

University Libraries International/Intercultural Initiative Activities

2006/07

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 2006-07 are listed below.

Programming

Film Series:

Documentaries in the Library:

To participate in the university's Appalachian Celebration, the spring 2007 theme was Appalachia. Six documentaries were shown dealing with topics that included characteristic music, the displacement of the Cherokees, the land and its wildlife, humor, story telling and social change. *Clinton and the Law: Desegregation in Clinton, Tennessee* was the film selected for social change. A member of the Clinton 12 highlighted the evening as he brought a first hand account and insightful comments on an historic moment in civil rights history.

During the fall of 07 the theme will be *Working for Democracy and Justice in Appalachia and the South: Highlander at 75*. For six weeks we will show films and invite prominent speakers to address the following topics: the union movement of the '30's and '40s, the civil rights activities of the '50s and '60s, and the environmental justice work of the '70s and '80s, and the current problems of humane immigration and challenges of globalization.

Film Movement Series:

The University Libraries and Cinema Studies continued its international/intercultural film series. The libraries began showing the *Film Movement Series* in 2005, which introduces award-winning first run independent and international films. From our Web page: Many of the international films... "hail from Europe, Australia, Africa, South America and Canada. Most have received accolades akin to Academy Awards in their home countries."

In July 2007 we began our first screening of films during the summer. The films selected for the summer consist of the best films shown during the past two years of the regular Film Movement Series.

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.

Knoxville and Appalachia in the Works of Cormac McCarthy: The libraries sponsored a book forum with Dr. Chris Walsh of the English department. Dr. Walsh, a McCarthy scholar, discussed how McCarthy's Appalachia is a place for rejuvenation and regeneration. He reviewed the author's most recent book *The Road*, as well as several of his previous works. Newfound Press, a digital publishing demonstration, sponsored by the Libraries will include the presentation in a new electronic publication that will be available for distribution throughout the world.

Writers in the Library: in its seventh 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.

Appalachian Removals and Relocations: Presented by the Special Collections Library, this lecture series explored the diversity, culture, and identity of Appalachia. Drs. John Finger, Bruce Wheeler, and Benita Howell spoke.

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:

Enrique Abad, Library Director at Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar & President of the Asociaon De Bibliotecarios De Pichincha
Discussed academic libraries in Ecuador, particularly how they are establishing policies, raising awareness, and increasing information literacy in an era of great technological change.

Judith Dixon, Consumer Relations Officer at the Library of Congress National Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
Topic: "Strategies for libraries to accommodate the needs of person with disabilities."

Dr. Maria Musoke, Makerere University Librarian – Uganda
Provided a look into academic libraries in Eastern Africa.

"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.

"Memories of Poland"- One of our library staff members shared personal highlights about Poland, her country of birth. Highlights included information on Poland's history, culture, language, customs, and traditions.

"A Tour of China" – A UT Librarian shared her experiences visiting libraries in China.

"The Amazing J. Lawrence Cook of Tennessee"
Highlights of the life of this famous Tennessee musician were presented. Also shared was the global information network that has been created to share research about his work.

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

Conferences and Events:

Members of the Diversity Committee staffed a table during UT's International Festival, promoting the diverse resources available in the libraries.

The Pendergrass Library hosted faculty from the Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina for a discussion of open access publication and cooperation opportunities between our libraries.

Women's History Month – Members of the Diversity Committee sponsored showings of 4 films: *Hearts and Hands: The Influence of Women & Quilts on American Society*, *Iron Jawed Angels*, *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Band*, and *The Quilts of Bee's Band*.

Black History Month – In celebration of Black History Month, members of the Diversity Committee sponsored three films that documented the history and heritage of black Americans and three films on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 was complete this year. One of the results was a fully searchable online archive 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 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 as creating the news channel at <http://www.lib.utk.edu/readyfortheworld/>. This past year it planned the Cormac McCarthy book forum, collaborated on the Documentaries in the Libraries Appalachian series, initiated a cooperative planning group to work with the Highlander Education and Resource center to promote the work of social justice in the south. In addition the committee developed and submitted two proposals requesting "Ready for the World Funding. The first was a request for additional money to support the collection in the areas of international materials. In July of 2007 another request was submitted asking for financial support for the film and lecture series *Working for Democracy and Justice in Appalachia and the South: Highlander at 75*.

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 2006/07 were:

Appalachian Culture: The Cherokee The books emphasized issues illustrating the people, history, culture of the Cherokees.

Disability Awareness: The selected resources offered an introduction to the history, culture, and challenges of the disabled in a number of settings.

Life of the Mind: Selected titles supported the topics surrounding the Life of the Mind selection of *In the Wake of the Plague: the Black Death and the world it made*".

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

Caribbean: Selections targeted 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:

"Where Are We From?" (two large maps were featured that showed where our ancestors were from.)

MARCO Symposium

Women's Studies

Religion and the Nation (supporting the NEXUS Conference)

Celebrating Staff Diversity

Special Collections: The exhibit case outside the reading room in Hoskins Library hosts two exhibits each year. 2006-07 featured Andrew Jackson: The William J. Cook Collection and Appalachian Removals and Relocations.

Pendergrass AgVet-Med: The AgVet-Med Library hosts both virtual and physical exhibits that change monthly. Exhibits this year include Ready for the World, Appalachia and the Cherokee, African American Pioneers in Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, and The Horse: A Mirror of a Man.

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. UASB 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 UASB's library collection. A pilot digitization project will include materials from the Fondo documental Afro-Andino. UASB 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.

Uganda: Work continues in the second phase of a 3-year project designed to bring together 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:

- Dictionary of Globalization
- Encyclopedia of Appalachia
- Political Handbook of the Middle East
- Islam in American after Sept. 11
- Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia
- Reference Works (part of the Gale Virtual Library)
 - Bekshire Encyclopedia of World History
 - Encyclopedia Judaica
 - Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History
 - Encyclopedia of World Cultures
- Multiculturalism in the United States: A Comparative Guide to Acculturation and Ethnicity
- Arabic Literary Culture

Film/Video Materials

Film and video purchases amounted to thousands of dollars. Approximately \$30,000 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:

- African American Lives
- Dark Passages
- Islam in American and After Sept. 11
- China Rises
- A Force More Powerful
- An Inconvenient Truth
- A Day in the Life of a Village in Africa
- Mardi Gras: Made in China
- Voices From the Brink
- Beyond our Borders: Russia
- The Zen Mind
- Anti Semitism in the 21st Century
- The Legend of Rose Al-Youssef

Databases

During the year over \$300,000 in new electronic titles with an international/ intercultural focus were added to the collection.

Selected titles included:

Acta Sanctorum

African American Music Reference

African American Song

Anthropology Plus

Black Studies Center

Caribbean Literature

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) – monitors the foreign media

Medieval and Early Modern Sources Online (MEMSO)

Oxford Scholarship Online

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 (7/23/07-5)