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Notes from the Stacks, February 2015

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Greetings from the Brooks Library,

As we launch this newsletter for the Library I began to reflect on my past five years at Central Washington University. Yes, it has been five years since I joined the staff at the Brooks Library and much has changed but much has stayed the same, too. I believe therein lies the challenge for library leadership these days. How do we maintain excellent academic support for our students, faculty and patrons when technology, pedagogy, and funding sources are changing how we do business at a rapid pace?

Thanks to a talented and dynamic staff, here are some of the ways the Brooks Library faculty and staff are making a difference in the lives of our community:

• In November, 2013 library faculty member, Ginny Blackson began the arduous task of developing a Library and Information Science minor designed to provide our students with sound practices in information literacy and life-long learning. This program launched Fall 2014 and the library faculty are teaching courses in the 27-32 credit minor to CWU students and an abbreviated program is available for attaining a certificate in LIS.

• Soon the second annual “Evening at the Brooks” gala will happen on April 11. This wonderful event was planned and carried out last year by a dedicated group of staff lead by Associate Dean, Michele Reilly. This evening showcased student and faculty talent, bringing our university and Ellensburg communities together for a great cause: raising funds for the purchase of research materials to enrich the library’s collections. We hope to see you in April!

These are only a few of the exciting things happening at the Brooks Library - along with Steve Hussman’s work in building partnerships to improve our Archives and Special Collections, cutting-edge technology efforts lead by librarian Geri Hopkins in establishing MediaAmp (a streaming video service for our patrons), and the efforts of Talea Anderson in developing ScholarWorks for the publication and archiving of student and faculty scholarship -- the Brooks Library is indeed an active and dynamic place! We encourage all to come see what we can do for you.

Best to you,
Patricia Cutright, Dean James E Brooks Library

In fiscal year 2012-13, according to the Institute of Museum & Library Services, the Brooks Library had:
- 134,150 general circulation transactions
- spent over $3.4 million in expenditures
- 13,450 patrons per week

1. Which former head of the FBI also served as a librarian at the Library of Congress?
2. Which of our Founding Fathers established the first lending library in the world?
3. During the War of 1812, British troops burned the Capitol. Which former US President sold his personal library to replace the Library of Congress?
4. Upon retirement, which Gilded Age industrialist built hundreds of library across the country with his own money?

ANSWERS:
1. J. Edgar Hoover
2. Benjamin Franklin
3. Thomas Jefferson
4. Andrew Carnegie

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A New Way to Search

Gone are the days of using dusty wooden card catalogs and “Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature” to find research articles, books, and information. The advent of the Brooks Library Shared Integrated Library System (SILS) has made searching, finding, and using materials much easier.

Brooks Library has been looking forward to a whole new SILS for a long time! For a few years now, we have been preparing to migrate our holdings to this new system. By moving to the SILS we are joining our holdings with 37 other academic institutions in the Pacific Northwest. This move allows our patrons to discover all sorts of material, including music, film, streaming videos, books and articles that are housed in many higher educational libraries all over Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and more.

OneSearch is great for Brooks Library’s patrons! By using this new search engine, called a discovery platform, items on many more topics can be accessed. One is able to narrow a search more precisely than with the old search tool making research more efficient and seamless. By using OneSearch, one has access to many more items than before because our searchable holdings now have much more depth. Among others, we have Ping Fu to thank as he served many long hours as lead to make this change happen.

For those interested in historical research, Steve Hussman, our Archivist, points out that with OneSearch a much richer variety of items can be found than was possible earlier. Among these expanded items are the Suncadia interviews. Recorded by Frederick Krueger between 1972 and 2003, these interviews consist of full-length audio and video interviews that tell the personal story of living in Roslyn, Cle Elum, and Ronald during the glory days of mining. Now, one actually has audible access to these original interviews with the people themselves, because Mr. Hussman has digitally input the recordings into our Archives collection. Through using OneSearch to find Suncadia, one simply clicks on the interview’s icon to listen to these historic interviews.

Ping Fu, Head of Library Technology Services, Kerry Slaughter, Department Head of the Circulation Department, and Erin Bledsoe were instrumental in the department’s complex migration into the new ILS. Ms. Slaughter praises the new system, lauding the many ways that the program helps everyone in the library, patrons and employees alike. Every day, she discovers new aspects of it that make searching, as well as working in the system, much easier and more efficient. She is very pleased with how it helps everyone.

Mary Wise, the Music Librarian, says that one benefit she sees in the new system is in the Union Catalog [shared catalog]. Previously, she had to search many different places to see which institutions had certain items that a patron needed. Now, she has to look only in one place to find the correct information. The consortium, of which CWU is a member, makes her job so much easier.

In the Serials Department, of which Beata Miller is the Department Lead, OneSearch is very valuable to patrons because it allows them to gather their research materials by using a single search. Previously, students had to go through numerous search engines, each with its own specific, detailed method to follow, which resulted in them getting less information than they can find now by using OneSearch! This new system greatly benefits students and faculty as well as other patrons who use the Serials Department, saving them all valuable time.

Michele Reilly, Department Head of Government Publications, says that OneSearch is an incredible aid for patrons to find specific information supplied to us by the government.

OneSearch is amazing. With it, Brooks Library’s patrons can more easily find the information they need to complete their school work, sustain their research, and access important information to enrich their daily lives. The Library staff are excited about the opportunity to increase our already superior customer service.