

VISION

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The University Libraries, comprising the main library in the Anderson Academic Commons, the Bonfils-Stanton Music Library, and the Hampden Center storage facility, provide resources and services that support our students and faculty in teaching and learning, research, and creative work. I'm thrilled to share a few recent highlights.

We continue to expand our collections in primary sources, video, and data, and work with faculty to include them in the classroom. This year we purchased several new digital collections that include personal diaries, oral histories, letters, maps, government documents and much more that give insight into immigration, colonial America, race relations, and a wide range of other topics. We also purchased several streaming video collections in music, counselling and therapeutic work, also data related to American demographics. These resources, alongside our archival collections, help students empathize with people across cultures and eras. We hope to continue expanding our collaborative work with faculty in including such resources in assignments, as we have with history and writing courses.

Through the generous support of Joe Moreland ('71), the University Libraries have implemented a three-year pilot of the Joseph I. Moreland Fund for Information Literacy Programs, designed to support the library's goal of embedding research instruction into all undergraduate majors. The program awards instructional development grants to faculty who work closely with a librarian to design or revise an undergraduate major course to thoroughly integrate information literacy and research skills. Over the first two years of the program, we have awarded 17 grants, reaching almost 900 students. All of these projects have resulted in meaningful instructor-librarian collaborations and helped students to develop the skills, knowledge, and dispositions central to being critical users and producers of information.

The Beck Archives of Rocky Mountain Jewish History, part of Special Collections at the University Libraries, has partnered with the DU Center for Judaic Studies Holocaust Awareness Institute and faculty and graduate students from the Morgridge College of Education to create a user-friendly Curriculum Guide of classroom resources aimed at fighting prejudice. The centerpiece of the first Curriculum Guide, which will be piloted in the Fall, utilizes dramatic primary sources from the Beck Archives Henry Lowenstein Family Collection. Lowenstein was only a teenager when Hitler rose to power. He was fortunate to have been rescued by being sent to England on the Kindertransport when he was only fourteen, but his parents and sister remained in Berlin and endured extreme deprivation under the Nazi regime. Fortunately, they all survived the Holocaust and later immigrated to America, bringing with them many historical documents and photos that present a first-hand view of the tragic events.

Last year the University Libraries acquired the personal library of James Milmoë, long time Colorado resident, renowned photographic artist, and DU alum (MFA, 1978). Mr. Milmoë's photographs appear in major publications around the world, and his fine art is included in catalogs issued by such museums as The National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Pompidou Center Paris, and the Denver Art Museum. His personal library of over 2,000 volumes includes titles on photography, photographers, cameras, and related arts. We also recently accepted gifts that included letters and sketches by famed landscape artist Joellyn Duesberry and cartoonist of Warner Bros. fame Chuck Jones.

This year we hope to increase digital access to special collections and archives, in part by completing the digitization of DU's historical student newspapers. The Denver *Clarion* and predecessors show more than a century of American history, campus life, and a long-proud DU student body: one of the earliest volumes of the *Hesperus*, from 1886, declares "the success of an institution of learning does not depend entirely on the extent of its endowment, the magnificence of its buildings and the efficiency of its instructors . . . but [on] the character and interests of the students."

Digital Commons @ DU, an online open access platform the Libraries will continue to develop this year, draws international attention to the scholarly work of DU's faculty and students. Readers on six continents downloaded DU papers almost 125,000 times last year, sharing them via social media almost every other day. Student doctoral dissertations and master's theses, as well as Law faculty papers, were particularly popular: Sturm Faculty works were accessed an average of over a dozen times a day last year.

The University of Denver Libraries is conducting a pilot project with a handful of faculty to evaluate the effectiveness of an altmetrics tool, PlumX. Altmetrics, alternative metrics, let us measure and monitor the reach and impact of scholarship and research through online interactions, rather than more traditional measures such as Impact Factor and citation rates. Altmetrics data includes items such as the number of article downloads, and the number of times an article is shared on Facebook or mentioned on Twitter. Altmetrics are meant to compliment, not totally replace, traditional measures of faculty productivity. The PlumX tool is being used to monitor DU faculty scholarship that has been deposited in Digital Commons @ DU. With the exponential growth of social media and mobile devices, scholarly conversations are now being held in new places and the use of social media for scholarly discourse seems likely to grow. Therefore, it is important that DU gain a more complete picture of the impact of its research and scholarship.

The University Libraries will be hosting an exhibit, *The Shogun's World: Japanese Maps from the 18th and 19th Centuries*, which will be on display in the Anderson Academic Commons from September 5 to December 10, 2017. A talk and tour from the curator of the collection will be on December 5, 2017, 7:00-8:30 PM with refreshments starting around 6:00 PM.

Best regards,



Michael Levine-Clark, Dean

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