

University Libraries International/Intercultural Initiative Activities

2007/08

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 2007-08 are listed below.

Programming

Film Series:

Documentaries in the Library:

During the fall of 07 the theme was *Working for Democracy and Justice in Appalachia and the South: Highlander at 75*. This cooperative effort with the Highlander Research and Education Center brought together students, faculty, and the local community. For six weeks we showed films that addressed the following topics: the union movement of the '30's and '40s, the civil rights activities of the '50s and '60s, the environmental justice work of the '70s and '80s, and the current problems of humane immigration and challenges of globalization. Featured discussion leaders were former Vice Chancellor Dr. Anne Mayhew, blues singer Tufara Waller Muhammed, labor leaders Bill Troy and Luvernel Clark, filmmaker Ameila Kirby, and folk singers Gay and Candie Carawan.

Film Movement:

The University Libraries and Cinema Studies continued their international/intercultural film series. This series 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 both fall and spring 2008 we hosted a Brazilian Film series. In addition, every other Tuesday throughout this year the libraries showcased the work of award-winning filmmakers from Finland, Sweden, Cuba, Russia, Romania, Switzerland, Canada, France, and Denmark.

In April, 2008 the Diversity Committee hosted a series of six films on "Water Rights: the effects of water on culture."

"Biology Nights in the Library" hosted films on global warming and drug-resistant super-germs.

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.

Writers in the Library: In its eighth 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. Among those participating were Knoxville poets, Judy Loest and Linda Parsons Marion, visiting writer in the UT Creative Writing Program John McManus, local poet and song writer Scott Morris, and The University of Tennessee Jack E. Reece writer in residence R.B. Morris.

Sept. 24, 2007—Barbara Bogue
Oct. 1, 2007—Wendy Brenner
Oct. 29, 2007—Michelle Boisseau

Nov. 12, 2007—RB Morris
Nov. 19, 2007—Marilyn Kallet
Dec. 3, 2007—David Phillips
Jan. 14, 2007—Scott Miller
Jan. 28, 2008—John McManus
Feb. 11, 2008—MariJo Moore
Feb. 25, 2008—Julie Auer; Steven Dupree
March 10, 2008—Michael Knight
March 24, 2008—Linda P. Marion; Judy Loest
April 14—student recipients of the John C. Hodges Graduate Writing Prizes in fiction and poetry
April 21—Greg Congleton; Jesse Graves; Brian Griffin; Marilyn Kallet; RB Morris; Charlotte Pence, Jack Rentfro

The Tennessee Reads book club, co-sponsored by the UT Press and WUOT, features UT Press titles that celebrate the history and geography of the region.

April 30, 2007—Read and discuss with the author: *Natural Histories: Stories from the Tennessee Valley* by Stephen Lyn Bales

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.

Religion's Role in Public Life: Working with the Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy, we hosted an interactive forum on September 17th in celebration of Constitution Day. Faculty members Robert Bast, Rosalind Hackett, David Reidy, Charles Reynolds, and Otis Stephens provided a lively discussion of the issues involved with the Establishment Clause of the Constitution. Constitution Day events also included film viewings and a sign-your-Constitution event on the plaza outside of Hodges Library.

In spring of '08 we joined with the Baker Center for a roundtable discussion of the second amendment's right to bear arms. We teamed up again during the semester for a free range video contest which invited students to submit creative videos on the topic of "Politics Now".

The Pendergrass Agricultural Library collaborated with the Library's Diversity Committee, the Commission for Women, and the Black Cultural Center for a program featuring the topiary artistic talents of Pearl Fryar. Pendergrass Auditorium hosted the film *A Man Named Pearl* which features the life story of this gifted artist. Mr. Fryar was in attendance and discussed his work.

The Libraries added its support for several programs sponsored by the Ready for the World Initiative, Africana Studies, Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, and the Office of Equity and Diversity. Events included a discussion of the impact of the Black Panther Party and Afro-Brazilian women writers.

“*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.

“Melungeons” - Wayne Winkler discussed the historical origins of this mixed raced population from Hancock County. (March 11, 2008)

“Rita Geier” – Of the Chancellor’s office and Head of the International/Intercultural Initiative spoke on the topic of leadership in times of change. (March 4, 2008)

The Diversity Committee also offers public talks in conjunction with topics featured in the Culture Corner:

Mark Hulsether spoke about his book *Religion, Culture, and Politics in the Twentieth-Century United States*, June 18, 2008.

Conferences and Events:

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

As part of a celebration of the UT Libraries’ 100th year as a Federal Depository Library, former Superintendent of Documents Judith Russell spoke on “The Federal Depository Library Program: A National Commitment to Public Access,” Oct. 2, 2007.

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 several films: *The Education of Shelby Knox*, *Iron Jawed Angels*, *Hearts and Hands*, *Born into Brothels: Calcutta’s Red Light Kids*, *The Influence of Women & Quilts on American Society*, and *If these Walls Could Talk*.

Black History Month – In celebration of Black History Month, members of the Diversity Committee sponsored the film screening of *African American Lives*.

Grants

ScienceLinks, Funded by IMLS, this grant aims to help increase diversity in librarianship while training students with a science background and interest to become science and technology librarians. UT Libraries partnered with SIS and members of the Diversity Committee on this project to bring students to graduate school. The library provided practicum experiences for two students during the year.

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.

Ready for the World Initiative

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 in 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. This year a cooperative planning group worked with the Highlander Education and Resource center to promote an awareness of the center’s work in social justice activities in the south. In July of 2007 a Ready for the World Grant award was conferred to support a film and lecture series *Working for Democracy and Justice in Appalachia and the South: Highlander at 75*. The grant also provided funding for the creation of a traveling exhibit honoring the center’s work in social justice. The exhibit was on display for the whole semester in the Library’s Galleria. Since then it has traveled to several states and will be on display at the University of Georgia during the fall semester of 08.

Exhibits

Culture Corner: Coordinated by the Diversity Committee, this exhibit aims to promote the libraries’ rich and diverse collections, with selected books and an accompanying exhibit case displayed in the Galleria. The topics for 2007/08 were:

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*”.

The Melungeons

Native Americans

Black History Month

Women’s History Month

Working for Democracy and Justice:

A Ready for the World Grant awarded July of 2007 not only supported a film and lecture series, *Working for Democracy and Justice in Appalachia and the South: Highlander at 75*, but also supported the creation of a traveling exhibit honoring the center’s work. The exhibit was on display for the whole semester in the Library’s Galleria. Since then it has traveled to several states and will be on display at the University of Georgia during the fall semester of 08.

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:

Fall 2007

In the Wake of the Plague: the 2007 Life of the Mind Selection—Aug. 20 - Sept. 10

Constitution Day—Sept. 10-17

Great Moments in American Life, History, and Culture: An Essay Contest—
Sept. 18-30

Earth Science Week—Oct. 1-15

A Remarkable Time: Celebrating the Past, Anticipating the Future of the
UT Libraries—Oct. 16 - Nov. 4

MARCO—Nov. 5-18

Depository Library Centennial—Nov. 19 - Dec. 31

Spring 2008

Darwin Day—Jan. 28 - Feb. 8

Black Cultural Programming Committee—Feb. 14 - March 4

Who Were the Black Panthers?—March 5 - April 5

Preservation—April 6-20

Notable UT Women—April 21 - May 15

Special Collections: The exhibit case outside the reading room in Hoskins Library hosts exhibits during the year. This year it was “Scribes, Scholars, and Students” and ran from October 2007-May 2008.

Pendergrass AgVet-Med: The AgVet-Med Library hosts both virtual and physical exhibits that change monthly. Exhibits this year include What the World Eats, 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.

HBCU Library Alliance Mellon Leadership Program: Dean of Libraries participated in preparing a participant for the funded leadership workshop intended to attract minority undergraduate students to academic librarianship.

Fayetteville State University: Staff visited FSU as an extension of a relationship between ASERL and HBCU libraries including exchanges between FSU and UTK.

Ecuador: The UT Libraries continues to participate and support the Fulbright program With the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar.

Argentina: The Agricultural Librarians hosted faculty from the Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 4th. Discussions centered on open access publications and cooperation opportunities between our libraries.

Sandra Leach, Head of the Agricultural library was appointed to the UT Institute of Agricultural International Advisory Board, which is responsible for increasing student participation in study

abroad. In July she participated in this year's exchange of the Open World Leadership Program with a group of city planners and government officials from Russia.

Uganda: Work continues on this project designed to bring together the University of Tennessee Libraries and Makerere University Library in Kampala, Uganda, together on cooperative endeavors.

South Africa: Dean of Libraries presented "Research Library Transformation at the University of Tennessee," Stellenbosch University Libraries, Stellenbosch, South Africa, June 6, 2008.

Association for Research Libraries

Hosted in February 2008 the ARL Leadership and Career Development Fellows class of 2008, 20 mid-career minority librarians who are working towards leadership roles in research libraries. Dean of Libraries served as mentor for a Fellow from Duke University during the 2 year program.

Dean of Libraries presented, "The Imperative for Diversity: ARL's Progress and Role," Celebrating the Career of Duane Webster: A Symposium on the Association of Research Libraries History, Accomplishments, Future Developments," Columbia University, New York, April 25, 2008.

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
- Encyclopedia of Islam Culture
- International Directory of Company Histories
- 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 films, a wide range of international and intercultural topics were covered. Selected examples of purchases were:

- African American Lives
- Dark Passages
- Up the Ridge
- China Rises
- A Force More Powerful
- Morristown
- Tambogrande: Mangos, Murder, Mining

Mardi Gras: Made in China
Shameless
Beyond our Borders: Russia
The Zen Mind
Manufacturing Dissent
Surviving the Storm

Databases

During the year over \$70,000 in new electronic titles with an international/ intercultural focus were added to the collection.

Selected titles included:

China Data Online
Caribbean Literature Online
Encyclopedia of Islam
Black Studies Center
Encyclopedia of Race and Racism
Global Market Information
Europe Since 1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of War and Reconstruction
Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change
Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender
Oxford Language Dictionaries 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' third group of Minority Resident Librarians began their two-year program in September. The two librarians will rotate through a variety of library departments and engage in professional development activities and research during their tenure as Residents.

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>)

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