In an era of critical budget cuts in higher education, many academic institutions have inevitably begun to require their libraries to do more with less. Because academic libraries stand in the gap between the researcher and information resources, librarians are forced to be creative or disappoint their constituents. Smaller budgets coupled with an alarming rise in journal costs alone over the past few years have created a tremendous amount of pressure to keep information flowing to our patrons who continue to expect it.

One possible answer to this dilemma may well be found in one growing trend of digital archiving called “Institutional Repositories.” This system is purported to have originated from OAI (Open Archives Initiative) as long as a decade ago, and has generated considerable interest from academic institutions throughout the world. Simply put, an Institutional Repository serves as an online venue for faculty to share their research within and outside their university. And in a digital age where online access for researchers continues to thrive and grow, the potential for this particular venue has yet to hit its stride.

Institutional Repositories have gained popularity based on their principle of “Open Access” which generally translates to FREE access. These days, the term “free” quickly attracts attention from librarians. Therefore, I have decided to share this idea for consideration by those who are seeking alternatives to the traditional system of paying for sources they need no matter what the cost.

Although they provide free access, institutional repositories still require an initial investment of staff, equipment, and software. Therefore, I highly recommend performing a cost analysis before committing to this project. In her article, “Institutional Repositories: Keys to Success,” Joan Giesecke suggests increasing full-time staff by two or three people. One must also evaluate equipment and software needed for digitization, storage, and maintenance of files for the repository. Open source software is free, but usually requires a programmer to customize it for your repository. Proprietary software poses an upfront cost for a library, but generally requires less expense thereafter. Consider looking up the Registry for Open Access Repositories to find out what software various repositories around the world are using: http://roar.eprints.org. You may notice that most organizations use DSpace. One possible explanation for its popularity could lie in the fact that DSpace was developed prior to most other archiving software. It could also be a result of its free cost and relative ease of use. In any event, perusing this registry could prove valuable in choosing software that fits your institution.

Setting up an institutional repository for your university does indeed require some homework on your part. But, in the long term, I believe this system has the potential to deliver information resources at a cost savings that your university will appreciate. For further reading on this topic:


Section News

The Academic Section of the Louisiana Library Association annually presents the Outstanding Academic Librarian Award to publicly recognize an individual who has made an especially significant contribution to further the development of academic libraries/librarians/librarianship within Louisiana.

Evaluation Criteria are:
1. Participates actively in professional activities which enrich the ability of academic librarians to enhance library usage.
2. Conducts research which enriches the ability of library users to more fully utilize current information resources and technology and shares this research with other Louisiana academic librarians. This can be demonstrated either through publication or through public presentations.
3. Serves as a model for other librarians or potential librarians who can help further the impact of Louisiana academic libraries on the education and/or livelihood of Louisiana's students and residents.

Award guidelines are posted at the LLA webpage: http://www.llaonline.org/fp/files/forms/oal.pdf

1. Each nominee shall have ONE letter of nomination from the nominator. Also, the nominator shall solicit the nominee’s most recent curriculum vitae.
2. The nominator shall also solicit up to TWO additional letters of nomination (for a total of THREE letters) from librarians who are familiar with the nominee’s work. The librarians need not be from the same institution as the nominee. All nomination letters should attest to the qualities and/or works of the nominee, and make a convincing argument for his/her nomination.
3. By making a nomination, the nominator accepts the following responsibilities:
   a. To solicit the nominee’s most recent CV, either from the nominee or his/her supervisor
   b. To write ONE letter of nomination for the nominee
   c. To solicit an additional TWO letters of nomination from librarians familiar with the nominee’s work for a total of THREE letters.
   d. To assemble all of these materials into a PDF or Word document and submit this document to the chair of the committee no later than December 2, 2013 Monday (deadline).

Nomination letters, CVs, and questions should be directed to Melinda Matthews, Chair of the Outstanding Academic Librarian Award Committee at matthews@ulm.edu, 318.342.1067 (office), 318.342.1075 (fax).

Library news from around the state

Centenary College

Centenary alum Jordan Ring and Kristi Kohl, Librarian, won a Muses grant in the Fall of 2012 to frame inspirational posters and enlarged module photographs. Not only do the images beautify the library’s walls, the photographs encourage viewers to explore other cultures and embrace diversity.

In the Fall of 2012, Magale Library received a $50,000 grant from the Noel Foundation in support of the Promotion of Education in Northwest Louisiana.

In the Spring of 2013, the Library won a $4600 grant from the Women’s Endowment Quorum to update the technology in the library’s screening room.


Library news from around the state

Louisiana State University

Jessica Lacher-Feldman is the new Head of Special Collections at the Hill Memorial Library. Jessica came to LSU from The University of Alabama where she worked for thirteen years as Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections and Public and Outreach Services Coordinator at the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library.

Emily Frank is the new Engineering and Instructional Technologies Librarian. She came to LSU after completing an International Master's degree in Digital Library Learning.

Marty Miller is the new Art and Design Librarian. Before coming to LSU, she spent twelve years in the Metropolitan Community College-Longview campus library as a reference librarian. She has also worked at the Murphy Art and Architecture Library at the University of Kansas, the media center at St. Teresa's Academy, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's Spencer Art Research Library and Archives.

Sigrid Kelsey was named Director of Library Communications and Publications. Previously, she was Electronic Reference Resources and Web Development Coordinator. She was a panelist for the annual mentoring program sponsored by the Louisiana Library Association Diversity Interest Group and the LSU School of Library and Information Science. Kelsey was appointed to the Catholic Library Association (CLA) Membership and Publicity Committee through April 2015 and she was appointed to the Praeger ABC-CLIO Library Advisory Board, on the Religion Team, for an additional term in 2013-2014.

EXHIBITS

“Saturday Night in Tiger Stadium: Reflections on 120 Years of LSU Football” is in the Hill Memorial Library Lecture Hall from September 23 - December 21, 2013. This exhibit showcases the players, games, facilities, and culture that have made Tigers football the spectacle it has become. The exhibition celebrates 120 years of LSU Tigers football and the 25th anniversary of the LSU-Auburn “Earthquake Game” in 1988. To read more about it, visit: http://exhibitions.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/?page_id=798#Saturday.

Louisiana State University Alexandria

Rusty Gaspard is serving on the EBSCO Usage Consolidation Task Force. They discussed their findings at the LUC conference in October.

McNeese State University

The Frazar Memorial Library received two TASC (Technology Advancement Student Committee) grants in excess of $50,000 to obtain a KIC Click scanner from the Digital Library Systems Group and more than 400 e-books from EBSCO.
Library news from around the state

Louisiana State University Health Shreveport

Will Olmstadt is the new Associate Director of the Health Sciences Library. He was previously at Becker Medical Library at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. In addition to his graduate library degree, he has a master’s degree in public health, and he is a distinguished member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals.

David Duggar, was promoted to Librarian/Professor, and Montié Dobbins and Deidra Woodson were both promoted to Assistant Librarian/Assistant Professor.

Library Director Dixie Jones, was recently installed as president of the Medical Library Association (MLA) at its annual meeting. She is the first librarian from LSU Health Shreveport to serve as MLA President, and only the second one ever from Louisiana. (A librarian from LSU Health New Orleans was president in 1952.) As president, she will lead an organization of more than 4000 health sciences information professionals. Her duties will include presiding over the Board of Directors, working with the National Program Committee to plan the 2014 conference, and speaking at regional conferences all over the country.

Montié Dobbins, Head of User Access Services, was recently elected as an Alternate to the Medical Library Association’s Chapter Council. Montié was elected by the members of the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association. She will attend Chapter Council meetings as a representative on behalf of the South Central region. The Chapter Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Medical Library Association’s Board of Directors and promotes interchange between regional chapters. Montié will take office at the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in May 2014, and she will serve for three years.

The July 2013 issue of the Journal of the Medical Library Association includes three articles by LSU library faculty. The issue features the article “The Effect of a Clinical Medical Librarian on In-patient Care Outcomes” by Julia M. Esparza, Clinical Medical Librarian, along with co-authors Dr. Runhua Shi and Dr. Jerry McLarty from the Department of Medicine; Marianne Comegys, Director of Community Relations; and former faculty member Dr. Daniel Banks. A biographical profile of Library Director Dixie A. Jones, who is currently serving as MLA president, was written by Betty Tucker, Collection Management Librarian, and the issue also includes Dixie Jones’ review of the book Staff Development on a Shoestring: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians.

Deidra Woodson, Metadata & Digitization Librarian; Dec Jones, Head of Cataloging; and Donna Timm, Head of Education & Outreach, were awarded first place for best research poster at the 2013 Medical Library Association (MLA) Annual Meeting. Their poster, “Playing Online Interactive Games for Health Education: Evaluating Their Effectiveness,” describes their research on health-related online games for children. The poster was selected for the award by MLA’s Research Section from among 162 research posters.

Kimberly Pullen, Head Liaison Librarian, published “The Role of the Librarian and Allied Health Professional in a Third-Year Pediatric Clerkship Journal Club” in the current issue of Journal of Hospital Librarianship. The article describes her collaboration with a pediatric hospitalist and an allied health professor for the Pediatric Junior Clerkship Journal Club. These weekly journal sessions are part of the third-year medical students’ clinical rotation in pediatrics. Mrs. Pullen’s co-facilitators of the course and co-authors of the article are Dennis R. Wissing, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Allied Health Professionals, and Marlene M. Broussard, M.D., Department of Pediatrics.

David Duggar, Reference Librarian/Principal Investigator; Montié Dobbins, Head of User Access Services; Taliicia Tarver, Digital & Information Services Librarian; and Charles Tudor, Systems Librarian, received the Disaster Preparedness Award from the regional office of the National Library of Medicine. The Federal funds associated with this competitive award will enable the Library to educate area citizens about disaster preparedness. Through a partnership with Shreve Memorial Library, Bossier Parish Libraries, Northwestern State University Shreveport Nursing Library, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee of the Caddo-Bossier Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, programs on emergency planning for disasters will be offered for the community at the public libraries. Library faculty will instruct program attendees on the emergency preparedness information that is available free from the National Library of Medicine.

The Library recently received an Electronic Consumer Health Outreach Award from the regional office of the National Library of Medicine. The Federal funds associated with this competitive award will fund the project “Do I Need to Worry? Mental and Developmental Checklists for Parents.” Julia Esparza, Clinical Medical Librarian, will serve as primary investigator and project director. She is partnering with Rita Horton, M.D., Chair of the Psychiatry Department; Pamela Kimbrough, M.Ed., Director of the Children’s Center; and Barzanna White, Ph.D., District School Psychologist with Caddo Parish Schools. They will collaborate on the development of interactive electronic guides for parents’ use in determining if their child is failing developmental milestones or if the child’s behavior may require evaluation by a physician or psychiatric professional. A highlight of the project will be a symposium in spring 2014 to educate physicians, other clinicians, and educators on the developmental milestones and behavioral issues of children in grades K-12, the mental and developmental checklists, and the importance of early intervention.
Library news from around the state

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Two librarians started work at Dupré Library this summer.

Allison F. Gallaspy is Head of E-Resources and Serials Management. She completed her Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of Pittsburgh and also holds a B.A. in History from Tulane University. Allison previously worked at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, the Turchin Business Library within the A.B. Freeman School of Business, and she held internships with Penn State University Libraries and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. She is a member of ALA and the Association for Information Science & Technology.

Jeremiah Paschke-Wood is Instructional Services Librarian. Jeremiah holds a Master of Arts in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Eastern New Mexico University. He is a New Mexico native. Prior to joining Dupré Library, Jeremiah was a Research Assistant at Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives in Prescott, Arizona, and he served as the Northern Arizona Public Relations Representative and Student Chapter President for the Special Libraries Association. Photos provided by Dupré Library

University of New Orleans

At the Society of American Archivists conference in New Orleans, Florence M. Jumonville, Louisiana and Special Collections Librarian, participated in a panel discussion sponsored by the SAA’s Oral History Section. Florence’s presentation was entitled “Oral History by Proxy; or, When You Can’t Do It Yourself.”

Sharon Mader, Dean, attended the IFLA (International Federation for Library Associations and Institutions) World Library and Information Congress in Singapore August 15-23. She was elected Chair of the Information Literacy Standing Committee for the term 2013-2015. She also presented a paper entitled “Institutional Repositories as a Vehicle for Transforming Students to Scholars” at the Institutional Repository Day at Singapore Management University.
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Cajundome Convention Center
Lafayette, Louisiana

March 26-28, 2014