degrees at several universities worldwide, when a health issue exposed David to the medical field, he came to Portland State University to re-tool his skills. He earned a certificate in Public Health Studies preparing him for work in medical technology at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center where he worked for many years. Now, in his retirement, you are more likely to see David with binoculars around his neck.

We appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of this PSU alumnus. If you would like to support the work of the PSU Library, Gayle Schneider, Director of Development, would be pleased to hear from you at 503-725-5032 or at schneiderg@psuf.org.



Audubon's Birds of America, 1981 edition



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Celebrating Will Eisner Week

The PSU Library joined forces with the PSU Comics Studies program and Comic Book Legal Defense Fund for a series of special events celebrating Will Eisner Week.

Will Eisner is best known for championing the development of the graphic novel as a literary form, as well as for creating “The Spirit,” an iconic 1940s hero which opened up new possibilities for newspaper comics.

Eisner influenced comics throughout his life. He was one of the first creators who insisted on ownership rights to his works, and he expanded the traditional form of comic strips and comic books into the longform graphic novel format. Today, he is fondly remembered as a teacher and mentor.

Portland State celebrated Will Eisner Week with thought-provoking events around campus. PSU faculty and guest speakers discussed the history of comics, the growth of the graphic novel, and the lasting legacy of Will Eisner.



Panelists Diana Schutz, Dan Schkade, and Jim Valentino speak at PSU during Will Eisner Week



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