

# University Libraries International/Intercultural Initiative Activities

2005/06

The University of Tennessee Libraries continues to give special attention to the goals of the International/ Intercultural initiative in a variety of ways. Highlights of our activities for 2005-06 are listed below.

## Programming

**Film Series:** The UT Libraries Media Center hosted two film series in 2005-06, and plans to continue this successful venture.

Film Movement Series: collaborating with Cinema Studies, an international film series was shown almost every Tuesday evening. *The Film Movement Series* introduced award-winning first run independent and international films.

From our web page: Fourteen "award-winning, first-run independent and international feature films unlikely to be screened elsewhere in Knoxville were presented. Although a few of the films are American-made, most hail from Europe, Australia, Africa, South America and Canada. Most have received accolades akin to Academy Awards in their home countries."

Documentaries in the Library: The theme for fall 2005 was *Resistance*, and seven documentaries dealing with the themes of political resistance were screened throughout the semester. In Spring 2006, UT Libraries hosted Cuban film director Ricardo Bacallao, who participated a viewing and discussion of two of his films.

*Looking at Jazz: America's Art Form:* a Spring 2007 series is planned to screen a series of films that explore American jazz, paired with live jazz performances in a variety of Knoxville venues.

**Book Talks and Author Readings:** UT Libraries hosted a variety of authors and book talks for the campus and local community to help highlight the diversity of experience found on the printed page.

The World is Flat: A Conversation with Chancellor Loren Crabtree: The libraries planned a book forum with the Chancellor leading a discussion of Thomas Friedman's best seller, [The World is Flat](#). This event was the kickoff for UT's Ready for the World campaign. Set in the galleria of the Hodges Library, this program captured the attention of a wide range of faculty, students, and administrators and highlighted the importance of the International/Intercultural Initiative.

Writers in the Library: in its sixth year, Writers in the Library is a free author's reading series that features writers of both local and national prominence as well as student authors.

Tennessee Reads: held in the spring and fall this book club, co-sponsored by the UT Press and WUOT, features UT Press titles that celebrate the history and geography of the region.

**Lecture Series and Discussion Sessions:** A wide range of discussion and lecture series were hosted by the UT Libraries, focusing on topics in technology, library and information science, and diversity.

E-Forum: The E-Forum discussion series invites the campus to meet with national and international leaders in library and information science. Many topics address the themes of the campus initiative. Examples include:

Loretta Parham, Director and CEO, Robert Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center - Topic: "A Gift of Difference in the Academic Library"

Alice Prochaska, University Librarian, Yale University - Topic: "Special Collections in a Digital World"

Bob Glass, Senior Lecturer in Information and Communications, Manchester Metropolitan University, England – Topic: "So Much Information, So Little Time: Information Literacy in Great Britain"

"*Let's Talk About It*," sponsored by the Diversity Committee, this is a discussion series to provide opportunities for the libraries' staff to learn about diversity related issues and promote openness to others

"A Trip to China" – A staff member shared experiences from her trip to China

"Celebrating Diversity: Gay and Lesbian History Month"- UT Libraries staff shared answers to such questions as "What is the meaning behind the Rainbow flag?" and "How did the Gay Rights movement begin?"

"African Cultural Mosaic: Views from the West to the South" – Librarians shared information on the diversity of Africa.

"Excavating the Genealogical Record" – One of our librarians focused on his personal genealogical research.

*Diversity in the Workplace*, sponsored by the Diversity Committee. Lennisa Mostella, Diversity Trainer with the UT Office of Equity and Diversity shared the different activities that OED offers on campus, including a "Diversity in the Workplace" series, Cultural Competency workshops, and Diversity Dialogues.

*Lunch 'N View*, sponsored by the Diversity Committee. This program brought films/documentaries with diverse themes and topics to the employees of the libraries. "Yeah You Rite" was a film that looked at the colorful speech of residents of New Orleans. "African American Lives" documented the history of African Americans through genealogy, family stories, and DNA analysis.

**Conferences and Events:** The University Libraries was one of several financial sponsors for the New Latino Immigration Conference. We provided staff support for planning, created and hosted the website, and organized electronic registration for the conference.

Members of the Diversity Committee staffed a table during UT's International Festival, promoting the diverse resources available in the libraries, with a special emphasis on international newspaper access.

### **Grants**

**ScienceLinks**, Funded by IMLS, this grant aims to help increase diversity in librarianship while training students with science background and interest to become science and technology librarians. UT Libraries partnered with SIS on this project, and members of the Diversity Committee worked to recruit ten minority students to the School of Information Sciences "Science Links" master's program.

**The Growth of Democracy in Tennessee: A Grass-Roots Approach to Volunteer Voices:** Funded by IMLS, this grant partners UT Libraries with a host of Tennessee’s cultural and historical institutions to develop a statewide digital library of primary sources. From the first pioneers to the Civil Rights movement, this project tells a story that is both uniquely Tennessee and uniquely American.

**From Pi Beta Phi to Arrowmont: Bringing Education and Economic Development to the Great Smoky Mountains, 1910-2004:** Funded by IMLS, this grant will create a fully searchable online archives that documents the history of Pi Beta Phi Settlement School and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

### **Committees**

**Diversity Committee:** The University Libraries Diversity Committee works tirelessly to provide programs and resources that enhance knowledge and encourage understanding of diversity both within the libraries and the UT campus community.

**“Ready for the World” Planning Group:** This committee, formed in 12/05, supports UT’s international and intercultural awareness initiatives. It was initially charged to develop a course of action to implement the libraries’ 11/05 request for QEP funding proposal. It was also charged to look for ways the libraries might support intercultural/ international initiatives on campus. This group works closely with the Diversity Committee, Collection Development and Management, and other UT Libraries units to help plan, support, and develop international/ intercultural initiatives. Its first project was implementing the Conversation with the Chancellor on the “World is Flat” and as well creating the news channel at <http://www.lib.utk.edu/readyfortheworld/>

### **Exhibits**

**Culture Corner:** Coordinated by the Diversity Committee, this exhibit aims to promote the libraries’ rich and diverse collections, with selected books displayed in the Galleria. The topics for 2005/06 were:

Appalachia: The books emphasized issues illustrating the people, history, culture, and environment of the region.

Life of the Mind: Selected titles supported the topics surrounding the Life of the Mind selection of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

GLBTQ Culture: Topics covered related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons (GLBTQ), as well as those questioning their sexual orientation.

Caribbean: Selections target the people, history, education, tourism, cooking & cuisine, and Carnival celebrations of the region.

**Lindsay Young Auditorium Exhibit Case:** This visible space next to the auditorium in Hodges Library focuses on a variety of subjects throughout the year. Topics that fit the international/intercultural theme this year were:

- Civil Rights
- MARCO Symposium
- Women’s Studies
- Religion and the Nation (supporting the NEXUS Conference)
- Celebrating Staff Diversity

### **Sharing and Collaborating**

The UT Libraries has hosted and is developing working relationships with a variety of national and international librarians in order to learn, share, and collaborate on library and information sciences topics.

Ecuador: The UT Libraries, along with several UT academic partners, have joined in a Memorandum of Understanding with Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar (UASB) located in Quito Ecuador. USAB will provide the UTK library with its professional journals and monographs that deal with the Andean Region and the Libraries will support efforts to digitize part of the USAB's library collection. A pilot digitization project will include materials from the Fondo documental Afro-Andino. USAB and UTK libraries will establish links to their respective websites.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities: UT Libraries hosted Evelyn Council, Associate Director of Collection Development at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina, as part of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries leadership exchange program. Funded by a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, representatives from historically black colleges are selected to visit selected institutions. UT Libraries was chosen to be part of the program based on its expertise in digital libraries, collection management, and institutional repositories.

Russian Federation: In July 2006, merging leaders in the library world from diverse areas of the Russian Federation visited UT Libraries as part of the Open World Program.

Thailand: Planning is underway between the UT Libraries and Kasertsart University in Thailand for cooperative projects and exchange visits in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement signed in January, 2005. The Pendergrass librarian visited Kasertsart in June and developed a list of potential projects including teleconferencing and collaborative development of agricultural information resources.

Uganda: Work continues in the second phase of a 3-year project designed to bring the University of Tennessee Libraries and Makerere University Library in Kampala, Uganda, together on cooperative endeavors.

## **Collections**

### *Reference Materials*

Of the \$45,000 book material budget for reference materials a significant proportion was spent on materials in support of the initiative. Selected titles include:

- Encyclopedia of Appalachia
- Encyclopedia of Disability
- Political Handbook of the Middle East
- Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History
- Latinas in the United States: A historical Encyclopedia
- Wunderlich, UWE Dictionary of Globalization
- Multiculturalism in the United States: A comparative Guide to Acculturation and Ethnicity
- Arabic Literary Culture
- Black Women in America

### *Film/Video Materials*

Film and video purchases amounted to thousands of dollars. Approximately \$20,000 of our endowment funds were used to enhance the media collection. A number of films were purchased to support research and the curriculum in the program areas of German, Spanish, Portuguese, Latin American Studies, and Russian. In addition to foreign language film, a wide range of international and intercultural topics were covered.

Selected examples of purchases were:

- Kandahar
- Gaza Under Seize
- Islam in American and After Sept. 11
- Theologians Under Hitler
- Journey to Little Rock

Rap, Rag, and Equity  
20 Years Old in the Middle East  
A Day in the Life of a Village in Africa  
The Appalachians  
Voices From the Brink  
Cuba  
Life: (a 30 part series of video that looks at the effects of globalization on individuals and communities around the world)  
Women Pioneers Collection (a series of 12 one-hour films celebrating the contributions made by remarkable women in the Arab world).

#### *Databases*

During the year over \$80,000 in new electronic titles with an international/ intercultural focus were added to the collection.

Titles included:

All Africa  
Artbibliographics Modern  
CAMIO  
Europa World Plus  
International Statistical Yearbook  
Marquis Who's Who on the Web  
Smithsonian Global Sound  
United Nations Common Database  
African American Song  
World Bank E-Library  
World Biographic Information System  
World Biographical Dictionary of Artists Online  
Anthropology Plus

#### **Residency Program**

Started in 2002 this effort is designed to bring into the organization and the profession at large not only ethnic and cultural diversity but also the fresh enthusiasm and skills of recent library and information science graduates.

The UT Libraries' second group of Minority Resident Librarians began their two-year program in September. The Three librarians will rotate through a variety of library departments and engage in professional development activities and research during their tenure as Residents.

**Diversity Librarians Network:** created and maintained by the UT Libraries minority residents, the libraries' Web site hosts this informational page about diversity employment in libraries and information science careers. Funded in part by a 2004 LAMA Cultural Diversity Grant.

**Instruction**

As part of our workshop series several classes were designed for international students that introduced the University of Tennessee Libraries' many research resources and services. The Teaching Library, a resource for instructors and librarians, developed a section entitled Intercultural Resources: Perspectives on Using Information.  
(<http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/teachinglib/int.html>)

**Jsr (7/17/06)**

**LSP 7/18/06**