Welcome to the Fall 2018 issue of the University Libraries’ newsletter! I am happy to share with you the exciting programs, events, and other happenings in the Libraries since summer. In this issue, you will read about many of the events that the Libraries sponsored to welcome students and faculty back to campus. You will also learn about some of our outstanding students and visitors, and the many accomplishments of our staff. The Libraries’ hired a new Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistant, Pradipta Pariyal, who will help us learn about faculty needs and interests in digital scholarship. The Libraries also hosted two information studies students from National Taiwan University for a five-week, intensive, field experience. Our Student Advisory Board got off to a great start, sharing their opinions and providing feedback on library facilities and services. The Libraries welcomed students back to campus with welcome events at the University Library and Dewey Graduate Library. Please read on to learn more about our amazing staff and services.

Pradipta Pariyal, who is pursuing a Master’s degree in Computer Science, has been awarded the 2018/2019 Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistantship. The assistantship provides a graduate student with tuition support as well as professional experience working in an academic library. Anna Radkowski-Lee was the University Libraries’ Personnel Officer for 11 years. The assistantship was established by her brother, Roman Grygorcewicz, to honor her memory.

Pariyal will be working with library faculty to further establish digital scholarship services and initiatives in the University Libraries. A major responsibility will involve conducting an environmental scan of the University at Albany to determine what digital scholarship services are currently being offered as well as what digital scholarship needs the Libraries might be able to fulfill.
Digital scholarship encompasses new research methodologies such as text mining, data visualization, geographic information systems, and digital audio and video representations of data. These technologies provide exciting new ways to assess and present data. The University Libraries are looking forward to enhancing the digital scholarship services they provide to the UAlbany community.

**Student Advisory Board**

**Student Advisory Board Meets**
*Kelsey O’Brien*  
*Information Literacy Librarian*

The Student Advisory Board had its first meeting of the 2018-19 academic year on October 5, 2018. The Board was established in 2012 to advise the University Libraries on student services, and meets twice each semester. Co-Chairs Camille Chesley, Lauren Puzier, and Kelsey O’Brien invited students to share their feedback on the Libraries’ spaces and services. The Board includes both graduate and undergraduate students from many disciplines. The Libraries’ Director of Finance & Administration, Peter Recore-Migirditch, led a discussion on recent renovations to the University Library’s Periodicals Room, which included the removal of walls, painting, recarpeting, and the installation of new furniture. Tyler Norton, the Libraries’ Student Success and Communications Associate discussed the Libraries’ social media presence with the Board. The Libraries maintain accounts on Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Spotify, Instagram, and Pinterest to communicate with students and others. Finally, Outreach & Marketing Librarian Amanda Lowe sought input on a new Library Ambassadors program, which will provide an opportunity for students to promote and help plan library events.
This August, the University Libraries hosted two students from National Taiwan University (NTU) seeking to learn how a large American research library operates. The students, Cheng-Wei Lin (far left) and Yu-En Jung (second from left) spent the entire month working with library staff to gain a better understanding of how the UAlbany Libraries support teaching, learning, and research. This is the second year in a row the University Libraries have hosted students from NTU for hands-on learning. Rebecca Mugridge, Dean of University Libraries, is shown (second from right) accepting the students’ thoughtful gifts while their mentor, Yu-Hui Chen, PhD, Subject Librarian for Education and East Asian Studies (far right), looks on.
Library Events

Dewey Library Welcomes Students

By Tyler Norton
Student Success and Communications Associate

As students and faculty bustled past the Husted café on the afternoon of September 11, they paused not just at the thought of coffee, but also to learn about library resources and services at the semi-annual Dewey Graduate Library Welcome Back event.

For three hours that afternoon, Dewey Graduate Library faculty and staff hosted a table to greet the University at Albany community. In total, 178 people—mainly students—visited the table. “I always have fun meeting students and faculty at the Dewey Welcome Back event,” says Lauren Puzier, User Experience Librarian. “This year we handed out librarian Bitmoji [cartoonish self-portraits] business cards so that graduate students could connect with their subject librarian.”

Students came prepared with plenty of questions. Popular topics included what software was on the Libraries’ computers, how to place an electronic interlibrary loan request, and reference questions on how to access specific articles online. The fall 2018 iLearn workshops schedule also proved of interest to visitors. “We all look forward to reconnecting with students and faculty after the summer,” said Catherine Dwyer, Director of Scholarly Communication and Head, Dewey Graduate Library, as she staffed the table. “The Welcome Back event is one of our early opportunities to make the downtown campus community aware of all the great services available at the Dewey Graduate Library.”

The Dewey Graduate Library Welcome Back event takes place each semester, typically in September and February; it has grown considerably since its launch in 2015.

Librarians Carol Anne Germain, (left), Lauren Puzier (center), and Angela Hackstadt (right) reached out to the downtown UAlbany community this past September.
Constitution and Citizenship Day at the Libraries

By Karina Ricker
Reference & Government Information Librarian

The Libraries celebrated Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on September 17th. We gave away close to 200 pocket constitutions, and students completed word puzzles to enter a raffle for red, white, and blue Tootsie Rolls. We also displayed unique materials from our Federal Depository Library Program collection, including citizenship study guides and kits, and vocabulary and civics flash cards. More than one student-citizen was impressed to discover how much a potential citizen needs to study in preparation for the citizenship test. These and other items in the Federal Depository Library Program collection are available to borrow, and members of the public without borrowing privileges may use them in the University Library.

Can You Hear Me Now? Audio Preservation with George Blood

By Karen Kiorpes
Head, Preservation Department

On October 28, 2018, almost 40 cultural professionals representing institutions large and small gathered at the Science Library to learn how to care for and preserve valued audio collections from one of the nation’s best, George Blood.

George Blood, company president and founder of George Blood LP in Philadelphia, PA, was lively, full of fun, yet still dead serious about the problems of deteriorating audio formats. His approach to addressing issues started with common sense, reminding us that much of what we know about traditional preservation in libraries and archives (e.g., control the environment, store things properly, handle them carefully) also applies to sound collections. With sound collections, however, it’s not the carrier as much as the content that we need to preserve. Mr. Blood did a review of ISO 18933, Imaging materials – Magnetic tape – Care and handling practices for extended usage, a seven point guide to identifying problems with media collections. Mr. Blood’s slides and clear
explanations of what we were looking at were very engaging, as were his interesting stories about collections he’s seen over his years in the field. After this examination of physical damage we moved into best standards and practices for digitization to ensure long-term access.

The last two sessions of the program focused on data – surveys and studies of audio (and video) collections that demonstrate that the cost of reformatting these types of collections is increasing, due to advancing deterioration as well as a lack of playback equipment. This set the stage for assisting attendees with prioritizing holdings and selecting those that are most at risk. Mr. Blood did an excellent job of answering audience questions, from those with just a few unknowns to others caring for extensive holdings. There was much interest in knowing more about recognizing signs of decay. We wrapped up with studying Mr. Blood’s proposal boilerplate and discussing what you can expect when working with a vendor.

This half-day program, organized by the University Libraries’ Preservation Department and co-sponsored by the Capital District Library Council, was made possible with support from the New York State Conservation/Preservation Grant program.

Faculty News

Using Productivity Tools to Simplify Your Work
By Lauren Puzier
User Experience Librarian

This past July, my colleague Abby Stambach and I presented a lively workshop at the Art Libraries Society (ARLIS) UK & Ireland Conference in London. Abby is the Head of Archives & Special Collections at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens in Washington, D.C., and our presentation was “Make it Work: 5 User-friendly Productivity Tools for the Library.”

Librarians and library assistants attended the afternoon workshop in a small room with no fans or air conditioning despite the great British heatwave of 2018! To take our minds off the heat, we jumped into how staff at the UAlbany Libraries are using the tool Slack for communication and collaboration. All attendees were invited to test drive the tool. We had some laughs over live Slack messages that kept coming in during the session, as it was 11 a.m. on the east coast and our colleagues were busy at work—very well timed! We generated a lot of great ideas during the discussion, such as how library committees could use Slack for quick, collaborative communication while working on group projects.
Following the Slack discussion, Abby and I introduced Canva, with a quick demo and discussion. This free, easy-to-use graphic design software generated a lot of interest because many librarians are not trained in graphic design. From creating infographics to improving the look of social media, there were several great brainstorming moments when discussing this tool.

Next, we covered Smore, a tool that creates attractive and shareable online flyers, and Loom, a tool used for producing quick shareable videos. Some librarians in the group indicated that while Loom might be useful for creating library instruction and reference videos, they were interested in software with more editing capabilities. Loom recently launched a full suite of desktop editing tools for their product.

Finally, we looked at Zapier to integrate apps with each other and to automate workflow. The workshop generated many ideas about how these tools can improve our work as librarians. I wish to thank the SUNY Librarians Association for making the workshop possible with a generous professional development grant.

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**Recent Faculty Publications**

**Camille E. Chesley**  
Reference Librarian


**Trudi E. Jacobson**  
Head, Information Literacy Department


**Rebecca Mugridge**  
Dean of University Libraries


Rebecca Nous
*Discovery Services Librarian*


Kelsey L. O’Brien
*Information Literacy Librarian*


Nancy Poehlmann
*Head, Metadata Services*


Janetta L. Waterhouse
*Director of Technical Services & Library Systems*


Recent Faculty Presentations

**Alonso-Regalado, Jesús**  
**Subject Librarian for History, Latin American Studies, and Romance Languages**


**Rebecca Mugridge**  
**Dean of University Libraries**


**Rebecca Nous**  
**Discovery Services Librarian**


**Kelsey L. O’Brien**  
**Information Literacy Librarian**


O’Brien, Kelsey. “Learning is a Journey: Telling the Full Story with Digital Badges.” Presentation delivered at the NERIC Model Schools Leadership event, Lake Placid, NY, August 2018.
Lauren Puzier
User Experience Librarian


Janetta L. Waterhouse
Director of Technical Services & Library Systems


Gregory Wiedeman
University Archivist


Wiedeman, Gregory. “Processing Born-Digital Images at Scale.” Talk delivered remotely to the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) Content Interest Group, August 2018.


Wiedeman, Gregory. “Describing Web Archives with the Partner Data API.” Presentation delivered at the 2018 Archive-It Partner Meeting, Washington, DC, August 2018.


New Hires

Emily Kilcer was hired on August 23 as Scholarly Communication Librarian. Previously, Emily was at the Harvard Library Office for Scholarly Communication. She received her MS from the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons. Emily will be working with teaching and library faculty on issues surrounding open access, data management, and other scholarly communication topics.
Departures

Michael Knee, Subject Librarian for Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics, retired on August 23.

David H. Dickinson, IMC Training Specialist, resigned on October 31.

About the University at Albany Libraries

The University at Albany Libraries comprise the University Library, the Science Library, and the Dewey Graduate Library. A member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the 125 largest, most comprehensive research libraries in North America, the University at Albany Libraries serve the University’s students, faculty, and staff to further their academic achievement and success, as well as the citizens of New York State, and scholars and researchers from around the world. For up-to-date information about the University Libraries, visit library.albany.edu.

“Giving to the Libraries”
http://library.albany.edu/about/giving/