



Between the Lines

the Eli M. Oboler Library Newsletter

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Fall 2008

Hardinge Books Donated to Special Collections

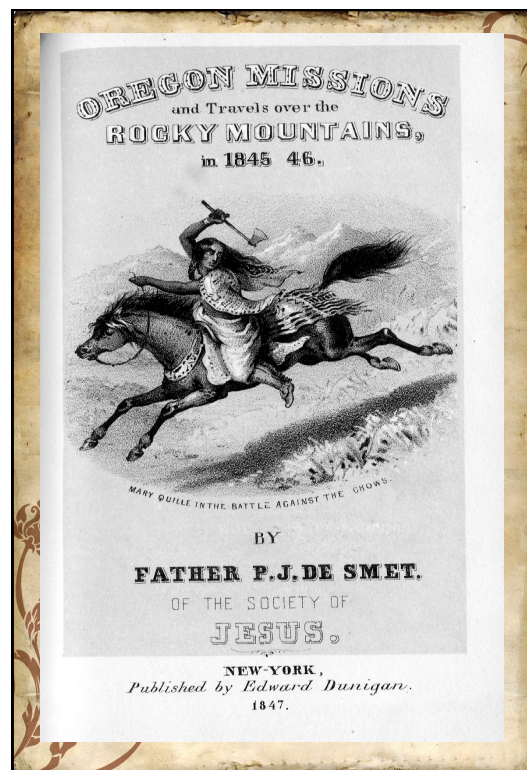
It was Christmas in July for the staff of the Special Collections Department when twelve boxes of books arrived from a special donor. Mr. H. De Forest "Cork" Hardinge of Mercer Island, Washington donated his collection of rare books and ephemera relating to the History of the American West to the Oboler Library Special Collections Department. The collection focuses primarily on the Pacific Northwest and Colorado and will provide much-needed early source material for researchers.

Among the many treasures are an 1847 edition of Father De Smet's book *Oregon Missions and Travels over the Rocky Mountains in 1845-46*. Father

De Smet was a Roman Catholic priest who was active in missionary work primarily with the Nez Perce and Flathead Indians. He was based in northern Idaho and traveled extensively throughout the Northwest.

Also included in the collection are two editions of Washington Irving's *Astoria*, which chronicles the history of John Jacob Astor's venture into the fur trade on the Pacific coast. and a 1906 edition of George Wharton James' *In and Out of the Old Missions*, previously owned by renowned California author Mary Austin whose signature is on the inside cover. The collection of over 130 titles is joined by four boxes of ephemera ranging from early pamphlets, current maps, museum catalogs, 1920s automobile route cards from the Automobile Club of Western Washington and scenic postcards of bustling downtown Seattle.

Mr. Hardinge's family has recently relocated from Washington to Pocatello. His grandson, Alex Webster, is currently attending ISU and working in the library's Circulation Department.



The collection is available for use in the Special Collections Department in the Library's basement. The department is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Karen Kearns
Associate Professor, Head of Special Collections

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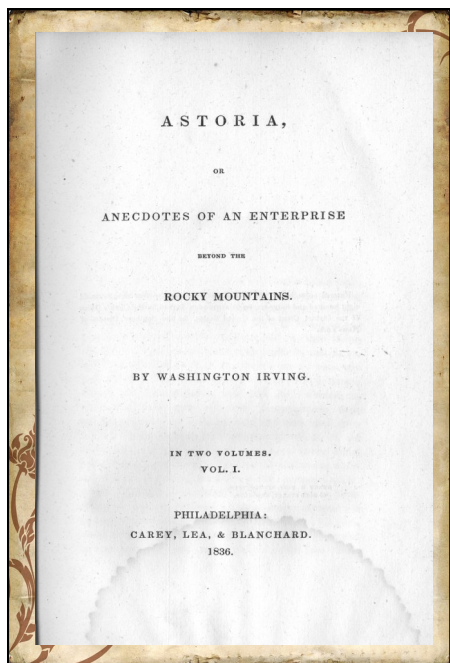
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“Pardon me, madam, but will you be using that book for research or for instruction purposes?” OR *Recategorizing the Library budget*

Library staff have worked through the summer to study ways to reorganize the library materials budget according to whether the materials support instruction, core research, or specialized research. The revised structure will reflect more closely the University's priorities and will afford a rational basis for the way in which the Library allocates its collection funds. Moreover, it will be more useful for the Library when future cuts may be necessary; the core will have been identified and will be preserved.

For fiscal year 2009, the library's materials budget of \$2.5 million supports the purchase of books, journals, and

electronic resources to support ISU's programs and faculty research. The present allocation plan for the library materials budget is based on historical precedent. It reflects a *status quo* philosophy, though the periodic need to cut journals because of inflation above the consumer-price-index has sometimes made it necessary to alter that philosophy.

In pursuit of a new allocation plan, and in collaboration with the University Library Committee, Library staff have begun gathering data from the Library's primary book vendor, and have been collecting advice from faculty.

Work continues on this effort, as bibliographers will also be working with various programs to compare ISU's collections to those of its peers (as identified by the programs themselves). The intent is to identify a base level of funding for each program. There is no easily identified library standard for organizing a budget in this way, so Library faculty will be asking members of the university community for their assistance in this process. Faculty should expect to be contacted throughout the remainder of the academic year as Library staff proceed with their data-gathering efforts.

Sandra Shropshire
Associate University Librarian for
Collections and Technical Services



Message from Kay Flowers, University Librarian —

By now, everyone is aware of the struggling world economy and its effects on our state economy. The university has already been asked to hold back 1 percent with another 1.5 percent in reserve, and these amounts will be addressed more permanently in the budget process beginning soon. The library, as a major recipient of state money, is affected greatly by these processes.

Though the library will be dealing with trimming its supplies,

travel, and other budgets, the main budget affected by these decisions is the acquisitions budget used to purchase journals, books and databases. We will have to trim this budget, and most of the trimming will be in the serials budget. However, we have another problem.

For the last two years, the annual inflation increase, required by the library to pay the rising costs of journals, has been in the form of one-time money. Therefore, as we look for cuts, we must keep in mind we are starting from the base we had in fiscal year 2007 (plus \$30,000

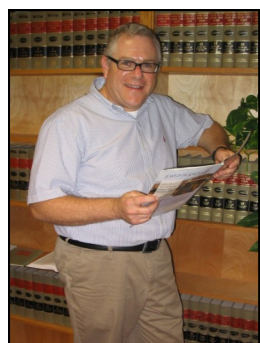
that was added to the base by the university for fiscal year 2009). As we start to identify the necessary cuts, we will have to take any percentage off of this lower number, then see how much we can buy with what is left.

During this fall renewal cycle for journals, we have already seen some titles coming in with double-digit increases, and one increase of 500 percent. At this point, we have the money for the 2009 calendar year subscriptions, and we will be establishing the cuts necessary to live within our budget for 2010.



Colorado Humanities Supports Oboler Librarian's Research, Featured in *Idaho Magazine*

Oboler Library Catalog Librarian and Associate Professor Philip Homan spent 10 days in July and August as a guest of



the historic Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado, researching the business of Kittie C. Wilkins, Horse Queen of

Idaho. Homan received a 2008 Research Grant from Colorado Humanities to visit the Denver Public Library's Western History and Genealogy Department, as well as the archive of the Brown Palace.

Colorado Humanities is affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities and is the only statewide organization in Colorado dedicated exclusively to supporting the humanities. They strive to improve the quality of humanities education for all Colorado citizens, to encourage the application of the values of the humanities to the decision making that will influence the future of Colorado. They serve more than 200,000 people and 30 counties in Colorado per year through its programs, grants and special events.

Kittie Wilkins, the subject of Homan's research, was the boss of the Wilkins Horse Company in the Bruneau Valley, Owyhee

County, Idaho, and owner of 10,000 horses, all range-bred and branded with her famous Diamond brand. She was the only woman at the turn of the twentieth century whose sole occupation was horse dealing. Homan is writing the first biography of the "Queen of Diamonds."

Kittie Wilkins visited Sioux City, Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska, Kansas City, Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Chicago, Illinois each year, but the first stop on her annual horse-selling trips was Denver. Well-known at the Union Stock Yards and in the Denver hotels in the 1890s and early 1900s, Wilkins gave a number of interviews to Denver newspapers, which were re-run in papers across the country.

After checking into Room 234 in the Brown Palace on September 14, 1902, to arrange for a shipment of Clydesdales to a buyer in Denver, Miss Wilkins gave an interview to the *Denver Post*, entitled "The Only One of Her Kind," re-run in the *New York Times*, and made one of her rare statements about her hatred of automobiles. "I don't like them," she said. "They are ugly, and they are unsafe...Look at the accidents that are always happening....Now, behind horses that you know and who know you—and if

you and your horses don't understand each other, you should part company at once—there isn't the slightest particle of danger. Nothing serious can happen. Your horses are as ready for an emergency as you are, and will help you meet it."

Homan's research on Kittie Wilkins was featured in the October 2008 issue of *Idaho Magazine*. Homan has promised two articles about Wilkins in exchange for the back issues of the magazine for Oboler Library. The Library's collection is in Periodicals on the third floor, with the latest issue shelved at Current Display on the first floor. Homan's next article on the Idaho Horse Queen will be published in the December 2008 issue.

Philip Homan
Associate Professor, Catalog Librarian



A sabbatical road trip with Jenny Lynne Semenza, Head of Reference Services, Eli M. Oboler Library

The idea for the road trip grew out of an Oboler Library tradition by which a reference team from Library would visit a different academic library in the nearby states every year. Each visit



resulted in new ideas on how to improve library services and resources. These improvements have included ideas for handouts, staffing, workshops, technology, committee assignments and even things as simple as how to better answer legal questions from the general public. Not once did the team set out with a clear we're-going-to-find-out-X-plan. Instead, it was a visit to the *terra incognita* of the other libraries to learn what they might be doing that is unique and wonderful, but so commonplace to them that they don't necessarily recognize it as innovative or exciting.

However, a sabbatical proposal must, by its very nature, be more focused. An I-just-want-to-

go-see-what-they're-doing justification was not going to win approval. So I wrote an interview instrument which focused on distance services, reference, and information literacy instruction, with the intention of conducting the interview at each of the universities I selected to visit. The resulting information could then be used to compare the efforts of the institutions and perhaps inform decision-making at all of the institutions. Additionally, I would be collecting a great deal of statistical data to further round-out the comparisons.

I selected the universities based on three criteria. First, they had to be located in one of the following states: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Nevada or Idaho. The geographic area was later expanded to include Alberta and Alaska. These states all have large rural areas, difficult terrain/climate and the institutions serve many types of distant communities.

The other two criteria were that the institutions must have either a Carnegie classification equal to or greater than doctoral/research university, or the classification of large four-year, primarily nonresidential university. A list of the institutions I visited is located on the next page.



Reference Desk, University of Alaska in Anchorage. The desk is in the shape of a question mark.

The library visits were fascinating. I met wonderful, engaged, energetic and innovative librarians and found many ideas that could be implemented at Idaho State University's Oboler Library. In addition to public services librarians, I was able to meet with librarians in technical services, administration, and collection development.

What has emerged from the information I gathered are some clear trends for reference, distance services and library instruction. The mountain of data I collected will eventually result in publications of various sorts as well.

I have already presented some of the best ideas at the Idaho Library Association Conference and have posted many more on my library blog:
<http://librarybanter.blogspot.com>

Best of all, my little red car and I got to see a lot of gorgeous scenery.

*Jenny Semenza
Head of Reference Services*



*A spacious information commons,
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

List of institutions

ALBERTA: University of Calgary in Alberta

University of Alberta in Edmonton

ALASKA: University of Alaska in Fairbanks

University of Alaska in Anchorage

ARIZONA: Arizona State University in Tempe

Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff

University of Arizona in Tucson

COLORADO: University of Northern Colorado in Fort Collins

University of Colorado at Boulder

University of Colorado, Denver (also the library for Community College of Denver and Metropolitan State University)

Colorado School of Mines in Golden

IDAHO: Boise State University in Boise

Idaho State University in Pocatello

University of Idaho in Moscow

MONTANA: University of Montana in Missoula

Montana State University in Bozeman

NEVADA: University of Nevada, Las Vegas

University of Nevada, Reno

NEW MEXICO:

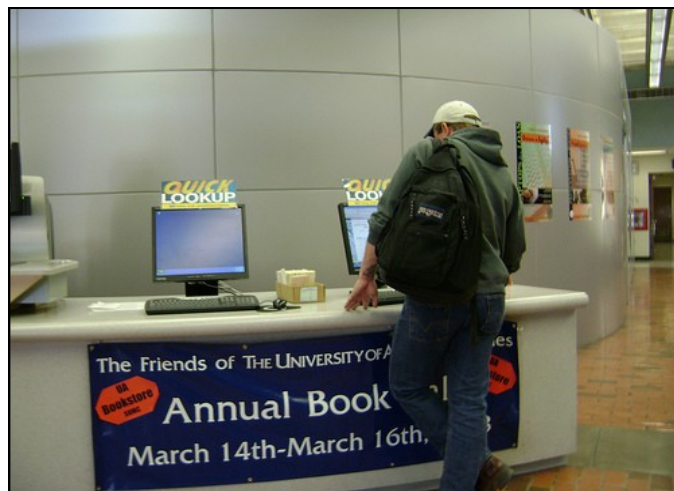
New Mexico State University in Las Cruces

University of New Mexico in Albuquerque

UTAH: Utah State University in Logan

Utah Valley University in Orem

University of Utah in Salt Lake City



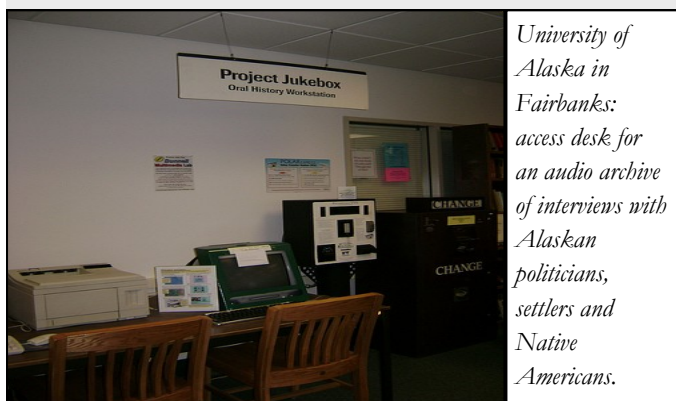
A do-it-yourself check-out desk, University of Arizona in Tucson

Five most often used databases:

January—June 2008

(does not include Health Sciences)

General Databases	Total Searches
Academic Search Complete	83,498
Web of Science	13,681
ERIC	11,447
Education Research Complete	10,739
MLA International Bibliography	10,295



University of Alaska in Fairbanks: access desk for an audio archive of interviews with Alaskan politicians, settlers and Native Americans.

Marilynne Robinson featured at The Big Read

The Big Read came to Pocatello and the Oboler Library in October. The National Endowment for the Arts program provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. For Pocatello, the book selected was *Housekeeping*.

The kick-off event, featuring Marilynne Robinson, author of *Housekeeping* (and also *Gilead* and *Home*), was held Saturday, Oct. 4, in the Jensen Grand Concert Hall of the Stephens Performing Arts Center. Oboler Library hosted a book signing with the author that day at the library.

Free copies of Robinson's book were given upon request at Don Aslett's Cleaning Center and Oboler Library.



Librarians put on a show

With so many distractions and changes in society, it seems that libraries need to market them-

theme "Granting your information wishes," were printed with pointers for finding library materials and were distributed at these events. To fit this

best place to be seen by others, the best place to eat. During the street party, the Library genie put on quite a performance, including a monologue about the Library which an *Idaho State Journal* reporter captured on his digital camera. This video appeared on the *Idaho State Journal's* Web site that same night. As the night progressed and it became darker, more people came to the table to request a flashing star. They proved to be a hit, and everyone went away knowing the pen and star came from a Library that wants to help them succeed in their academic endeavors here at ISU.



HOMECOMING PARADE

"Library Information Genie Grants Wish" Spencer Jardine, Coordinator of Library Instruction, dressed in a genie costume to spread the word that wishes for information can be granted at the Library, and, hopefully, at the Homecoming game! Grandchildren of one of the library employees throw candy to the lively crowd.



selves more proactively to remind students that there is more to information gathering than Google. Student tuition and state funds pay for library services and resources. For students to get the best return from their investment librarians must act as catalysts to their learning.

Librarians participated in several Week of Welcome activities ranging from the Get Connected at the White Tent event to the street party. Flyers, with the

theme, one of the librarians dressed up as a genie to attract attention.

Students on campus also had the opportunity to go on a free Library tour and receive a pen with the Library URL on it. Several students took advantage of this opportunity to discover a few library secrets: the best places to study, the location of the study rooms, the



Ruiling Guo, Health Sciences Librarian, dressed up as a magician, complete with cape and black top hat, for the Idaho Health Sciences Library display at the White Tent Event. She passed out poker cards with stickers that included IHSL's contact information. Unfortunately, she had no white bunnies.

Halloween (and mid-term) messages to students from librarians—

"Don't let your grades be buried with good intentions."

"Here lie my grades, may they rest in peace."

"Midterms are scarier in college than high school."



James Teliha Associate University Librarian for Public Services



In mid-June, Jim Teliha joined the Oboler Library faculty as associate university librarian for public services. Prior to coming to

ISU, Jim served as the head of access services for the University of Rhode Island and the access services librarian of the Oregon Institute of Technology. He received his MLIS degree from the University of Oklahoma, and also has an MA in U.S. History and a BA in History and Political Science from the University of Colorado.

Jim grew up in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, and though he misses the Red Sox, he is happy to be back in the West, where people actually pronounce the letter “r.” Away from the office, Jim and his wife love travelling, and have been on every continent.

Regina Koury Electronic Resources/ Reference Librarian

In September, Regina Koury filled the position of electronic resources/reference librarian.

Previously, she held positions at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California

as an electronic resources assistant and as a library supervisor for Interlibrary Loan Borrowing and Public Services.



Regina received her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and her BA in teaching foreign languages from the Tomsk State Pedagogical University in Tomsk, Russia (Siberia).

She was born in Tomsk, Russia, but describes herself as a “military brat,” living all over the world, including the Ukraine, Hungary, and countries in the Far East. Coming to the United States almost 12 years ago was, and still is, a great experience. In her free time she enjoys reading, trying new foods, camping and fishing.

Shannon Shrum Library Assistant I Circulation Department

Over the July fourth weekend, Shannon Shrum relocated to Pocatello to work at Oboler Library as a library assistant in the Circulation Department and to marry her high school sweetheart.

Shannon was born in Pocatello, but raised “everywhere as a military brat.” She returned to Pocatello and enrolled in the same high school that both of her parents attended: Pocatello High School. She took some ISU classes and worked as a legal secretary until she began working as a circulation assistant for Marshall Public Library, where she found her calling. After a move to Boise in 2001, Shannon began working for the Garden City Library, and three years later became the circulation manager.



An academic setting is a new challenge for her, and she’s happy to be here. In her free time she enjoys family, camping, four-wheeling, boating, fishing, and playing with her pug, Buffy.

Oboler Library’s ongoing book sale!

This sale started in October and will go through the remainder of the academic year. Items offered for sale are available in the New Books area of the first floor and will be replenished as needed. Books cost \$1 for hardbacks and 50 cents for paperbacks—just pay for them at the Circulation Desk.

So come by, have a look, and stop by regularly to see the new items that have been added. This will be a great way to stock up on reading for school breaks and to add to your home book collection.



IDAHO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 2008 — Idaho Falls



Chair of this year's ILA Annual Conference, Cathy Gray, ISU-Idaho Falls librarian, chats with colleague during a break in the program.



Marcia Francis, Director of ISU's Health Sciences Library, highlights free quality health information resources for the public.

Beth Downing, Government Documents, Jim Teliba, Public Services, Regina Koury, Electronic Resources, and Cheryl Sebold, Collection & Development enjoy a visit over lunch.



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