Fall 2016

Newsletter Fall 2016

Colgate University Libraries

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The Libraries at Colgate

Newsletter | Fall 2016

CU Libraries’ Information Literacy Program Ranked First in Number of Sessions Taught and Number of Students Reached

Matthew Smith, User Services Librarian

In the “Report to the Faculty, Administration, Trustees, Students of Colgate University” (June, 2008) the Evaluation Team representing the Middle States Commission on Higher Education suggested that Colgate’s information literacy (IL) program be “reinvigorated.”

Beginning in 2008–09, these concerns were addressed by the Libraries by engaging in discussions with teaching faculty to inform the Libraries how we could better connect our IL Goals and Objectives for First-Year Student Learning with other FSEM learning outcomes. In 2010, these new goals were completed and distributed to the director of the FSEM program and to the faculty teaching in the FSEM program.

The Libraries also focused on professional development activities to help librarians gain the skills necessary to bridge gaps between information literacy and other curricular efforts. In 2009, instruction librarians met with Matt May, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Writing & Rhetoric, to learn about public speaking pedagogic models that could be adapted to our work with media-based assignments. In November 2010, we hosted Dr. Hilary Hughes, an Australian IL researcher and Fulbright Scholar, for a two-day visit to Colgate to further develop our program. In the spring of 2017 the Libraries are bringing Megan Oakleaf, Associate Professor in the iSchool at Syracuse University, to help us enhance our information literacy instruction and our assessment thereof.

We successfully implemented an orientation program in 2009–10 aimed at increasing student understanding and engagement with the Libraries. This ambitious program, which involves FSEMs and the Link program, has continued since that time, and we typically reach the majority of students. A separate transfer student orientation is held in January of each year.

Also in 2009, the Libraries participated in the Project IL (PIL) national survey of undergraduate students’ information use. The local results from this study were informative to our IL efforts. The Core CI survey that the library has administered since 2011 was based on the Project IL survey. This survey continues to inform program development and our instruction efforts today. In 2010, RefStruc-
tion, a FileMaker Pro-based database for collecting reference and instruction numbers, was implemented, making for easy gathering of detailed instruction and reference statistics.

We have developed and implemented a mixed methods assessment program with both quantitative and qualitative elements. The Project Information Literacy-based Core CI survey has served as the quantitative leg of our assessment effort, and it focuses on student knowledge and learning at the start and end of the semester. As Core CI IL instruction has been more closely integrated into the IL Curriculum, this assessment project has taken on added importance. With guidance from the University’s Assessment Coordinator, Neil Albert, and in collaboration with the Core CI teaching faculty, this survey was revised during the fall of 2015.

Our second major assessment project, the Qualitative Assessment Survey of First-Year Orientation and FSEM instruction sessions, which started in fall 2012, continues. This assessment method is designed to provide rapid and easy to collect feedback on orientation and instruction sessions. During 2015 it was expanded to include Core CI instruction sessions.

In terms of specific instruction practices implemented to enhance the program since the last periodic review, the Libraries instruct on developing researchable questions, the focus essay and research log, and reverse engineering a research article. We have implemented extensive course and subject guides, including a Beginning Research FSEM guide. We have also introduced interactive Digital Learning Objects (DLOs) designed to help with various aspects of research. In 2015, responding to demonstrated demand, the Libraries introduced our Research Data Services program.

continues on page 2
In the last periodic review, it was noted that among our Oberlin Group of peer and aspirant institutions, that the Libraries provide more instructional activities than most of our peers, with significantly less staffing — at the time the 4th highest in number of activities, 3rd highest in the number of attendees, and 9th in professional staffing. This trend has continued over the last decade. Most recently, in 2015, among the 14 of 19 institutions that reported, the Libraries ranked first in the number of sessions taught and first for the number of students reached. As we did a decade ago, the Libraries rank below the mean in terms of staffing: 13th of 19 for Teaching Faculty per Librarian and 15th of 19 in number of Students per Librarian. Also in that time we have nearly doubled the number of instruction sessions we provide — from 140 in 2008–09 to 229 in 2015–16. We are still doing very much with comparatively less.

A collaborative venture by ITS and the Libraries, the MISO (Measuring Information Service Outcomes) Survey will be sent to all Colgate faculty, students and staff during the second week of spring term. CIO Steve Fabiani has had previous experience at Haverford in administering this survey, designed to cover both technology and library services, and it made sense for us to administer it in his first year at Colgate so that both ITS and the Libraries would be provided a baseline for determining how well our respective services are meeting the needs of the campus.

The Survey provides a framework to assess the frequency of use, importance, satisfaction, and knowledge about library and technology services on a college campus on the part of students, faculty, and staff members. It provides some detail on the kinds of services and technologies people use or are interested in learning about, what they think about services and programs, and some basic demographic data that can be used to assess the differential impact of services among groups on campus. The survey also provides comparative data that can be used to put the results of an individual campus into context, and provides the opportunity to ask if results at Colgate are typical among comparable colleges or whether they stand out (positively or negatively) in any particular way.

The results will allow us to understand the satisfaction levels of faculty, staff, and student users. In particular, we will analyze satisfaction levels for services, concentrating on those rated as “very important” by the majority of each user group. We also will be able to analyze how the views of Colgate faculty, students, and staff compare with other colleges with respect to how important they think a particular service is, how satisfied they are with the service, and to look at the levels of satisfaction in greater detail.

While we hope to encounter positive results for many of our services, we will look for areas where users find our services less than satisfactory so we can determine how to improve any critical deficiencies.

The MISO Survey was developed by the Council on Library and Information Resources with overall leadership for the project provided by technologists and librarians at Bryn Mawr College. Since 2005, 127 institutions have participated in the MISO Survey and nine new institutions will be joining the 2017 cohort. Colgate will be in good company with liberal arts member institutions such as Bates, Bowdoin, Grinnell, Oxford College of Emory University, and Pomona College among others. A full list of participating institutions and other information can be accessed at the MISO Survey Web site: www.misosurvey.org.
By now, many of you may have noticed that the Libraries’ website has undergone quite a make-over. At the end of this past summer, after much work designing, conducting needs assessment and user surveys, and implementing; we were able to present to the Colgate community a new streamlined and updated website.

So, what exactly has changed?

**URL** Perhaps the most noticeable change has been changing the website URL from exlibris.colgate.edu to cul.colgate.edu. The decision to do so was to increase the findability of our website to new users as well as users outside of our current Colgate community. Most people wouldn’t think of “exlibris” when trying to find our library. Since library.colgate.edu is already taken by our catalog, we decided that the acronym CUL (Colgate University Libraries) was the most appropriate answer. It follows a naming convention used by many universities and institutions.

**Design & Navigation** The design and navigation have been updated to better reflect current web design practices. We conducted extensive peer and needs analyses to restructure our look and information architecture, and we tested all of our ideas and prototypes with both faculty and students to ensure the most optimal user experience for our largest groups of patrons. That being said, we always encourage feedback so please feel free to write Web Librarian Jesi Buell, jbuell@colgate.edu, with any questions or concerns.

**Content** Though the information architecture and navigation may be different, most of the content is exactly the same. We have edited down some text and combined some content from two pages into a singular page, but the vast majority of information that existed previously on exlibris.colgate.edu is on cul.colgate.edu. If you are having difficulty locating something, try the “Search Website” tab and search for the page.

**Catalog** The largest change has been the implementation of our Discovery Service. Our search box now searches not only our catalog materials but also content from several databases and other content sources. For more information, please see Cindy Li’s article “Summon: The Library’s New Discovery Service” on page 4.

So, in conclusion, while the website may look different, we are still providing the same content and services that we always have.

Perhaps Bowie said it best —
“I watch the ripples change their size
But never leave the stream
Of warm impermanence”
Summon: The Libraries’ New Discovery Service

Cindy Li, Associate Director of Library Technology & Digital Initiatives

Discovery Services (DS) have been in the spotlight for academic libraries. Based on the research conducted by scholars at Loughborough University and Birmingham City University, 77% of the libraries that responded to their survey have implemented a DS, and about 11% are planning to get one. So what is a Discovery Service? Marshall Breeding defined it as “web-scale … tools that search seamlessly across a wide range of local and remote content and provide relevance-ranked results — have the ambitious goal of providing a single point of entry into a library’s collections.”

Before this summer, Colgate Libraries had Innovative Interfaces’ Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) as the classic online catalog and Encore as an early version of a discovery service to make the Libraries’ print and electronic holdings available online. As a search engine, Encore was able to aggregate certain types of library resources such as print and digital books as well as journal titles. However, it lacked the capability of making a wider range of information resources available like journal and newspaper articles or essays contained in the Libraries’ many databases. The development of more sophisticated discovery tools in recent years and higher expectations of users’ online experiences caused the Libraries to rethink the effectiveness of how it was providing users access to its collections. Luckily, the availability of several platforms made it possible for the Libraries to reevaluate and upgrade the technology that provides entry to a wide range of collections.

A task force was formed to investigate discovery service options in the fall of 2015. I chaired the group and members included Mark Sandford, Systems Librarian; Jesi Buell, Instructional Design and Web Librarian; Adger Williams, Cataloging and Metadata Manager; Mike Poulin, Head of Collection Management; and Lynne Kvinnesland, Information Literacy Librarian. The goals were to identify a comprehensive DS platform that would not only enhance the functionality of the online catalog, but more importantly, target and address the specific needs of Colgate users. Since January 2016, the committee examined various platforms, and — after library patron usability testing and the vendors’ onsite demonstrations — proposed that the Libraries select Summon as the primary search engine for its collections. We chose Summon for the following reasons:

- The platform allows users to search all the resources that the library offers with a simple search interface (Google-like).
- The unified index technology makes all the offered resources easy to access, and the intuitive search and optimized search results provide users more reliable and direct access to full-text articles.
- The search responses are fast and the relevancy ranking helps even novice users to pick the most relevant resource they want.

Summon offers a new search experience that meets the needs of both researchers and regular users. The usability studies also showed that users liked the navigation, design, and facets-based filter as they provide users the opportunity to easily get the content they need. Other features such as sorting, exporting records, and citing tools are very appealing to the users too.

So far, the feedback about the platform is overwhelmingly positive. The Libraries will continue to monitor the performance and behavior of the platform and do more usability studies when the product is familiar to more users.

Envisioning Science at Colgate

Cooley Science Library 2016 Photo Contest Winners!

As we reported in our spring 2016 Libraries Newsletter, the Cooley Science Library sponsored a photo contest in early spring 2016, organized by Kristi Mangine, Science Library Coordinator. The photos were intended to adorn the east wall in Cooley and improve the ambiance of the recently renovated space. Thirty photos were submitted and over six hundred votes were cast at the conclusion of the contest. Six winning images were selected to be framed and display in the Science Library.

All the pictures are now mounted in the East room, making for a more inviting space for study. Please come and see them!

1st place: Mala Misra, Claire Kittock, and Noor Anvery

2nd place: William Peck

3rd place: Leda Rosenthal
DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS
Mike Poulin, Head of Collection Management

New Digital Resources

America and Great Britain: Diplomatic Relations 1775–1845
Provides 7,000 pages of primary material, charting the emergence of an independent America.

Annual Register
A year-by-year record of British and world events, published annually since 1758.

Archives of human sexuality and identity. LGBTQ history and culture since 1940
Brings together approximately 1.5 million pages of primary sources on social, political, health, and legal issues impacting LGBTQ communities around the world.

Art and Architecture Archive
A collection of the digitized backfiles of many of the foremost art and architecture magazines of the twentieth century.

Associated Press — Section 2 — U.S. City Bureaus Collection
Primarily a post-World War II collection, these bureau records — consisting primarily of wire copy, as well as correspondence and newsletters — cover a broad segment of American political and social history. Major subjects include the civil rights movement, Martin Luther King Jr., Cuba, the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago, the My Lai massacre trial of Lt. William Calley Jr., and the U.S. presidency. Presidents including George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Jimmy Carter, and John F. Kennedy are all represented in the files.

Associated Press — Section 4 — Middle East Bureaus Collection
Spanning the decades between 1967 and 2005 (dates vary by bureau) the Middle East Bureaus Collection contains wire copy (original news reports) in both English, and Arabic, and includes information on conflicts in the area, particularly the Lebanese Civil War (1975–90), the 1967 Arab-Israeli War (The Six Day War), and the U.S. war in Iraq (2003).

Book Review Digest Retrospective — 1908–1982
Collecting nearly eight decades of H.W. Wilson’s Book Review Digest, this database provides excerpts from, and citations to, reviews of adult and juvenile fiction and non-fiction from 1903 to 1982.

Caribbean Newspapers 1718–1876
Expanding our collection of Latin American historical newspapers, the Caribbean Newspapers 1718–1876 provides access to more than 140 newspapers from 22 islands.

Context of Scripture online
Presents the multi-faceted world of ancient writing that forms the colorful background to the literature of the Hebrew Bible.

Empire online
Brings together manuscript, printed, and visual primary source materials for the study of ‘Empire’ and its theories, practices, and consequences.

Encyclopedia of Islam
Consists of both the second edition (“EI2”) AND the third edition (“EI3”).

Encyclopedia of Judaism
Offers an authoritative, comprehensive, and systematic presentation of the current state of scholarship on fundamental issues of Judaism, both past and present.

Encyclopedia of the neo-latin world
Traces the enduring history and wide-ranging cultural influence of Neo-Latin, the form of Latin that originated in the Italian Renaissance and persists to the modern era.

Encyclopedia of the Qur’ān includes Qur’ān Studies Online
An encyclopaedic dictionary of Qur’ānic terms, concepts, personalities, place names, cultural history, and exegesis, extended with essays on the most important themes and subjects within Qur’ānic studies. It includes direct access to 62 Early Printed Western Qur’āns Online and the Electronic Qur’ān Concordance, a unique online finding aid for textual research.

F.W.J. Von Schelling Sammtliche Werke
An online edition of F.W.J. Von Schelling’s complete works.

Independent voices
A set of digitized U.S. newspapers, journals, and magazines originally published by the alternative press during the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s broadly described on the project website as serials produced by “American youth, Feminists, dissident GIs, campus radicals and the New Left, Native Americans, anti-war activists, Black Power advocates, Latinos, and members of the LGBT communities.”

New Pauly Supplements I and New Pauly Supplements II
Supplemental volumes to an encyclopedia of the classical world.

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4th place: Erica Nathan and Alina Sabyr
5th place: Nina Cook
6th place: Kaitlyn Eckart
NEW HIRES AND PROMOTIONS

Emily Brock, Digital History Project Manager
Emily Brock earned an MLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (’11), with a concentration in Special Collections, and a BA in English from the University of Maine (’07). While studying at Illinois, she was awarded an assistantship at the University Archives, and also worked for the Student Life and Culture Archives and Visual Resources Department at the College of Fine and Applied Arts. After graduate school, she journeyed West and served as Senior Archivist at the State Archives of New Mexico and then as Photo Archivist for the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe. Emily will draw upon her diverse experience in archives, librarianship, and digital humanities to serve Colgate’s Special Collections and University Archives as the department embarks on digital history projects related to the school’s Bicentennial.

Emily Brock

Amanda Burgess, Evening Circulation Coordinator
Amanda Burgess was recently hired as the Evening Circulation Coordinator with the University Libraries. Amanda was born in Madison County and currently resides there with her husband and two children. Prior to starting her new position, she worked for Campus Safety as a Dispatcher from September 2007 to October 2016 and spent nine years as a Military Police Officer in the Army National Guard.

Amanda Burgess

Sherry Cook, Late Night Circulation Assistant
Sherry Cook is a Late Night Circulation Assistant for Case library. She has worked here in the library since April 2016 when she started as a temporary employee. She lives in Oneida County with her husband, Edward, and two sons. She has three grandchildren. She graduated from Mohawk Valley Community College with a certificate in Medical Assisting in May of 2014. She also has a very strong love for horses.

Sherry Cook

Lisa King, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator
Lisa King is the new Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Borrowing Coordinator. She has been with Case-Geyer for over five years, both as Late Night Circulation Assistant and as an assistant in Special Collections and University Archives. Before coming to Colgate University, Lisa worked for three years in ILL at California State University East Bay (CSUEB). In her spare time Lisa likes to travel, bake, and spend time with her family.

Lisa King

Diane Martin, LASR Operator
Diane has worked at Colgate for three years, recently transferring to Case Library from Campus Safety. In her free time, she enjoys riding motorcycles with her husband, gardening, riding horses and camping. Diane is a grandmother of a beautiful three-year-old little girl and she enjoys spending as much time as she can spoiling her.

Diane Martin

Shannon Schneider, Administrative Clerk
Shannon recently came to the Libraries as an administrative clerk. She lives in Oneida with her husband, Matt, and two children, Kwon and Raielea. She enjoys knitting and crocheting in her spare time.

Shannon Schneider

Michelle Smith, Collections Archivist
Michelle was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a proud Buckeye and graduate of The Ohio State University. After receiving her MLIS from Kent State University, she moved back home to Cincinnati to start her career working in archives. She has previously held positions at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Her husband, Travis and their one year old daughter, Georgiana, made the move up to Hamilton along with their furry family members: two dogs, a cat, and a rabbit.

Michelle Smith

Darlene Virgil, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator
Darlene Virgil started in August 2016 as the Interlibrary Loan Coordinator at Case Geyer Library. She has extended experience within the Borrowing Services Department, where she started in 2008 as LASR Operator, and in 2013 transferred to the Evening Circulation Supervisor position. Darlene owns and operates Canal House Antiques in Bouckville, N.Y. where she specializes in primitives and the traditional arts.

Darlene Virgil

Anastasia Wells, Temporary Reference & Cataloging Librarian
Anastasia Wells was most recently at DePauw University libraries in Greencastle, Indiana, where she was a reference/instruction and cataloging librarian. She moved to Hamilton this summer with her husband, Christopher, and their 14 year old son, PJ.

Anastasia Wells
Maintenance of Case Library Print Collections

Mike Poulin, Head of Collection Management

The Libraries routinely assess the print collections to optimize the use of items in the reference collection relevant to Colgate’s curriculum and research activities, insure that sufficient circulating shelf space is available for new print acquisitions, and to accommodate the possible future expansion of the Special Collections Department.

Print Reference Collection

The current project in Case Library continues an initiative started in 2012 to address superseded, duplicate, and obsolete titles in the print reference collection located on level three. Moreover, the use of the print reference collection has declined dramatically with numerous items occupying space needed for other parts of the collection. Many print items also are available in digital form, which is preferred by our patrons, and these will be candidates for withdrawal. A new index location, currently housed at the end of the reference collection, has been created. Most of these titles offer access to materials that pre-date coverage of the online services and have no new volumes being added.

Unique material will be retained — either in the reference collection on level three, at a new index location being created on level four, in the circulating stacks on levels two through four, or in LASR — unless the material has been superseded or is obsolete, in which case it will be weeded. We anticipate using space which is freed through transfers and weeding for Main Stacks shelving after shifting part of the circulating collection to level three.

Our reference collection development policy states that we privilege digital formats for selection purposes. Unless there is a concern such as perpetual access, significant usability issues, or known faculty preference, we have been shifting the reference collection to electronic format for years, as have other institutions. We will utilize the librarian liaisons to consult with faculty in departments/programs if we propose weeding unique content that is not available digitally or if there are concerns as noted.

General Circulating Stacks Collection

In summer 2017 and 2018, we plan to transfer 40,000–60,000 of the older, very low use circulating titles from the general stacks (about the number of titles added over the past five years) to LASR to provide space for new books and transferred reference titles, and, if needed, to clear the book stacks required for a Special Collections expansion. We will also consider annual reviews and proceedings for possible transfer to LASR if there are sufficient finding aids (indexing or tables of contents) to discover the contents within, as many are essentially annual journals. Subject areas that might need browsing for effective use, such as the art books and music scores, will be exempted from transfer. Multi-volume sets, where patrons might need to access several volumes at one time, are not being considered for transfer to LASR. Once all the materials have been transferred, a major shift of the stacks will begin to redistribute the books evenly through the available shelving to provide growth space for new acquisitions.

On the Move: Travelogue Exhibit in SCUA

Rachel Lavenda, Special Collections Librarian

This spring Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) will be installing an exhibit that puts a spotlight on the authors and illustrators of travel narratives from the early 20th century.

Journals and diaries of travelers’ experiences in foreign lands have long captured the imaginations of readers. Whether it was to describe a newly discovered country or illuminate the history of a famous monument, there has always been a place for these kinds of works in the literary world.
world. They are part memoir, part history, and part descriptive and serve to transport the reader to somewhere exotic and new. Even today there is no shortage of travel blogs or published travelogues that serve as a means to visit far off places without leaving our homes.

The early 20th century was a particularly exciting time to travel. The fruits of the Industrial Revolution had ushered in a new world of technology and machines. The development of railways, canals, and better roads connected rural towns to urban cities, while the invention of the steam engine transformed locomotives and ships, making the transportation of goods easier, faster, and cheaper. The emergence of the middle class in the United Kingdom and the United States during the mid-late 19th century created a new demographic of people with higher wages and more free time.

Suddenly there was a new population of budding world explorers. Catching onto the profit potential of travelers, railroad companies quickly developed better passenger services. It became possible to make weekend excursions or day trips to nearby cities and towns. The first travel agents opened their doors and package tours made available for those who wanted to go somewhere new, but didn’t have the personal connections to plan the trip. Guidebooks with detailed information about prices, timetables, and places of interest began to enter the market.

And yet, despite this new access to real travel, the travelogue still remained a popular genre of book. Travelogues don’t necessarily offer advice about where to stay or where to eat like guidebooks. Instead they detail the experience of the writer in a country and were often peppered with history about the region. Travelogues could be read for inspiration for an upcoming trip or as a means to escape the gloomy winter. They often made sure to include anecdotes that described unusual or unique episodes, giving the reader the opportunity to live vicariously through the author’s experiences.

But who were the people behind the travelogues?

SCUA’s collection of travelogues from the early 20th century covers countries across the globe and is written and illustrated by people from any different walks of life. For some, the country they wrote about was merely their home, while for others it was the source of a lifelong passion. Some were stationed in foreign countries as a part of a colonizing government. Quite a few of the books that will be on display were produced by husband and wife teams as illustrator and writer respectively. SCUA’s spring exhibit will attempt to cast a light on these creators and the circumstances that led them to write about countries all over the world.