Exploiting the Resources of the Library While Developing a General Studies Class

As the library faculty primarily teach single sessions of other faculty members’ classes for the sake of imparting information literacy to Stockton students, when we do turn our attention to developing a class of our own, it can be a surprisingly eye-opening experience. I have had that reaction over the last year as I developed the class I am currently giving on the history of German cinema, GAH-3256. While tools have been a premium resource: primarily Camtasia and Microsoft’s Movie Maker for the sake of rendering video clips to show as a basis for class discussion, library resources on a more basic level have been essential to my development of the course. I would divide these into three areas: the library’s film collection, the materials available in the Bjork Library collection and the outstanding service provided by Interlibrary Loan.

Film:
Thanks largely to the efforts of Bill Bearden, Associate Director for Technical Services, the Bjork Library possesses an excellent collection of the core films one would wish to draw on in developing such a course. With the ability to render the DVDs for streaming through Blackboard, it is possible to construct an excellent sequence of films to examine with the students of the class and to allow for initial viewing outside of class at the convenience of the individual students as far as the time they choose to watch the films.

Our Print Collection:
Similarly, in a sense, the course materials were already on hand and merely waiting for someone to gather them together. The Bjork Library has an excellent collection of monographs on German cinema such as Siegfried Kracauer’s classic From Caligari to Hitler: A Psychological History of the German Film. In the same way, our journal research tools have allowed me to rapidly track down full-text scholarly articles encountered in the footnotes of our core text [Stephen Brockmann’s A Critical History of German Film (2010)].

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LIBRARIAN HEADS UP NEW JOINT ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

A joint professional organization, The Association of College & Research Libraries New Jersey Chapter (ACRL-NJ) and New Jersey Library Association College & University Section (NJLA CUS), recently added a new committee to its roster — with a Stockton librarian at the helm. Eric Jeitner, Bjork Library’s User Experience Librarian, is the chair of the newly-formed Assessment Committee.

The Assessment Committee, formerly within the Virtual Academic Library Environment of NJ (VALE NJ), promotes discussion and information sharing among ACRL-NJ and NJLA CUS members on assessment, evaluation, and statistics collection/analysis. It also identifies best practices in quantitative and qualitative assessment methodologies for libraries, as well as fostering professional development through programs and events.

Assessment is crucial to library success, and librarians who analyze service desk transactions or review patron responses or anecdotes do so to gauge the effectiveness of services and whether to implement changes. The Assessment Committee aims to be an environment in which these topics can be discussed and appreciated in a collegial manner. One of the first tasks facing the committee will be to co-host a summer event with the ACRL-NJ/NJLA CUS User Education Committee.

-Eric Jeitner, User Experience Librarian

ON THE NATIONAL STAGE:

Eric Jeitner presented a poster entitled “From the Doldrums to a Flutter of Wind: Reassessing the Sound of Silence in the Library” at the Association of College & Research Libraries national conference in Baltimore in March. The poster was created by Eric Jeitner and Christy Goodnight.
STOCKTON LIBRARIANS GO GLOBAL:
Kerry Chang FitzGibbon, Periodicals Librarian, and Eric Jeitner, User Experience Librarian, have been selected to present their poster “Using Assessment to Reclaim and Transform Library Space” at the 9th International Evidence Based Library & Information Practice Conference (EBLIP) to be held on June 18-21, 2017, at Drexel University. EBLIP is a biannual international conference which “aims to bring together librarians, researchers, and practitioners to discuss evidence-based practice in libraries, present research, and share best practices.”

Space is a universal concern for many libraries. Bjork Library was last renovated in 1994 when enrollment was less than 5,000. Today, with 4,000 more students, we are faced with multiple challenges: print collections with no room to grow; study rooms turned into faculty offices; and an expanded curriculum to serve. Our poster illustrates how four library assessment projects provided the basis for reclaiming and repurposing library space. A former periodicals room was converted into a Learning Commons which offers IT help and tutoring services is equipped with computers, scanners, and modular tables/chairs. The reference room was turned into a quiet study zone for students who want to work in peace. Daily statistics confirm that the Learning Commons is the busiest place in our library, an area that facilitates learning.

-Kerry Chang FitzGibbon, Periodicals Librarian

Exploiting the Resources of the Library While Developing a General Studies Class, continued:

Interlibrary Loan:
Although our own holdings are surprisingly extensive, it is inevitable that there will be gaps, especially when working with foreign language materials. However, just to take one example, while digging deeper into writings regarding cinematic developments in the period after German unification in 1990, I placed 8 ILL requests on Friday: 3 articles, 3 books, and 2 book chapters. The three articles were all received in the course of Monday. Throughout the semester, I’ve requested a large number of relatively obscure works, yet the ILL staff, consisting of Susan Bucikowski and Lisa DiSciaccio, has come through every single time. If only the rest of life could be like this!

So, in sum, my experience in building this course from materials available from the Bjork library has been utterly positive: I am awash in a sea of resources.

-David Lechner, Distance Education Librarian/Assistant Professor in the Library

Bring Your Child to Work Day 2017 in the Library:
Over thirty 5-7 year old children came to the library for storytelling and crafts. Staff members Nicole Barnabei and Susan Kidd read stories to the children and then led them in a craft on Thursday, April 27th in the Library’s Information Commons.
NEW DATABASE: OPEN TEXTBOOK LIBRARY

Ever wish you could reduce the cost of textbooks for your students? But where to start? The e-books in Open Textbook Library can be used for free. They currently have over 300 titles in fourteen subject areas. The library has a link to Open Textbook Library. Click on the book covers to see the e-textbooks.

Features:

• textbooks can be read online or downloaded
• textbooks are vetted by faculty or scholarly societies
• many of the textbooks have reviews written by faculty
• material can be copied and redistributed in any medium

Read the fine print for the license details: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/Comments?

Please contact Patricia Fazio, patricia.fazio@stockton.edu, in the library.

TRIAL DATABASE & TRAINING SESSION: HEIN ONLINE

HeinOnline is the world’s largest fully searchable, image-based government document and legal research database. It contains comprehensive coverage from inception of both U.S. statutory materials and more than 2,300 scholarly journals, all of the world’s constitutions, all U.S. treaties, collections of classic treatises and presidential documents, and access to the full text of state and federal case law powered by Fastcase. Check out Searching 101 or Getting Started in HeinOnline for quick beginner tutorials.

FREE WEBINAR TRAINING SESSION at the Stockton’s Richard E. Bjork Library on Wednesday, May 24th at 3pm in E-221—ALL ARE WELCOME to attend!

This trial will expire on September 1st. We would like your input on HeinOnline, especially with how you feels it compares to LexisNexis Academic and Thomson Reuters WestLaw.

Please contact Patricia Fazio, patricia.fazio@stockton.edu, or Christy Goodnight, christy.goodnight@stockton.edu, in the library with feedback on this database.

Library Summer Hours start May 15th

Open Mondays through Thursdays 8am-10pm
Closed Fridays/Saturdays/Sundays
Also Closed Monday, May 29th for Memorial Day
and Tuesday, July 4th for Independence Day
ARTICLE BY STOCKTON LIBRARIANS:

Kerry Chang-FitzGibbon, Periodicals Librarian, and Jianrong Wang, Head Cataloger at Stockton’s Richard E. Bjork Library have published an article in the latest issue of the peer-reviewed journal, *Technical Services Quarterly*. “In the Spotlight: Technical Services Professionals in Library-Wide Assessment” was originally a poster presentation at the 2016 ALA Conference in Orlando, Florida. The Editor-in-Chief from *Technical Services Quarterly* felt that the information provided in the poster was important to the library community. He consequently wrote to invite our librarians to convert their poster session into an article for publication.

The article is about how the technical services librarians played a role in Stockton’s library-wide assessments. Assessment has become a necessity for academic libraries. Public services librarians participate in assessment activities, and these have been widely documented in library literature. However, it is not the case with technical services professionals. Technical services librarians who play a role in library-wide assessments are not widely reported. Although the line between public services and technical services has been blurred, the functions of technical services still exist and remain indispensable. Therefore, it is essential for technical services librarians to contribute to assessment, offering their insights to enhance their library services and demonstrate its value. This article highlights technical services professionals’ roles in library-wide assessments at Stockton Library, how they collaborated with public services librarians and started the first assessment project. It went on to describe other projects, such as the Library Five-Year Program Review and other departmental assessment projects. There were challenges, such as lack of time, experience, knowledge of statistical analysis, etc. At the same time, they also reaped the rewards of success: initiated a culture of assessment, conducted various assessment activities, facilitated a culture of collaboration between the two departments, and increased in scholarly activities. Rather than work behind the scene, technical services librarians step forward and work alongside their peers from public services.

The technical services unit plays a vital role in a library’s operations, and the professionals in the unit are indispensable in supporting the goals of the library. It is our hope that other technical services professionals can facilitate assessments which are necessary for their units or departments. Be an advocate for, and further the role of technical services professionals in library-wide assessments.


-Kerry Chang FitzGibbon, Periodicals Librarian

DEMYSTIFYING BUSINESS FOR NEW LIBRARIANS:

Thursday, April 6th Christy Goodnight, Outreach Librarian, who has been a business librarian for fifteen years, presented at the ACRL-NJ/NJLA CUS Reference Services Committee’s workshop for new reference librarians held at the Alexander Library at Rutgers University. Cara Berg of William Paterson University did a similar presentation discussing other business reference databases and tools so new librarians came away with a good baseline from which to start with when they have business related questions.
STOCKTON LIBRARIANS WRITING & RESEARCHING ABOUT QUIET SPACES IN YOUR LIBRARY:

Eric Jeitner, Assessment Librarian, and Christy Goodnight, Outreach Librarian, published a book chapter entitled Sending Out an SOS: Being Mindful of Students’ Need for Quiet Study Spaces which came out this past January. This chapter is in the book The Future of Library Space and is part of the series Advances in Library Administration and Organization published by Emerald Publishing and can be found here: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/full/10.1108/S0732-067120160000036010.

The idea for this book chapter came out of comments we received on our last LibQual survey from many students that requested more quiet study space. We expanded the quiet study zones in the library to encompass almost half of the main floor as well as the entire upper and lower floors. The fact that it was the students requesting this change made us realize that we had to essentially “go back to our roots” by re-introducing quiet into the library.

Following this publication, we then each had students come to us because he or she felt the quiet study areas were too quiet! This input from students is what prompted our research project in which we made maps of the main library quiet study spaces, broke those spaces into zones or sections, and introduced a white noise machine into quiet study section A at the beginning of the Fall semester last year and have been moving it around since then. We are still collecting data on this project at this time and plan to complete data collection by the end of the Spring semester. Then we plan on compiling the data to see what our complete results are and whether or not students are drawn to the white noise in the quiet study areas or if it, in fact, repels them.

At the recent ACRL conference in Baltimore, Eric presented our poster entitled “From the Doldrums to a Flutter of Wind: Reassessing the Sound of Silence in the Library.” This poster explained the recent study we are doing involving low-level, ambient “white noise” sound zones and the data collected up to that point. We were able to show when comparing the same early weeks of Fall and Spring semesters, that students were more likely to choose a seat in the section of the first floor that contained the ambient noise generator than they were to sit in the section which was silent.

In fact, our data shows that over the course of the Fall 2016 semester, students were on average 10.2% more likely to sit in Section A where the generator was located. Conversely, during the Spring 2017 semester, students were on average 5.1% more likely to sit in Section B where the generator was located then. Section AB, the middle ground on the main floor between sections A and B where one could not hear the noise generator from either zones A or B, had no significant change from one timeframe to the other. Therefore, at this point in our study, evidence indicates that a higher concentration of students are more likely to sit in the library study areas that have low-level ambient noise available in them. We plan on publishing our findings once our study is complete.

(A similar version of this article was first published in the Spring 2017 CUS/ACRL-NJ Newsletter.)
EXHIBITS:

**May 15th—July 31st:**
“How Long Must Women Wait for Liberty: The Occoquan Incident” by Taylor Braun, Stockton 2017. It has been less than a century since the passage of the 19th Amendment "granting" women the right to vote, and so quickly, the fight of these brave suffragists has been wiped from the collective American consciousness. This exhibit explores the causes and effects of their imprisonment in the Occoquan Workhouse and the pivotal Night of Terror as it relates to American women’s suffrage, and the face of gender equality today.

**July 31st-Sept. 29th:**
*TBD*

For further information or scheduling an exhibit or display, contact Christy Goodnight, Outreach Librarian, Exhibits and Displays Team Leader at ex. 5502 or via email.

LIBRARY EXHIBITS:

The acclaimed exhibit “A Time for Change: Civil Rights in South Jersey” stayed in the library until January 27th when it was moved to the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey.

From January 30th through February 23rd, the library held the exhibit “Stockton’s Hellenic Voice: Remembering Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos.” Professor Constantelos was one of the founding faculty members here at Stockton and a leading scholar in Byzantine and Hellenic Studies. The Library’s Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room is named in honor of him.

The library is currently hosting the exhibit “Commemorating Controversy: The Dakota-U.S. War of 1812” on display as part of Genocide Awareness Month. This exhibit is sponsored through the support and partnership of various entities here at Stockton with special thanks to the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center and Dr. Elizabeth Baer, Ida E. King Distinguished Visiting Professor of Holocaust Studies, who helped bring this exhibit to Stockton.

This exhibit focuses on the Dakota War of 1862 which lasted six weeks and ended with the hanging of 38 Dakota men. It was the largest execution in the history of the nation. This exhibit also explores the treatment of the local Lenape tribe of New Jersey as part of the cultural background of the Native Dakota Tribe.

(The library would also like to thank Sarah Albertson for all her help in organizing this exhibit along with Nicole Ponzo, Stephanie Rahinsky, and Kaylynn Schwab who wrote the exhibit overview brochure.)