Library Welcomes New Humanities Data Curator

“UCSB really cares about data,” Thomas G. Padilla said enthusiastically. Spoken like a true digital humanities scholar.

Padilla is UCSB Library’s inaugural Humanities Data Curator, which is also a first-of-its-kind position in the UC system, and one rarely found in academic libraries. Formerly the Digital Scholarship Librarian at Michigan State University Libraries, at UCSB Padilla is responsible for collecting, curating, preserving, and providing access to humanities data and other digital collections, and creating a support plan for digital humanities researchers.

He joins the Library’s growing efforts to facilitate the data needs of our faculty, scholars, and students, including the Interdisciplinary Research Collaboratory and Data Curation @ UCSB Program.

Padilla said “digital humanities” refers to “research and pedagogy that leverages computation to extend humanistic questions, as well as work that examines the relationship between computation and humanistic questions more generally.”

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Message from the University Librarian

We are heartened by the support and trust that the campus and community have put in the UCSB Library. Since our new and renovated building opened in January, 250,000 people have walked through the doors each month. And in April, during the first UCSB Give Day, a campus online fundraising campaign, supporters generously donated more than $99,000 specifically to the Library (see page 5).

Just as we invested in our building infrastructure, we are now turning our attention to the structure of our organization. As research has changed in recent decades, so has the library profession, and we need to ensure we are using our staff in ways that best meet the needs of faculty, students, and scholars. The Library’s Workforce-Needs Assessment (page 6) is underway to analyze how we can structure our positions for the highest service impact. We have already started to make critical new additions to our staff in response to the changing scholarly environment, hiring Thomas Padilla as our new Humanities Data Curator (cover story), as well as redeploying staff to guide important new programs, such as the Interdisciplinary Research Collaboratory, led by Stephanie Tulley, winner of this year’s Nyholm Award (page 7).

The building project is not “over,” though. Our next steps are to bring the Music Library over to the main building, and update the space vacated by Special Research Collections into a new home for Music and the Map & Imagery Laboratory (page 7). We also hope to refresh the Ocean Side of the Library.

Our day-to-day work is still focused on providing access to research collections, in all formats, to support research and teaching, such as video streaming services (page 6), the American Religions Collection (page 3), and the collection of rare recordings donated by the Debus family (page 4). We are sad to say goodbye to our collections leader, Janet Martorana, who has patiently brought us through the past few years of transition. We wish her well in retirement (page 7).

We are already looking ahead to fall, which will bring our Faculty Reception (date to be announced), Open Access Week (Oct. 24-30), and Pacific Views: Library Speaker Series (Nov. 1). Mark your calendars to join us for these events, where you can gather with colleagues to explore new ideas.

Denise Stephens
University Librarian

Faculty Footnotes

Faculty Footnotes features profiles of UCSB faculty and how they use the Library.

Leila Rupp, UCSB professor of feminist studies and associate dean of social sciences (Barbara Young)

Leila Rupp, UCSB professor of feminist studies and associate dean of social sciences, rather than give a talk at the American Historical Association’s 130th annual meeting in January, was the subject of a talk.

A conference panel, “Transforming Women’s History: Leila Rupp — Scholar, Editor, and Mentor,” celebrated Rupp and her contributions to women’s studies.

Other recent honors include a 2015 Lambda Literary Award for best LGBT Anthology for Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History, co-edited with Susan Freeman.

One panelist at the history conference, Rupp said, “talked about the archives I used for my research, before everything was online. You actually had to go to these places. It makes my heart beat faster to walk into an archive, and I feel the same way about libraries.”

Rupp received her Ph.D. in modern European and American history from Bryn Mawr College, then taught at Ohio State University for 25 years before coming to UCSB in 2002. “I started in life with the card catalog and finding obscure things on shelves that nobody had taken out since the early 20th century,” Rupp said. “So I love libraries.”

Although Rupp still visits the UCSB Library building, she mainly uses the online access it provides to electronic journals. When writing her book Sapphistries: A Global History of Love Between Women, Rupp also used the Library’s Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service extensively.
 spot light on one-of-a-kind american religions collection

Today’s literary religion trend is “mindfulness.” Think adult coloring books and yoga.

“I find it curious how mainstream publishing trends change with the times for popular works related to religion,” said David Gartrell, curator of UCSB Library’s American Religions Collection (ARC).

Witchcraft cookbooks, for example, were popular in the early 1970s. Fifteen years later, Gartrell said, you’ll find “scads of books on ‘Satanic panic’ — a popular reaction to media reports that if your kids are wearing black, they’re practicing Satanism.”

The ARC, housed in the Library’s Special Research Collections, is unique to UCSB and contains more than 33,600 books and 5,000 serials, along with correspondence, newsletters, fliers, articles, clippings, and ephemera — even board games — related to 20th-century nontraditional religions in North America. The definition of “religion” in the collection “is very broad,” Gartrell said, and includes subjects like macrobiotic dieting.

The core of the collection was assembled and donated by J. Gordon Melton, founder of the Institute for the Study of American Religion, author of the Encyclopedia of American Religions, and a former UCSB visiting scholar. Researchers can delve into astrology, Buddhism, Christian Science, Evangelical Christianity, Magick, Mormonism, the New Age Movement, Theosophy, and more.

Other manuscripts in the ARC weren’t acquired from Gordon, Gartrell said, “but people know UCSB as the place for collections pertaining to alternative religions in America.”

Philip Deslippe, a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in religious studies, said that when he applied for doctoral programs, UCSB topped his list for two reasons: faculty, and the ARC. Deslippe, whose research focuses on Asian and metaphysical traditions in America, said that as he was researching his master’s thesis at the University of Iowa, “a lot of the material I wanted to look at was held by only one institution: Special Research Collections at UCSB Library.”

For more information about the ARC, contact Gartrell at gartrell@ucsb.edu or (805) 893-7912.

Doctoral Student Relies on Early Newspaper Databases

A controversial visit by a Tunisian ambassador to the United States when Thomas Jefferson was president is a mere blip in historical circles — the longest treatment of his visit is an 11-page article from 1944.

But Jason Zeledon, a UCSB Ph.D. candidate in history, discovered from working with two UCSB Library databases that primary sources related to Sidi Soliman Mellimelli’s trip “have been underutilized.”

For his paper “As Proud as Lucifer: A Tunisian Diplomat in Thomas Jefferson’s America,” published electronically in October 2015 in Diplomatic History, Zeledon relied on UCSB Library’s subscriptions to Early American Newspapers and Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers.

“I couldn’t have written this article without the Library databases,” he said. A few years ago, before such databases were available, he would have needed to travel to small East Coast towns to search print archives of early American newspapers, without an index.

“Digitization is essential,” he said, not just for access, but also for keyword searches. For example, he tracked how often articles were published about the Tunisian ambassador, and learned that his trip had “enormous political and diplomatic significance.”

Zeledon’s research paper (available through the Library’s subscription to Diplomatic History) has become a chapter in his dissertation, which explores how U.S. conflicts with the Barbary States shaped the development of the political party system, nationalism, and ideas about gender and race.
Debus Family Donates Rare Records Collection

about 12,000 records and 3,000 cylinder recordings to UCSB Library’s Special Research Collections, along with phonographs, sheet music, and Debus’ research papers and correspondence.

The records in the collection, appraised at $500,000, feature popular American vocal music of the time: Tin Pan Alley, vaudeville, ragtime, and minstrel tunes, along with speeches by such historical figures as Teddy Roosevelt.

“One of his generation could have just as easily been a Glenn Miller fanatic,” said David Seubert, curator of the Performing Arts Collection at UCSB Library. “This is a very particular sound of music that died out with the invention of the microphone in 1925. Debus championed its rediscovery.”

Debus-López, who works at the Library of Congress, said his father wanted the records to go to an academic institution where they would “be easily accessible to students and researchers.” UCSB Library, he said, “has already done such a great job supporting and digitizing early music.”

Debus’ collection is important not only because of its historically significant and rare materials — including recordings by African American vaudevillians Bert Williams and George Walker, who starred in the first Broadway musical written by blacks — but because “it’s meticulously curated,” Seubert said. Debus, as a historian, researched and wrote extensively about the recordings, and corresponded or met with many of the artists who made the records. He also co-wrote, with Brian Rust, The Complete Entertainment Discography: From 1897-1942. First published in 1973, the book is still used today.

Seubert said the Library has already catalogued about 1,200 of the records. Processing the collection, including digitization so people can access the recordings online, will take several years to complete, but digital copies can be made for research or listening.
Music Library Open During Transition

The Music Library remains open and fully functioning in the Music Building complex, for now. It is still on the 2nd Floor of what was once the Arts Library. The Art Collection has moved to the 1st Floor Mountain Side of the main Library and is now called the Art & Architecture Collection.

We look forward to moving the Music Collection, as well as the Map & Imagery Laboratory, into a contemporary new space on the 3rd Floor Ocean Side of the Library, where Special Research Collections was formerly located.

During the transition, Music Library services remain the same. The only change is that circulation of all items — books, scores, and media — now happens upstairs instead of downstairs.

“Faculty and students are always welcome to email, call, or stop by the Music Library with any questions or concerns,” said Kyra Folk-Farber, Assistant Music Librarian, who can be reached at (805) 893-2244 or kfolkfarber@ucsb.edu.

Gauchos Give

UCSB’s first-ever Give Day on April 8, a one-day digital fundraising campaign, was a success for the campus as well as the Library, one of the designated units to receive its own Give Day webpage.

“UCSB’s Give Day overwhelmingly surpassed our expectations,” said Beverly J. Colgate, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development. The day’s success, she said, is a testament to Gaucho pride.

_By the numbers_

$3,721,570: Give Day total for the entire campus, from 1,268 individuals

$99,295: Give Day total for UCSB Library, from 27 individuals

$65,000: Donation to Library from UCSB alumnus John Arnhold and his wife Jody to digitize The Daily Nexus

$25,000: Donation from former UCSB librarian Allen Cohen to Special Research Collections

100%: UCSB Library administrators who donated on Give Day
New Databases

Illustrations are included in a database of writings by Thomas Jefferson, such as this image of the former president by Thomas Gimbred. (National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution)

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Brings together “The Papers of Thomas Jefferson” at Princeton University, and “Retirement Series” sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, which documents the time from Jefferson’s return to private life to his death, into one online resource.

The Papers of George Washington: Offers the full content of 65 print volumes in a single searchable online publication, including the complete diaries.

Early European Books: Traces the history of printing in Europe from its origins to the close of the 17th century, offering color, high-resolution facsimile images of rare and hard-to-access printed sources.

MarinLit: This Royal Society of Chemistry database is dedicated to marine natural products research, with comprehensive coverage of marine natural products in journal articles, including new and revised compounds, synthesis, ecology, and biological activities. Queries can be built across a number of fields and parameters, including taxonomic information, chemical substructures, and geographic location where organisms were collected.

Streaming Video Collections Available

UCSB Library offers many video collections that can be streamed online, including the following:


Black Studies in Video: Award-winning documentaries, newsreels, interviews, and archival footage surveying the evolution of black culture in the United States.

Dance in Video: Dance performances, rehearsal footage, and documentaries covering influential performers and companies of the 20th century.

Ethnographic Video Online – Vol 1 & 2: Ethnographic films, documentaries, feature films, and previously unpublished fieldwork.


Opera in Video: Staged productions, interviews, and documentaries relating to canonic Western opera works, and significant performers, conductors, and opera houses.

Theatre in Video – Vol 1: Documents 20th-century theater history in the U.S., Europe, and Asia via interviews with directors, designers, writers, and actors, plus excerpts of live performances.

Vanderbilt Television News Archive: Select recordings from the Vanderbilt Television News Archive are available to stream online using RealPlayer.

Workforce-Needs Assessment Begins

Reinvention of the UCSB Library continues. After opening our new building in January, we’re on to the next step: a workforce-needs assessment that may reinvent our organization from within.

“We finished the physical changes to the Library, and now we can evaluate how we’re organized and deliver services to align both with our Strategic Roadmap and what our users need and expect from us,” said Alan Grosenheider, Deputy University Librarian and chair of the Workforce-Needs Assessment Steering Group.

“If we prioritize what’s most needed, everyone’s position will actually be more engaging,” he said.

Grosenheider expects the assessment will take six months, with recommendations released in the fall.

The Strategic Roadmap was drafted with faculty involvement, Grosenheider said, “so we’re reflecting the feedback we got. That is some of the most important information we can use for prioritizing our work.”
Librarian Janet Martorana to Retire

Janet Martorana, Associate University Librarian (AUL) for Collection Services at UCSB Library, will retire at the end of June.

After starting her career at UCSB in 1985 as a temporary Government Publications librarian, she moved progressively to take on many leadership positions, among them the Library’s first Instruction Program Coordinator, Coordinator for the Social Sciences Collection Librarians Group, and head of Collection Development. Three years ago she was appointed AUL for Collection Services, first in an acting capacity and then permanently.

She has championed training and development that addresses librarians’ evolving roles in instruction, scholarly communication, and communication with academic departments, emphasizing mentorship, leadership, teamwork, innovation, and collaboration.

As AUL, Martorana provided oversight of collection services during the recent Library addition and renovation project. Among other accomplishments, she coordinated the move of more than 700,000 collections volumes into storage and back. She co-developed a recent white paper on the state of funding for Library collections, a critical document that led to a $750,000 annual increase to the collections budget in 2015.

She co-founded the Library’s UCSB Reads program, and throughout her long career was committed to university service, actively participating in campus and UC committees.

Library Welcomes New Humanities Data Curator

(continued from cover)

Padilla, who has a master’s degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a master’s in world history from San Francisco State University, became interested in libraries, archives, and humanities data as a historian-in-training. During internships through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, at the National Archives and Library of Congress, he learned about the conundrum of preserving and making sense of culture expressed on the Internet, phones, and other difficult-to-archive platforms.

Michael Kim, UCSB Library’s Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services, said Padilla “possesses a wealth of deep knowledge and experience in digital humanities” and will “work with subject librarians to launch a formalized data curation program.”

“A lot of what I do is show people how to become more fluent at working with data,” Padilla said. “In some humanities disciplines, people may not be trained to use data, or to think of objects that they work with like texts or images as data.”

Padilla also serves as an editor for DHCommons Journal and dh + lib Data Praxis, and is co-convener of the Association of College and Research Libraries’ Digital Humanities Interest Group. He recently published “Humanities Data in the Library: Integrity, Form, Access” in D-Lib Magazine, and received the Gale Cengage History Research and Innovation Award from the Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association.

Annual Nyholm Prize Awarded to Stephanie Tulley

Stephanie Tulley has received the 2015 Amy and Jens Nyholm Prize, an honor for a UCSB librarian who “has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship” in the past year.

Tulley is interim director of the Library’s new Interdisciplinary Research Collaboratory, and the subject librarian for economics, business, and social sciences data.

University Librarian Denise Stephens said that Tulley, by agreeing to lead the Collaboratory, which supports data creation, curation, and analysis, “took on an enormous challenge, bringing technology, personnel, and resources together under a tight timeline for the launch of a showpiece service.”

Tulley’s “leadership, vision, and attention to detail,” Stephens said, have helped build a service where “much of the usage is driven by word-of-mouth referrals based on satisfied users.”

Tulley said the award is “a culmination of a lot of efforts in the Library. I really appreciate the acknowledgement, but this is something we accomplished as a team.”
Exhibitions Visit www.library.ucsb.edu for exhibition hours.

Art of Science
Through Summer 2016
Tower Gallery, 1st Floor, Ocean Side

Lament
Art installation by Nancy Gifford
Through October 2016
Mountain Gallery

Construction to Reinvention: UCSB Library Photo History (1954-2016)
Ongoing
Mountain Gallery

Events: Save the Date

OCT. 24–30, 2016
Open Access Week
Activities to be announced.

TUESDAY, NOV. 1
4 PM
Pacific Views: Library Speaker Series