

University of Oregon Libraries
University Library Committee (ULC)
Fall Meeting, 2017–2018 Academic Year
Thursday, November 9, 2017
8:45 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

Special Collections and University Archives, 2nd floor North of Knight Library

AGENDA

Attendance: Sara Brownmiller, Juanita Devereaux, Chris Eckerman, John Bellamy Foster, Shelley Harshe, Adriene Lim, Michael Najjar, Chuck Theobald, Mark Watson, Bruce Tabb, Jennifer O’Neal

Absent: Blair Barnes, Michael Koscho, Courtney Munther, Suzanne Rowe, Larry Wayte

Review of [ULC Charge](#) and Methods of Engagement

- Group reviewed existing charge from UO Senate
- Group serves in an advisory capacity, and can provide means for faculty engagement, advocacy for UO Libraries (i.e., support letters, resolutions, etc.), and vice versa
- Group sometimes acts as a built-in focus group for the Libraries’ initiatives, a means by which Libraries can learn more about how faculty members’ research and teaching are evolving, so that library programs, services, and collections remain relevant and effective

[Special Collections and University Archives \(SCUA\): Opportunities and Challenges](#)

(Bruce Tabb)

- SCUA has 50,000 linear feet of rare books, archives, etc., stored in the closed-stacks core of the library
- Announced appointment of relatively new Giustina Director of SCUA: [David de Lorenzo](#)
- Opportunities
 - Active Reading Room: the room is often full of student and faculty researchers; SCUA is making improvements to patron registration and the circulation process to increase efficiency of services
 - Robust email reference service: researchers from all over the world are interested in UO Libraries’ special collections
- Challenges
 - HVAC and fire suppression systems failed, so over the last year, have been replaced entirely; during most of this project, SCUA was able to remain open
 - SCUA’s registration and collections database needs to be replaced; in the meantime, migrating to use the Libraries’ integrated library system to handle these functions
 - Limited resources: lean staffing, limited capacity to process new collections
 - Expense of digital storage

- Discussion
 - Does SCUA have information on how collections were acquired?
 - Yes, the information is kept in donor files; researchers can contact a curator to request (non-confidential) information
 - How does procurement of electronic collections work?
 - Electronic collections go through the same process as material collections, with slightly different tools and methodologies
 - Data migration is a challenge: need to make sure data is not lost and its quality not reduced, and remains available long-term (file format: open source or wide-market penetration)
 - Does SCUA accept new collections?
 - Yes, we are very much interested in new collections, but consider carefully before accepting to ensure that we have sufficient resources to appropriately curate the collection; seek funding from donors and grants

Object-based Learning (Jennifer O’Neal, Nathan Georgitis)

- Object-based learning: students working with primary source material in SCUA
- Instruction program
 - Want collections to be used by undergraduate and graduate students
 - 105+ instruction sessions were taught last year by 3-4 staff members
 - One-off sessions on primary resource literacy
 - Classes that incorporate in-depth assignments using primary resources: students use the collections for their term project
 - Students producing original research
 - Creative, innovative class projects in collaboration with faculty
 - Transcriptions of letters: e.g., Oregon Trail diaries
- Focusing on how to sustain this with limited staffing and other obligations
- SCUA has many resources/collections out of which students can develop theses
 - [Research guides](#) show resources by research areas
 - A few examples: Women literary writers, Pacific Northwest history, Cinema Studies: James Ivory
- Outreach and promotion of collections: [Unbound Blog](#)

Note: ULC minutes are posted to the [UO Scholar’s Bank](#)