A Message from the Dean of Libraries

The library faculty and staff at the Mansfield Library welcomed a new class of UM students this fall with an array of new services, programs, and exhibits.

Some changes include extended online chat hours with the reference services in evenings and weekends in order to reach UM students who may access library services through their mobile devices. Professor Adrienne Alger, the library’s e-learning and instructional technology librarian, led the implementation of a new chat platform. She reported that the library responded to over 600 live chats since the beginning of this semester; among these chat inquiries, 67 percent of them were answered in less than one minute. The online chat service has proved a popular one with UM students.

Also, Professor Megan Stark, undergraduate services librarian, has coordinated instructional sessions for the students at Missoula College and extended a teach-the-teacher model to the faculty members there. The common curriculum for students taking writing and communication courses on the Missoula College campus has strengthened retention efforts at the institution.

In addition, the implementation for a new library system, led by John Greer, the library’s head of technology and systems, is on track to go live on December 16. The new system will enable the library to deliver resources in a more flexible and efficient manner.

We are proud to announce that Professor Julie Edwards and her team collaborated with other units to curate an excellent exhibit at the library through the end of autumn semester titled, “Erin’s Exiled Children: The Irish of America and the Making of Modern Ireland.” The exhibit is a wonderful educational opportunity for the UM community.

Throughout this issue of Connections, you will see many more activities happening at the library, including a myriad of events supporting UM’s global education initiatives.

Your philanthropic support has enabled us to sustain excellent library services, programs, and resources to the UM faculty, students, and staff during the challenging time at UM. On behalf of all library faculty and staff, I would like to extend my genuine appreciation to you and your families and wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Shali Zhang
Patricia DaSilva Retires

Patricia DaSilva, manager of the Circulation, Interlibrary Loan, and Copy Service (Paw Print) areas, retired after working almost 30 years at the Mansfield Library. She began working in the Serials unit and then the Interlibrary Loan unit before becoming Manager of Access Services. Patricia is a past recipient of both the Mansfield Library Irene Evers Award for Outstanding Staff Member and the University of Montana, Outstanding Staff Award for Excellence in Job Performance. Patricia is widely known for her leadership, professionalism, dedication, and sense of humor and has served on numerous library and campus committees and service groups. She has helped transform user services and physical places within the Mansfield Library.

Patricia is excited to be able to spend more time with family and friends, attend concerts, and volunteer to serve the Missoula community. We will miss her at the library, but wish her the very best in her retirement.

Archives Month Celebrated with First Annual 20IN20 Tours

In honor of Archives Month, Archives and Special Collections (A&SC) hosted four 20IN20 tours. Each twenty-minute tour – which was open to the first twenty people who signed up – featured twenty fantastic items from the A&SC collections.

Included were the library’s 1561 edition of The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer, an original UM freshman beanie, rare Edward Curtis photogravures, and a letter from President Lyndon Johnson to Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield. The tours were attended by campus staff, faculty, students and administrators, as well as by members of the public. “It was a fun way for Archives and Special Collections to show off what we have, and also to share information about how our collections are used in a variety of ways,” said Donna McCrea. “Many of our attendees said this was the first time they’d been to A&SC, so I certainly consider this outreach effort to be a huge success.”

Library Receives Special Copy of “Tributes to Mike Mansfield”

When Mike Mansfield retired from the U.S. Senate in 1976, his colleagues praised his leadership and integrity. They noted that “In every instance, he has put the interests of the country above any other consideration,” and stated that there was “no man in public life today more beloved and respected by his colleagues.” These accolades, made on the Senate floor, were compiled in Senate Document No. 94-270, Tributes to the Honorable Mike Mansfield of Montana in the United States Senate. In September, the library received a very special copy of Tributes from Michele Robinson. This copy, bound in blue and embossed in gold, carries the notable name J.S. Kimmett. Joseph Stanley Kimmett, a Montana native, served as Senate Secretary for the Majority for eleven years during the time that Mansfield served as Senate Majority Leader, before becoming Secretary for the Senate. Kimmett’s copy of Tributes was likely given as a gift to Robinson’s late husband Don, a fellow Montanan who worked for Senator Mansfield. It has been placed in Archives and Special Collections at Mansfield Library.

Photo courtesy of Kurt Wilson of the Missoulian
Jayne Xue Gives Two Presentations

Ms. Jayne Xue, a visiting librarian from the Kunming University of Science and Technology Library in Yunnan Province, P.R. China, completed her one-year visit/study with the Mansfield Library in September 2016. The library faculty and staff bid a farewell to Ms. Xue at a lunch gathering. Prior to her departure to her home in China, Ms. Xue gave two presentations to the entire library personnel. Several faculty members from other campus units also attended these sessions. Ms. Xue’s first presentation focused on the library services and facilities at her university library; her second presentation was about the cultures, food, and customs in the region of the Yunnan Province where she grew up. Ms. Xue is very grateful for her experiences at the Mansfield Library, the UM campus, and in Missoula. In her final report, Ms. Xue shared the following:

My visit is almost over now, and I feel extremely grateful to my colleagues at the Mansfield Library. Without their kind help, I would not have finished my visiting task in this year. Generally, I feel that I have gained a lot in my study and research, my improvement of my English competency, and the understanding of American culture. In the past whole year, I deeply felt Americans’ passions and friendliness, but what impressed me most is their devotion or commitment to their work.

At the Mansfield Library, I found that they have formulated down-to-earth services for all readers and potential readers. They have greatly facilitated patrons in retrieval, checking-out, printing, scanning, and video creation with various service equipment and a comfortable environment. The goal of the Mansfield Library is to create a quality service that can cater to the satisfactions of the teachers and students in the university and to the whole community. In the field of cultivation of information literacy, the Mansfield Library has provided many workshops and every librarian conducts his/her own instructional courses on the use and research of the library on the basis of different disciplines. In the aspect of service expansion, librarians are committed to providing readers with a comfortable environment with various facilities equipment.

Dr. Clara Chu Presents a Lecture

In July this year, Dr. Clara Chu, newly appointed Director and Mortenson Distinguished Professor at the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign, visited the Mansfield Library and gave a lecture, “Academic Libraries in Global Context: Considering the ‘Glocal’ and Transnational.” The library faculty and staff, librarians from around Montana, and UM campus faculty members attended the lecture and discussions.

This event is a part of the UM Mansfield Library’s ongoing efforts to increase library faculty and staff’s global awareness and cultural competencies when providing library services and programs in an increasingly inter-connected and global environment. The lecture was well received by library faculty, staff, and other colleagues. They felt empowered by the new approaches and perspective from the lecture. One participant wrote, “Thank you again for inviting us to Dr. Chu’s presentation last week! It was a fascinating talk, and we walked away feeling very inspired!”
Jaci Wilkinson joins Mansfield Library Faculty

Jaci Wilkinson joined the faculty of the Mansfield Library as the web services librarian in October 2016. In addition to leading web services, she will lead usability-testing, chair the Web Committee, do information literacy instruction and curriculum planning for the information and research division, participate in outreach and communications initiatives, and do research in the areas of content strategy. She also serves on the Montana Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Previously, Jaci was Assistant Visiting Professor of Information and Library Studies at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. She received her MLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2015 and her BA in English and music at Luther College 2012.

Dean Zhang’s Visit to Chengdu City

Mansfield Library Dean Shali Zhang assisted and facilitated a series of meetings in Chengdu City, China, in November this year, for Dr. Shannon O’Brien, Dean of the Missoula College, with the UM alumni and corporate donors (Chengdu Kingbri Frequency Technology Co., Ltd.) in the city. The meetings focused on the company’s internship opportunities for UM students, UM’s training programs for mid-level managers of the company, and continual philanthropic contributions to UM. The company was very impressed by the curriculum offerings at the Missoula College that are closely related to the needs of job markets in China. The company also expressed interests in assisting with the student recruitment efforts.

Offering Library Services to Summer Program Scholars

Each summer, UM’s academic units host numerous summer programs for visiting scholars from other parts of the world. These overseas scholars enjoy the lovely summer in Missoula, the beautiful UM campus, and many academic offerings during their summer visits. The library provides various sessions for these visitors that have become the integral components of these programs.

This summer, the Mansfield Library provided educational sessions to visiting scholars about how to take advantage of the library resources and services for their learning and research activities at UM. In the photo, Kate Zoellner, Associate Professor, Assessment Coordinator, Education and Human Sciences Librarian and Economics Liaison, gave a session on using electronic resources and database searching to a group of visiting scholars hosted by the College of Education and Human Sciences. Glenn Kneebone, manager of the library’s One Button Studio, gave a tour to the group of the facility and demonstrated the easy-use features.
UM Mansfield Library Exhibits “Erin’s Exiled Children: The Irish of America and the Making of Modern Ireland.”

The University of Montana, The Butte Silver-Bow Archives, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Friends of Irish Studies in the West, and The Gathering have created a display narrating the Irish struggle for independence and the support given by Ireland’s “exiled children” in America.

Erin’s Exiled Children: The Irish of America and the Making of Modern Ireland was created in honor of the centennial of Ireland’s Easter Rising in 1916. The exhibit documents the Irish struggle for independence and the role the Irish in America played in keeping their traditions alive.

Traolach Ó Riordáin, Director of the Irish Studies Program at UM, reinforces the importance of the relationship between Ireland and America, stating, “It was the Irish of America who synthesized cultural and political nationalism into a coherent movement that swept through Ireland from the 1890s and led to the Easter Rising and War of Independence. The nationalists in Ireland and the British government realized as early as the 1880s that the fate of Ireland would be decided in America. Our exhibit is a humble attempt to draw public attention to the contribution made by the Irish of this country to the freedom and rebuilding of Ireland.” Riordáin continues, “We hope that it will encourage scholars and researchers to focus more attention on the contribution made by the Irish of America; we also hope that it inspires a younger generation to recognize and celebrate the sacrifices and achievements of those who came before them.”

Bob O’Boyle, Director of The Gathering says, “We wanted to ensure the role of Irish of America, and particularly the Irish of Montana, were recognized. We felt it was crucial to celebrate this great history and get the story told.”

This exhibit is the product of an IMLS planning grant awarded to the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana, in partnership with Irish Studies at UM, Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, and University College Cork, Ireland. This exhibit debuted at the State Capitol in April of 2016, and has since traveled to Anaconda, Butte, Virginia City, and Missoula.

The exhibit was the first in three undertakings to celebrate the role of the Irish in Montana in the shaping of modern Ireland. The second event was the recent American Conference on Irish Studies, and the third will be a series of documentary films in Irish and English. The exhibit is located on the main level of the library and is free and open to the public during normal library hours.

Artwork from UM’s Mike Mansfield Collection Now Available Online

The library announces a new online collection showcasing artwork and artifacts from Mike Mansfield’s archives. Mansfield was a Butte miner who went on to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1943 to 1952, the U.S. Senate from 1953 to 1977, and as U.S. ambassador to Japan from 1977 to 1988. The collection is online at http://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfieldartifacts/. Mansfield received many gifts throughout his time in government service, including artwork, needlework, musical instruments, political cartoons and ceramics. He and his wife, Maureen, also purchased artwork during their travels through Latin America and East Asia. The collection will continue to be updated as more artifacts are digitized.
Historic UM Student Literary Journals

Archives and Special Collections (A&SC) presents Narcissus in an Inkwell: UM Poetry and Prose, an exhibit of current and historic UM student literary journals. In honor of the Montana Book Festival and the UM Campus Literary Magazine Reading event, the exhibit features text and images of historic and current UM student literary journals that are housed in the A&SC University Publications Collection (UPUBs). The exhibit was curated by Katy Slagell, Archives and Special Collections student assistant, in collaboration with Hannah Soukup. The title Narcissus in an Inkwell is a tribute to Madeline DeFrees’ non-fiction essay by the same title published in UM literary magazine Gilt Edge in 1975.

Shakespeare and the Four Humors

In fall of 2016, the Mansfield Library hosted a traveling exhibit, “And there’s the Humor of it: Shakespeare and the Four Humors,” from the National Library of Medicine (NLM). This display examines the intersection of medical theory and literature. According to NLM’s description, the “four bodily humors - blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm - were understood by Shakespeare and generations before him, to define people’s physical and mental health, and to determine individual’s personality, as well.” Through this exhibit, people are able to learn more about the language of the four humors and their influence in Shakespeare’s plays. This exhibit was built upon the enthusiasm from the UM campus on Shakespeare’s works through the rare exhibit, “First Folio, the Book that Gave Us Shakespeare,” at the UM campus in May 2016.
The Mansfield library is grateful for the support of our donors. Their generous contributions enabled the library to provide the resources required to help UM students achieve success in their academic pursuits.

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Thank you!