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Iowa State University Library

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Exciting changes have been underway in the University Library over the late spring, summer and early fall! I hope this issue of Bookmarks presents you an interesting peek into what we have accomplished since our last issue – much due to the philanthropy of our library donors!

The Library continues to be a true academic hub on campus – including our physical libraries and our e-Library.

In 2009-10, over 1.8 million students, faculty, and staff entered the Library – with the centerpiece being Parks Library. This is a 50 percent increase as compared to 2005-06. So you can see why we are so proud of the growing role of the library on campus. The Learning Connection Center (LCC) continues to be one of the most popular locations in Parks Library with its multi-media studios and Help and Information Desk. Due to their high use, we added a third high-end scanner from which students can scan journal articles and then e-mail and/or save them on a flash drive – at no cost to them. We completed the installation of a fabulous three-dimensional artwork (the Library Tree of Knowledge) in the LCC, which graces the two doorways leading into the new LCC classroom.

I am relieved to report that the Library did not suffer any flood damage this August; however, our Preservation Department continues work on restoration of over 4,000 historical and often unique campus architectural plans that were severely water damaged at the General Services Building. The total loss was in the tens of thousands of documents, blueprints, and other architectural plans. Fortunately, two-thirds of the collection had been digitized. We used very high tech preservation equipment, including clotheslines and pins, large pedestal fans, dehumidifiers, and ultimately, digital scanners.

Also in August, we opened a newly designed e-Library – it contains many features that faculty and students have been requesting for years – including simpler but highly sophisticated “pathways” to search library books and journals and improved navigation.

The e-Library collection grew to include a wide array of new research materials, which includes the following:

- Thirty-one critically needed new electronic journals.

Robert Harvey, ISU Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture, donated over 100 rare books, dating back to 1724, on such topics as landscape architecture, gardening, and agriculture to the Library’s Special Collections. We held a reception in the Special Collections Reading Room in October to showcase Dr. Harvey’s collection and honor his gift to the Library.

These are exciting and challenging times for the University Library. Please know that your support is needed now more than ever as we explore innovative ways to meet the needs of our students and faculty. Your belief in the ISU Library is deeply appreciated.
Making Connections to Preserve the Digital Past

For the past few years, the Iowa State University Library has subscribed to Archive-It, a service for the long-term preservation of university Web content. Archive-It is a Web site preservation program that allows institutions to select and permanently capture html-based Web pages. Created by Brewster Kahle and the Internet Archive, the goal of Archive-It is to save born-digital information on Web sites and to serve as a Web archiving tool.

In 2008, Archive-It introduced a special program designed for K-12 students to preserve digital information. The goal of the K-12 Web Archiving Program was to educate students about not only what Web sites should be saved for future research, but how would you choose what to preserve? Currently in its second year, 15 schools in 13 states participate in this competitive program which allows students to learn how to make these decisions and “help them to develop an awareness of how the Web content they choose will become primary sources for future historians studying our lives,” according to the program’s Web site.

Special Collections and University Archives Head Tanya Zanish-Belcher saw the call, and forwarded the request on to Sarah Passonneau, Assistant to the ISU Library Dean, and Zanish-Belcher recommended that Ames middle and high schools consider applying. Passonneau worked with Dr. Lance Wilhelm (Technology Director at the Ames Community School District), to complete the application, and Ames was one of nine community schools selected for the project.

As Jayne Staniforth, an Extended Learning Program teacher at Ames Middle School said, “My students view Internet documents differently now. They are more aware of the continually changing nature of the Internet and the impact that has on history. They felt empowered to speak for their generation about what is important to them, what they value and how they communicate.” She also noted the process showed that “their opinion mattered to a larger audience not just their peers.” Middle school student Laura Graveline realized “how important the Internet is to our generation.” Fellow student Moriah Cooper exclaimed, “It feels like what you were doing actually counted for something, because future generations will be able to see what was important to us. It’s a record.”

Ames Middle School collections: http://www.archive-it.org/k12/9AmesMS.html

For more information about Archive-It, see the vendor’s FAQ and additional information at http://www.archive-it.org/. To see ISU’s preserved Web sites, please go to: http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/collections/webarch.html.

Dr. Harvey talks to students about the books he donated to the Special Collections Department.
Flood Aftermath at ISU Library

During the extensive campus flooding in August, the Preservation Department received about a dozen general collection books, which were returned to the library after being water-damaged at patrons’ homes, but otherwise, ISU Library collections remained safe.

Facilities Planning & Management’s General Services building was not so lucky. The basement archives flooded, soaking tens of thousands of documents, blueprints, and other architectural plans, some of which date back to the early 1900s. The affected materials included blue line drawings, blueprints, sepia diazo prints, photocopies, and hand-rendered drawings in a rainbow of media on parchment paper, tracing paper, linen, and machine-made wove paper. About two-thirds of this collection had been digitized, or was born digital (in the case of CAD drawings). As flood waters abated, about 10,000 items, still in their waterlogged, flat-file drawers, were transported to Parks Library for salvage. Preservation prioritized unscanned materials and historic blueprints or hand-drawn plans for the salvage operation.

The quantity of wet materials quickly overwhelmed the Conservation Lab. Fragile paper plans were hung between large sheets of blotter, and smaller, paper documents and Mylar architectural plans were hung to dry from clotheslines.

Facilities Planning & Management, offered two, large mechanical rooms on the fourth floor of Parks Library in which to spread out materials for drying. Having these large, non-public spaces on the same floor as the Conservation Lab was a tremendous help while monitoring the drying operations. The mechanical room floors were filled with pallets lined with thick blotter, and paper-based materials were laid flat to dry. Mylar drawings seemed to dry fastest when hung on clotheslines that were strung up over the pallets like an enormous spider web. Large pedestal fans, oscillating fans, and dehumidifiers kept the air dry-ish and circulating.

Stacks of documents were then sorted and prioritized for further treatment. Materials were sorted into categories according to their primary support material and media and then sorted according to the extent of damage and the types of treatment necessary.

Working through the weekend, the Preservation staff and intrepid Library volunteers managed to keep the wet materials well-ventilated until they
dried. The only mold growth was on about two dozen rolled plans, which came to the library already in that condition.

As part of its ongoing outreach mission, the Preservation Department fields calls from community members who are seeking information about how to salvage their own water-damaged books, papers, and photographs. We highly recommend the ICPC Flood Recovery Booklet (http://www.neilsa.org/flood_recovery/flood_cover.html).

Alums from Ames

Claudia Edwards, an ISU alum and former Library staff member who lives in West Lafayette, Ind., had the wonderful idea to gather ISU women alums who live in the Lafayette/Purdue area at the fall luncheon of The Purdue Women’s Club. Invitations went out, and on Oct. 7, fourteen of us sat together at three tables adorned with game-day Cyclone trimmings, and Patty Jischke, another former Ames resident with strong ISU ties, joined us. By the way, the lemon layer cake was outstanding!

The club president, Cindy Svajgr, acknowledged our presence, though we were a bit obvious. “A Circle of Friendship, a Hand of Support” was a well-suited theme for the event, and Angela Bendorf Jamison, one of the 11 Ames girls featured in the book *The Girls from Ames* by Jeffrey Zaslow, was the featured speaker. After lunch, Angela joined us in a group photo.
WelcomeFest 2010

Each year the Student Activities Center at Iowa State University holds WelcomeFest for students to experience local Ames businesses, community organizations and ISU departments.

WelcomeFest attracts over 3500 students, and 100 businesses and departments. This event gives us the opportunity to share information about library services, employment opportunities, and welcome students to the library.

ISU Library PR Committee members set up a display – Look Mom! Look Dad! I'm in Parks Library! We chatted about library services and then offered to take their picture and “put them in the library.” They posed with props, we took their photos and “Photoshopped” them into the Parks Library Learning Connections Center – right in front of the reference section!

More than 121 students participated individually or in groups; 99 photos were posted on Flickr.

The photos were displayed in the Library Lobby along with fun photos of student employees showing the library services they use. Students were able to retrieve their photos, download them and send them to family and friends.

To view the photos on Flickr go to: http://www.flickr.com/photos/isuspecialcollections/sets/72157625254390758/
Installation of Sticks Artwork Completed

Library Tree of Knowledge catches the attention of patrons and guests alike. The three-dimensional artwork commissioned from Sticks, Inc., a Des Moines-based art company, has been completely installed at both entrances to the newest computer classroom in Parks Library. The entrance artwork was funded by generous donations from Sarah Grant, Jon and Myrna Hamann, and Kenneth and Karen Marks.

Collection Enrichment Fund “Wish List”

**Sciences:**

Encyclopedia of Neuroscience  
(Elsevier, 2008) ..................................................$3,200

Social Sciences & Humanities:

Modernist Cuisine: The Art and Science of Cooking (Myhrvold, Young, Bilet)  
Vol. 1-6 ...............................................................$625

Nonconformist Women Writers,  
1720-1840 (Pickering & Chatto)  
Part 2, Vol. 5-8 (May 2011): ..................$625

International Studies Encyclopedia  
(Wiley-Blackwell) .............................................$2,495

Underground Press Collections and Supplements (Microfilm, 1963-1985)  
.............................................................................$50,260

US Government Serial Set  
1980-1989 .........................................................$21,000  
1990-2003 .........................................................$5,000

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**STAFF - Making us Proud, Continued from page 6**

**Parsons, Kathy A.** Elected as the Iowa Library Association’s representative to the American Library Association Council, governing body of the American Library Association.

**Passonneau, Sarah.** Book chapter “Green IT Saves Money, Saves Resources” in the The Frugal Librarian an ALA publication, due spring 2011.

**Passonneau, Sarah.** Workshop, “Greening the Library by Building Partnerships and Opportunities: Creating Authentic Learning Experiences for Students, Librarians and Faculty Using a Theme-Based Interdisciplinary Approach to Education” presenter at the International Conference on Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries, May 2010, in Crete, Greece.


Grant from Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust will fund new Special Collections and Preservation Classroom

The Special Collections and Preservation Classroom on the fourth floor at Parks Library will become a reality thanks to funding support from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and the Iowa State University Library. Funds of approximately $167,000 will be used to design, build and furnish this flexible classroom project.

Currently a study area on the fourth floor adjacent to the Special Collections Department and near the Conservation Lab, this location provides a great opportunity to utilize this area as a learning space in the Library's newest wing (1983 addition with a beautiful view of central campus). Construction and furnishings will be eco-friendly and in line with the University Library's sustainability initiatives.

Based on the teaching and training needs of staff in Special Collections, Preservation, and the Reference and Instruction Division, it is estimated that the classroom will be scheduled approximately 20 hours per week during the academic year. In the future, courses, seminars and workshops covering various disciplines can be held in the finished space, which will be adaptable, in terms of capacity and furniture arrangement. Technological enhancements will include a wireless hub and electrical outlets for personal electronics; a lockable media cabinet with PC and video display equipment; and two large, wall-mounted, flat screen monitors.

Planning and implementation could begin as soon as January. Students, faculty, staff, and patrons may be able to utilize the classroom by fall.

The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust is a philanthropic foundation in Iowa with assets of more than $250 million and annual grant distributions of over $11 million. The trust was created through the will of Roy J. Carver, a Muscatine industrialist and philanthropist, who died in 1981. The Carver Trust has been a long-time supporter of Iowa State and is one of the university's leading donors. In recent years the Iowa State University Library has been the beneficiary of funds of over $600,000 from the Carver Trust.