New Web Site Design

A year in the making, the library web site redesign went live this spring. New tools and a new format to the overall web site will allow it to be updated quickly and easily to insure up-to-date information.

Several focus groups and student comments were considered in the new design. The web committee determined that the new design needed to be less cluttered, easier to navigate and have less duplicated links. Through many hours of hard work and committee meetings, the web committee devised the new website organization, format and design.

(Continued on page 4)

Special Collections Adds To Trollope Collection

Special Collections has acquired a first edition copy of one of Anthony Trollope’s rarer books, Why Frau Frohmann Raised Her Prices and Other Stories, published in London by the firm of William Isbister in December 1881. In addition to the title story the volume includes "The Lady of Launay," "Christmas at Thompson Hall," "The Telegraph Girl" and "Alice Dugdale." All five having been published serially between 1876 and 1877. This copy is bound in bright blue cloth; the most common color of cloth being light sage green. We are fortunate to have added this fine, bright copy to the Library’s Anthony Trollope collection. The acquisition was made possible by a generous gift of a long-time Friend and Library supporter. Thank you! - Roger Rainwater, Head of Special Collections
President’s Message

Having served on the Friends of the TCU Library board for some eight years and, now, as president, I have an awareness and pride in the direction that both former Dean Bob Seal and current Dean Dr. June Koelker have taken our TCU Library.

Particularly exciting is the vision that June Koelker now has for possible expansion and physical improvements for the library. A vision, which by way of a generous gift from library friends Paul and Judy Andrews, honoring former President of the Friends, Bob Newkirk, has been conceptualized by both architects and engineers. Consequently, we now have a viable plan to go with the vision. We are fortunate, indeed, to have such devoted friends and such capable leadership at our TCU Library.

In fact, improvements to the Library are desperately needed for this aging and beloved edifice. It is the Library that is at the heart of campus life and every student’s refuge for some computer time or quiet study.

The Library remains an invaluable research engine. Doctoral students and thesis candidates spend countless hours within these library walls. At other junctures it serves as a meeting place for committees or friends over a cup of coffee at the Library Bistro.

As a result of such activities our TCU Library is truly a major hub of campus activity with both books and computers being utilized for the exchange of ideas twenty-four hours a day! So, is it any wonder that our TCU Library is showing its age and in need of some updating.

As a Friend of the Library, my concern, having visited other new campus libraries, is that TCU might be falling short of these 21st century demands and student expectations. I hope that long range University planning holds some promise of improvements favorable to the TCU Library. The past is a comfortable haven, but the technological future and expectations from our students are moving at an ever increasing speed.

Clearly, the infrastructure needed to face this 21st century burst of technology and adaptability is found in education and a robust library facility. May it be TCU who leads the way in this ever expanding Universe. In addition, may it be our TCU Library that will someday be at the forefront.

Debra Dean to be Friends’ Banquet Speaker

Debra Dean, author of The Madonnas of Leningrad will be the guest speaker at the Friends of the TCU Library Annual Dinner on Monday, March 22, 2010. The book is a fictionalized account of being a docent at the Hermitage State Museum in St. Petersburg (Leningrad) Russia during World War II. The author based her novel on the 900 day siege of the city by Nazi Germany during World War II. The book was a New York Times Editor’s choice, a Notable Book of the Year by the American Library Association, and a Booklist Top Ten Novel. Dean was a former actress in New York theatre and has been a speaker at museums, universities, festivals, and other places. Keep an eye out for invitations or contact the library at 817.257.7106 for more information.
Dean’s Message

I hope it is sunny and warm as you read this newsletter. We have had quite a winter this year, more snow than I have ever seen in one season! Our big news is a completely redesigned library website that you will read about in this issue of Windows. Tracy Hull, the Library’s Associate Dean, and other staff on the Library’s Web Committee spent over a year developing the project. I am really pleased with the redesign. Take a look at http://library.tcu.edu/.

I am most grateful for the continued generosity of the Friends of the TCU Library. Your recent gift of a special purpose scanner enables the Special Collections department to undertake in-house digitization projects. By digitizing selected items, we create a digital surrogate from the original. In many cases, this copy can be available on the web, allowing more people to view the items while preserving the original from the wear and tear of frequent use.

I hope to see you at the annual Friends of the TCU Library banquet on March 22. This year we are hosting Debra Dean, author of The Madonnas of Leningrad. Please join us for an enjoyable evening.

June Koelker, Spring 2010

Faculty Speak—Spring 2010

Fred Erisman presents “Build, Buy, and Borrow: Three Girls and the Airplane” on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Library’s conference room.

Fred Erisman holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota and taught for thirty-five years at TCU. He held the Charles A. Lindbergh Chair of Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, during the 2002-2003 year. A specialist in American popular literature and culture, he has published numerous studies of science fiction, technological fiction, detective and suspense fiction, and the western. Erisman is the author of Boys’ Books, Boys’ Dreams, and the Mystique of Flight.

- TCU Press

Library Feasibility Study Update

Ken Wiseman, Principal Architect with Cannon Design, presented the results of the Library Feasibility Study to the TCU Board of Trustees Building and Grounds Committee during the fall board meeting. This informational presentation was well received.
New Employees

Michael Crawford has been hired as a new third shift Information Commons Lab Manager. Michael has a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Texas, and also studied computer engineering at Texas A&M. At both UNT and A&M, he worked as an engineer at the campus radio stations, which included responsibility for installing and troubleshooting all the computer software and hardware, training a large staff of DJs in the use of both computer and audio equipment, and writing technical documentation.

- By Tracy Hull, Associate Dean of the Library

Library Web Site Continued

The new design provides quick access to library owned materials via a search box on the front page. Expert users will find their most used items under the Research and Tools tab. Those new to the TCU library can find more information about the variety of tools and how to use them under the How Do tab which also provides links to our tutorials. The Services For tab groups items based upon the items available to the different library user groups including “Friends of the Library.” A final tab labeled Library Information has what you need to get in touch with a specific person or department, a little history about the library, and much more. At the bottom of the page you can find out about the latest products, services, events, and library hours.

- By Tracy Hull, Associate Dean of the Library

Embedded Librarians

A new partnership between the Library and the TCU Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence has been formed that will embed librarians in the University’s eCollege online teaching program. Diana Boerner, Business Librarian; Jeff Bond, Science Librarian; Ammie Harrison, Arts & Humanities Librarian; and Alysha Sapp, Nursing and Health Sciences Librarian are able to assist faculty and enrolled students with contact information for more personalized assistance, help identifying appropriate research databases and configuring links to provide off campus access to subscription resources for students.

Librarians are available to work with faculty to develop library instruction sessions and/or online research guides tailored to specific courses. They also help with access to electronic journal articles, databases, and other resources that are available to support teaching objectives. One of the courses – Emerging Sciences for Advanced Practice (Nursing) -- is taught totally online using eCollge. Other courses such as End of an Era: Europe 1870-1918 (History), utilize the eCollge course shell as a supplement to in-class instruction.

We are excited with the implementation of this new program and hope to see it expand in coming semesters.

- Brenda Barnes, Head of Reference
Electronic Books and Film

Recent news stories about ebook readers, such as Amazon’s Kindle and Barnes and Noble’s Nook, has sparked new interest in electronic books. What many TCU Library patrons do not realize is that the Library has had access to e-books through its online catalog for years.

The Library has accounts with two major academic ebook suppliers, netLibrary and Ebrary. Titles as diverse as Alice in Wonderland to Future Savvy: Identifying Trends to Make Better Decisions, Manage Uncertainty, and Profit from Change can be found electronically in the catalog. Other suppliers, such as the Gale Virtual Reference Library, provide electronic full text access to encyclopedias and other reference works. All the Library’s e-books can be easily accessed through a patron’s TCU account and viewed in the dorm room or office without actually coming to the Library.

A new electronic format called streaming media is now being introduced to the collection. Dance in Video, Opera in Video, and Theater in Video with BBC Content, currently allow TCU patrons to watch a variety of films in the performing arts. History students can view documentaries through American History in Video. Streaming media at the Library isn’t just limited to video. Music students can hear streaming audio databases containing sound records through Classical Music Library and Naxos Music Library. Electronic media is opening up a whole new world of access to books, films, and music for the TCU community.

- Dennis Odom, Head of Acquisitions/Periodicals

Special Collections Acquires Scanner

Through a generous gift of the Friends of the TCU Library, Special Collections has acquired a Konica Minolta PS7000C MKII full color digital book scanner. With a scanning area of 5-1/2” x 8-1/2” to 18” x 24,” the new scanner allows staff to digitize oversized books, maps, posters, graphics or art works as well as more modestly sized objects. It also allows the scanning of 3D objects. The scanner has a built-in book cradle that adjusts to fit the spines of bound books and lends support to the book’s binding. Since the item is scanned “face-up,” unlike flat -bed scanners and photocopy machines, one is able to exactly position the item and saves handling of fragile materials.

Special Collections staff will use the new scanner on a number of projects. Among the projects are to digitize a large collection of the work of Fort Worth Star-Telegram editorial cartoonist, Harold Maples. Most of Maples’ cartoon originals are larger than can be digitized on a flat -bed scanner or copy machine. Staff will also digitize the Abell-Hanger collection of antique maps and the department’s collection of posters. But it will be most useful in copying and digitizing material which could not be copied before because it was either too large or too fragile for existing equipment.

Thank you Friends for your continuing generosity!

- Roger Rainwater, Head of Special Collections
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