Annual Report 2013 - 2014

UConn Libraries

Progress

Expand the capabilities of the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA)

Metrics:
- Increase storage capacity by 50% and add storage replication.
- Enable item ingest for at least four new content types.
- Add data from five organizations.

Progress:
- Increased storage capacity 75% from 25TB non-replicated to 75TB of replicated storage.
- Added ingest and preservation capability for audio, video, and compound documents, and added support for compressed (zipped) files and maps.
- Collaborating with seven organizations and one library collective to test content loading in the repository including: Connecticut State Library; Trinity College; Connecticut Historical Society; Bridgeport History Center; Barnum Museum; Fairfield Museum and History Center; Hartford History Center, and Bibliomation (Connecticut's largest library collaborative supporting 60 public libraries with shared bibliographic and discovery resources.)

In addition to the metrics, there are two other items of note:
- Negotiated an agreement with the Secretary of State to be the archival facility for official state regulations beginning this summer.
- Solidified an agreement with the state data officer to hold official archival copies of selected state data sets.

Extend data management services, targeting STEM faculty and graduate students

Metrics:
- Develop strategies to support Next Generation CT STEM research and teaching.
- Compile a list of data repositories in key STEM disciplines available to researchers.

Considerable effort was made to educate our subject specialists, particularly those in STEM disciplines, on prominent data repositories to better assist faculty and graduate researchers with their data storage. Two "hackathons" were hosted in which subject specialists explored major repositories, learning their critical specifications. A resource guide with a compilation of key data repositories to help researchers more easily locate resources was added to our website.

Progress

Develop digital scholarship services in the Digital Humanities and Digital Media and Design
Metrics:
- Establish a collaborative environment between researchers and the library.
- Host THATCamp New England (The Humanities & Technology Camp).
- Conduct six workshops to re-skill library staff in digital scholarship tools and topics.

Progress:
- The Scholars' Collaborative pilot engaged faculty and graduate students from multiple departments in four unique digital scholarship projects. Staff provided expertise and project management assistance in developing innovative tools to store and deliver data.
- Hosted THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) New England in October, 2013. More than 80 faculty, librarians, museum professionals, archivists, and students from New England, New York, and New Jersey discussed trends in digital scholarship.
- Conducted seven workshops to introduce staff to tools and methods being used in digital scholarship and suggested how they might be applied to individual disciplines and library initiatives. Expert guests included Columbia University's Developing Librarian Project and English department faculty Joanna Swafford. One workshop has been used by the Library of Congress as a training opportunity.

Procure and implement a library management system that will integrate processes and services of all the UConn Libraries, including the Regional Campuses, UConn Law, and UConn Health
Metrics:
- Select & negotiate a contract for an integrated system serving all three campuses.
- Initiate implementation of the selected system.

A team of representatives from Storrs, the Law School and the Health Center, spent the year determining each library's needs and identifying vendors that could meet those needs. After scrutinizing each vendor and arranging onsite presentations for staff, a vendor was selected and the request for purchase was presented to the Board of Trustees at the end of June. The BOT approved the purchase and we will work to implement the system in FY15.

Identify print journals for potential de-accessioning to allow for additional learning space
Print journals owned and retained by the library that were duplicated in electronic format were identified and their catalog records were modified to reflect electronic holdings only. The print volumes were offered to other libraries and removed from the physical collections on HBL Levels A and 3. From September, 2013 through June, 2014, 562 print journal titles were withdrawn freeing 80-85% of the shelving on Level 3 South.

University Initiatives

Global Initiatives

To reach an international audience, the libraries have focused on digitizing and making accessible collections in high demand throughout the world. The first collection released as part of the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) included more than half of the 50,000 pages in Senator Thomas J. Dodd Nuremberg Trial Papers. In the first six months of their availability, 20% of users were from outside of the United States. The second collection of international importance features human rights images by photographer Robin Romano.

Sustainability

Multiple initiatives in 2013-2014 furthered the University's efforts toward sustainability and its stature as a "green" school. These included: reducing our print collections; increasing our electronic resources access; providing alternatives to traditional printing including scanning stations and scan-on-demand, turning off the escalators in Babbidge Library to reduce electricity usage, maintaining the bike sharing program until a more suitable home was identified, replacing our gas-powered delivery cart with an electric vehicle through the University's energy saving program, and installing bathroom hand-dryers as an alternative to paper waste.

Public Engagement

The Libraries continue to engage in outreach to non-campus entities including coordinating the Connecticut Children's Book Fair with the UConn Co-op. In addition to the 2,000+ attendees, we coordinated school visits and book donations for two schools in need - Rockville High School's Creative Writing Program and grades 3rd-5th at Windham Center School. Additionally, as part of our program we donated more than 50 books to local libraries.

We continue to provide support to secondary and high school programs that encourage usage of primary resources including the E.O. Smith history class focused on the Holocaust, the Early College Experience program, and CT History Day.

We are active participants in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) based in Waterbury, which included the purchase of ten iPad Minis and instructional sessions for participants.

Highlights

New Staff

Martha Bedard, Vice Provost for University Libraries (October, 2013)
Patricia Guardiani, Buildings and Grounds Officer (November, 2013)

Staff Leaving State Service

Mary Briggs, Cataloger (May, 2013)
Michael Swetzes, Buildings and Grounds Officer (June, 2013)
Janice Lambert, Social Work Librarian (August, 2013)
Susanna Cowan, Undergraduate Education Team Lead & Honors Program Librarian (October, 2013)
Peter Moskal, Buildings and Grounds Officer (December, 2013)
Michael Edwards, Acquisitions & Financial Services Team Leader (December, 2013)
Thomas Schmiedel, Sciences Librarian (February, 2014)
Norma Holmquist, Access Services Librarian (March, 2014)
Ann Galonska, Administrative Services Assistant (May, 2014)
Brinley Franklin, Vice Provost for University Libraries/Special Assistant to the Provost (June, 2014)
Diane Mather, Undergraduate Education & Access Services Librarian (June, 2014)

Initiatives, Innovations & Other News of Note

The Libraries, through the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA), has become a 'Service Hub' for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) (http://dp.la). The designation means content found in the CTDA will be available through the DPLA, combining more than 5 million digital cultural heritage resources in a single search box.

Our interlibrary loan department, which processed almost 100,000 items for UConn in fiscal year 2013, continues to improve its highly valued and very active lending services with the addition of new pickup locations and more frequent delivery to regional and special libraries.

The Strochlitz Travel Grants are an opportunity for researchers throughout the world to physically access the unique materials in Archives & Special Collections. The funding at $3,700 in FY '14 enabled seven researchers from around the country to work in our Reading Room.

Magdalena Gómez, a figure in the Nuyorican Literary Movement of the 1950s, donated her papers to Archives & Special Collections. The Nuyorican Movement is characterized by scores of Puerto Rican writers, musicians, and artists who came to New York City to examine their culture and identity outside of the island. Gómez is considered a "quintessential Renaissance woman," dedicating her life to Latina/o issues, human rights, youth, women, and prisoners.

Goals

Goal 1 - Library Spaces

As the University embarks on a campus-wide Master Plan, we will continue to work collaboratively to utilize the space within and around the Homer Babbidge Library and other Regional Campus Libraries to solidify our role as the interactive knowledge hub.
Metrics:
- Assist in the creation of the Master Plan for the Homer Babbidge Library.
- Continue to identify print journals held electronically or available through other consortial relationships to continue to maximize the use of the space.
- Plan for the move of the Hartford campus library.
- Actively pursue the creation of a high density, off-site storage and preservation facility for collections and University archival records. Collaborate with a variety of state agencies and higher education institutions to maximize impact of this type of facility.

Goal 2 - Strengthen library staff, focusing on effectiveness and efficiency

Metrics:
- Produce an organizational structure based on functional areas to minimize duplication.
- Hire two Associate University Librarians to coordinate multiple vital areas: financial management, strategic planning & assessment and collection development.

Goal 3 - Engage with the Academic Plan

Metrics:
- Invest library resources to support the Universities' efforts towards excellence in research and scholarship by:
    - Increasing the scope of the Scholars' Collaborative to create an information rich environment designed to provide cutting-edge research tools that encourage creative and innovative research.
    - Preparing and launching the critical service of the Connecticut Digital Archive as a data management tool for UConn researchers and provide expert consultative services on tools and requirements for big data.
    - Building expertise among staff in emerging areas of data curation.
    - Increasing participation in research grant development through workshops and outreach.
    - Identifying, building, and leveraging our existing highly valued collections to a local and global audience.
- Increase the ways in which we use data to improve our services by:
    - Using the Massive Analysis Project (MAP) to make decisions regarding upcoming resource renewals to ensure maximization of collection allocations.
    - Collaborating with UITS to develop a more extensive method for capturing online usage to assist in the analysis of electronic resources.
- Actively work to reduce barriers for collaboration among UConn Health and UConn Law.
- Increase activities in outside fund development, focused on donor commitments.