Brinkerhoff Geology Library: collection of maps and aerial photos a crown jewel

By Janet Dombrowski, Department Head—Brinkerhoff Geology Library, jdombrow@uwyo.edu

The University Libraries’ Brinkerhoff Earth Resources Information Center, also known as the Brinkerhoff Geology Library, houses a vast collection of materials that support research and teaching in the fields of geology, geophysics, physical geography, geological engineering, and mining and petroleum geology. Although well known for its collection of books, journals, and government publications, the library’s collection also includes a large quantity of maps and aerial photos.

The Brinkerhoff Geology Libraries’ map collection is the largest in the state and a crown jewel for the university. Located in the Barlow and Haun Map Room, the collection includes more than 140,000 geological maps, physical and political maps, climate maps, forest and park maps, land use and ownership maps, people and culture maps, transportation maps, vegetation maps, and energy and natural resources maps, as well as copies of many of the historical maps that are also found in the Emmett Chisum Special Collection.

Another integral part of the collection includes approximately 140,000 aerial photographs. Aerial photographs are a valuable tool used by researchers to assess historical changes in land use, habitat, or preservation planning and also as a base in map preparation and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications. Over the years, faculty and researchers from the Geology and Geophysics Department and the Geography Department have donated more than 120,000 black and white aerial photos from around Wyoming. Coverage spans from 1936 through the 1990s, with most taken between 1950 and 1980. In addition, a recent acquisition includes photos taken of 30 Wyoming towns and cities from between 1990 and 2007 that was donated by the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

The Brinkerhoff Geology Library is named after Zachary Brinkerhoff, Jr. and his son...

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A note from the Dean

This academic year has been one of positive and discouraging times. In November, we celebrated the completion of the construction phase of the W. R. Coe Library addition and renovation. This was an exciting day as we honored the history of the founding of Coe Library with a retrospective on William Robertson Coe and his generous gift that financed the construction of the main library in 1957. We also looked forward to how libraries have changed over the past 50 years and we now have a modern facility supporting how students study. The “new” Coe provides a variety of study spaces integrating technology, teaching, and library instruction. The students have adapted quickly to the new Coe Library evident by statistics and feedback. In 2010 we will complete the project with additional new furniture, finishing the named, dedicated rooms, and signage. All of us in the Libraries are very pleased that our facility now matches the vision we have for a state of the art library and we look forward to maintaining the investment that the State of Wyoming has made in the University.

Regardless of how much funding the Libraries may have, you have my commitment that we will focus on the priority needs of the university programs. In our progress and in a short time, we will be focusing again on building a true research collection that supports our faculty and students. Regardless of how much funding the Libraries may have, you have my commitment that we will focus on the priority needs of the university programs. We made significant improvements in our collections adding Elsevier and Web of Science prior to any collection increases so I am confident in our ability to stretch our collection budget as far as possible and to supplement collections with outstanding delivery programs such as Prospector.

We are pleased to announce Jeffrey Alford as our spring author luncheon speaker. Many of you are familiar with Jeff’s cookbooks and travel stories. Jeff will bring a global perspective to our discussions and I hope you are able to join us on April 16th.

I am also pleased to announce that Sandy Barstow will be the head of Collection Development Office and congratulations to Sara Williams who will be the director of the College of St. Mary library in Omaha, Nebraska. Sandy brings strong budgeting and acquisition experience to our collection operations. Sandy will be overseeing a journal review this spring. It is responsible for the Libraries to evaluate and assess journal subscriptions on a regular basis and I appreciate your feedback on the significance and relevancy of our current journals for your teaching and research. Details regarding the process will be released to the Library Council and colleges and departments so watch for details on this critical analysis. I appreciate your time in considering our journal collections especially knowing the spring semester is quite busy for our faculty.

As we celebrate the end of the spring semester, I wish you continued success in your teaching and research!
Student Connections: Instruction and Assessment Services @ UW Libraries

It may surprise some readers to learn how much teaching happens at University Libraries. In Fall 2009, librarians at Coe Library taught more than 200 instruction sessions to nearly 4,000 students. UW students often come to the library as part of a class project to learn how to effectively use information resources to answer their research questions.

Librarians work with classroom instructors to identify the type of resources students will need in order to succeed in their research projects. Library lesson plans and activities are developed accordingly. Librarians are eager to know what students learn from library instruction sessions in order to improve student–learning outcomes.

My job, as the new Instruction and Assessment Coordinator at UW Libraries, is to coordinate teaching activities and spearhead assessment efforts to improve teaching and learning at the library.

One assessment currently underway is a citation analysis of English 1010 research paper bibliographies. In Fall 2009 Kaijsa Calkins, English

Instruction Sessions Teach Students How To:

• choose library research tools for their specific information needs,
• create effective search queries using appropriate keywords and concepts,
• identify the purpose and audience of potential information resources,
• and cite sources appropriately, among other things.

To schedule an Instruction session call 766–2070

By Melissa Bowles-Terry, Instruction and Assessment Coordinator mbowlest@uwyo.edu

Reference and Instruction Librarian, and I collected bibliographies from English 1010 students’ research papers (with the cooperation of their instructors and the approval of the Institutional Review Board) to determine whether students who attended library instruction sessions were able to identify and use quality information resources in their research papers. Once we analyze the bibliographies we will talk with English 1010 instructors to collaborate on ways to improve students’ success in using information resources in their research. We also plan to work with librarians who teach English 1010 students about ways to expand students’ understanding of the research process.

Librarians will work with faculty in all subject areas to prepare high–quality research assignments for their students. Our sessions will help teach students about the research process, orient students to the library and library resources, and provide assessment of student competencies regarding library information resources. For more information about library instruction services or to request a library instruction session for a class, please visit us online at www–lib.uwyo.edu/services/libinstruction.cfm. Instructors can request a library instruction session by filling out the request form on the website or by calling the reference desk at 766–2070.

UW students participate in a library instruction session, 2009. (UW Photo)
Maggie Farrell presented a paper on “Reframing Organizations through Communication and Advocacy” at the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in August 2009 in Milan, Italy. IFLA is an annual conference and a series of satellite programs that rotates among country members. IFLA has a strong global attraction for librarians and is considered the premiere worldwide library event. The paper selection processes is refereed and is highly competitive so it is an honor that the University of Wyoming was represented at the IFLA Conference.

More than 3,000 librarians from 127 nations attended the conference “Libraries Create Futures: Building on Cultural Heritage.” The programs reflected the variety of issues facing libraries worldwide such as reference techniques, instruction, digitization, advocacy, and metadata. The conference was very inclusive as presenters represented the diversity and geographical makeup of the association. And the variety of programs provided interesting topics for every member. The main sessions were translated into eight languages and papers were published in English, French, Russian, German, and Chinese. Complimenting the programs were poster sessions and exhibits from major library vendors across the globe.

IFLA is unique in that it provides cultural programs as part of the conference to expose librarians to the libraries and culture of the host country. In addition to library tours, IFLA sponsored a night at La Scala and a cultural evening of museums and programming in downtown Milan.

Milan was a lovely host city for the IFLA Conference and transportation to the convention center was easy with an efficient metro system and conference buses. Unfortunately, the conference hotels were spread throughout the city but it provided attendees an opportunity to experience the city since it was seldom that a librarian was part of a large group of conference attendees.

The weather was very hot and muggy and attendees appreciated the shade of afternoon cafes during lunch. Milan is an industrial city with fashion as its core business but there was rich culture and history reflected in its museums, city center, and the arts. The people of Milan were welcoming and hospitable matched only by the quality of food. Despite the walking and heat, every conference attendee gained five pounds from the wonderful pasta, variety of cheese, and desserts.

The programs represented the best of the best and the quality of speakers was outstanding. The conference provided excellent opportunities to network with librarians from other countries and it was easy to start up a conversation and meet new colleagues.

More information on IFLA, including conference papers, is available at www.ifla.org.

Dan Person was recently hired as a Library Assistant, Senior in charge of the W. R. Coe Library mail room, constructing shelving, and assisting with other library projects.

Dan is a familiar face at the University of Wyoming. He is formerly an employee with Washakie Dining Center and then in Coe Library where he worked as a student book shelve. A UW student, Dan will graduate from UW at the end of the spring 2010 semester with a bachelor’s degree in English. He enjoys reading literature and watching movies. Outside of work, Dan said, “I’m a new father, a full–time student, a fairly poor cook, and I play a mean blues harp.”
Mountain Pine Beetle: a collection of photos, interviews, and GPS data

By Dennis Moser,
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UW Libraries’ now has space dedicated for its expanding digital program on the first level of W. R. Coe Library. Digital Resources Librarian Dennis Moser, and Library Assistant Cynthia Kellogg are building the university’s digital repository with an integrated, cohesive set of digital materials for research and pedagogy appropriate to a research institution.

The growing digital repository will hopefully draw the attention of UW faculty members and shall highlight graduate/undergraduate research projects. One such digital project came from communication and journalism student Joshua King, a recipient of the Larsh Bristol Memorial Award in Journalism for 2009. King documented the spread of the Mountain Pine Beetle throughout southeastern and south-central Wyoming. He collected photographs, audio interviews, and correlating GPS data. His photography exhibit, A Slow Hurricane, was featured in the Wyoming Union this past Fall. University Libraries has received more than 2,250 digital images, audio interviews, and corresponding GPS data from King’s research.

Moser and Kellogg began work on King’s raw digital collection by transcribing the audio interviews into online text documents, as well as creating audio MP3 files for easy online listening. In addition, their work encompasses the creation of web-ready images from the original high-resolution photographs and then linking them geographically via Google Maps. The end result is a fantastic collection of digital images and audio interviews correlating with geographical data. Although the digital cataloging of the collection is still underway, you can view a sampling of the transcripts, photographs, and MP3 audio interviews, or other digital collections, online at http://uwlib5.uwyo.edu/omeka/.

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Tom Brinkerhoff (a UW alum). Although the library’s focus is Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain region, the collection also includes national and international materials. Located in the Geology Building on the UW campus, the library is open to the public. Visitors are welcome in–person or online at www–lib.uwyo/about/branches/geo.cfm. We encourage schools or other groups to schedule an appointment so we can prepare curriculum appropriate materials in advance of your visit.
People to People program takes UW Librarian to South Africa

By Lori Phillips
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In October 2009 Associate Dean Lori Phillips traveled with a delegation of librarians to South Africa under the auspices of the People to People program. The purpose of People to People is to enhance international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities. The program, founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, sponsors regular opportunities for U.S. librarians to interact with their peers around the world. “The opportunity to observe South African librarians at work and to learn more about their challenges and opportunities was an incredible professional and personal experience,” reflected Phillips. John Berry, former President of the American Library Association and Roberta Stevens, ALA President-elect, led the delegation. Delegation members included academic, public, and school librarians, as well as a corrections librarian. Most of the participants were from the United States, but one librarian was from Canada and another from Kuwait.

The U.S. Embassy in South Africa took an active role in facilitating the delegation’s visit and structuring the itinerary. Delegates began their visit in Johannesburg where they were welcomed at a reception hosted in the home of U.S. Counsel General Andrew Passen, an ardent supporter of libraries and literacy. He challenged the assembled group to seek common ground and establish professional ties. The following morning, the delegates were briefed by a member of the U.S. Embassy Information Services Division to acquaint delegates with the structure of libraries and the practice of librarianship in South Africa.

Library funding is at the center of information access issues within South Africa where there are great disparities in funding for school and public libraries. Internet access is often not free at public libraries, and library schools have been closing in South Africa, decreasing the number of librarians available to lead planning initiatives for the future. To that end, the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) has been working diligently to gain recognition for the value of libraries and librarians in the country.

The delegates saw disparities between libraries first-hand during their visits to the Rosa Parks Library and the Jabava School library, both in Soweto Township. The former serves as a community center as well as an information provider for residents of Soweto. HIV/AIDS prevention is a major focus of programming at Rosa Parks, as is small business development. One notable fact about Soweto, and black townships generally, is the large number of small businesses run out of homes. In Soweto these businesses were mainly hair salons and purveyors of food and drink. The Rosa Parks Library relies heavily upon donated materials and the collection was eclectic, aged, and well used. The library director was appreciative of the books, videos and other supplies brought by the delegates. In stark contrast was the Jabava School Library. The corporate sponsor of the facility, Vodacom, is the largest cell phone company in South Africa, and everything in the facility was top notch. New computers, new books, and new learning software and games filled the library. Unlike the Rosa Parks Center, which was open to anyone, access
African librarians proved to be very familiar with the American Library Association and its work in the area of advocacy for libraries. Many librarians and library staff demonstrated a strong commitment to providing access to information to all citizens. Especially eloquent in articulating the challenges faced by South African libraries was National Librarian John Kgwale Tsebe, whom the delegates met during a visit to the National Library in Pretoria. Tsebe provided the group with his analysis of the challenges faced by South African libraries, as they function in a country that lacks a culture of reading, and where inadequate bandwidth and connectivity prevent citizens from accessing needed information.

While in Pretoria, the group met with librarians at the Mersnsky Library at the University of Pretoria, and the University of South Africa (UNISA), a distance learning university with more than 280,000 students. UNISA students are from all over the globe, and many are from the African continent itself. The UNISA Library owns a fleet of trucks and manages a large shipping and receiving department that fulfills student requests for library material. The library delivers books and copies of articles via postal and shipping services because many UNISA students reside in third world countries and do not have access to computers or printers to capture electronic materials.

From Johannesburg and Pretoria, the delegation traveled to Cape Town. Cape Town was billed as a beautiful city, and it did not disappoint. Table Mountain dominates the landscape and dictates weather patterns on the Cape Peninsula. Delegates were literally swept off their feet by the “Cape Doctor”, a powerful south–easterly wind that drapes the flat topped summit of Table Mountain with a white “tablecloth” of cloud. This phenomenon occurs somewhat infrequently, so delegates were pleased to view the mountain draped in the cloud cloth, although nonplused by the gale force winds that produced the phenomenon.

Ellen Tice, President of the International Federation of Library Associations, and Director of Libraries at Stellenbosch University, invited the delegates to spend the day with her and her colleagues to explore key issues on library advocacy, e–learning, the digital divide, and opportunities for exchange between U. S. and South African librarians. More than 100 librarians from the Cape Town area were in attendance for the day long conference. Presenters from both countries provided perspectives on these issues and the group worked toward synthesis about the challenges and issues within global librarianship. Stellenbosch is a quaint college town located in a beautiful wine–growing region, near Cape Town.

In addition to the outstanding program of professional activities, the delegation members were offered leisure and recreational opportunities. During their free weekend, delegates took a group coach tour of the Cape Peninsula and Cape Point in the Table Mountain National Park. They traveled to Camps Bay, Chapman’s Peak Drive and Cape Peninsula National Park, home of the famous Cape Point, the place at which legend claims the Atlantic and Indian oceans merge. Wild ostrich, zebra, and bontebok, an African antelope, lined the narrow road into Cape Point, and a group of over one hundred wild baboons enthusiastically greeted the coach in the parking lot, looking for gifts of food. Delegates also visited the African penguin colony at Boulders Beach, home to the rare African penguin in its natural surroundings. The busy day ended with a visit to see the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in Cape Town.

On Sunday many of the delegates took the ferry to Robben Island, a tiny island off the coast of Cape Town that served as a place of banishment, isolation and imprisonment from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Former South African President and Nobel Laureate Nelson Mandela was imprisoned there from 1974–1990. Today it is a World Heritage Site and museum, a poignant reminder of the price paid for freedom. Robben Island tour guides are all former political prisoners from the apartheid era and to hear them speak about their imprisonment was powerful and moving.

Phillips is certain her experiences in South Africa will benefit UW Libraries and the university. Globalization is an important issue in higher education and the library and information market is increasingly global in nature. Visiting other countries and attending international conferences are the necessary first steps toward the ultimate goal of becoming connected and building ongoing projects with libraries and librarians abroad.

“I appreciate the important professional opportunity afforded to me by the UW Libraries to participate in international work,” noted Phillips.
The Coe Library Media Collection, located on level one (East), houses a collection of audio CDs, DVDs, VHS, audio cassettes, LPs, CD-ROMs, and microform materials. Patrons can freely browse the entire collection (with the exception of reserved materials) from open shelving or cabinets—most materials are arranged in call number order.

The video collection includes approximately 5,000 titles. The collection includes award-winning popular titles based on lists from the American Film Institute, Library of Congress, and best lists and winners of major film festivals. Other educational titles are often incorporated by faculty members into their curriculum.

The media area includes six private media carrels that are available for patrons to view either DVDs or VHS tapes. In addition, two group viewing rooms are available for groups up to five people. Other available equipment includes typewriters, audio cassette players, and a record player.

Contact a staff member at the Media desk for assistance with media equipment and media room reservations.

The Media Collection's microforms include microfilm, microfiche and microprint collections. Content of microforms cover Wyoming and other major newspaper, journals, magazines and historical writings. Equipment is available for patrons to view, print, and scan microform materials.

Materials in the Media Collection can be searched online at http://uwcatalog.uwyo.edu or in-person. UW Students, staff and faculty members, and citizens of Wyoming can check-out materials for up to one week.

For more information, contact a Media Collection staff member at (307) 766–5531.

Library staff member assists a patron in the Media Collection area on level one of Coe Library. (Photo by Mike Obenchain)