LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Change – ever present, ever challenging. As technology and education are continually evolving, so too is the role of the academic library. As you’ll read throughout this newsletter, this year Penrose Library was in the thick of planning, implementing, and evaluating new services, collections, and initiatives that support the academic programs of Whitman College. Some of the changes, such as the migration to a new library system, were massive in scale. Others, perhaps not perceptible to library users, helped us work more efficiently. We said good-bye to a long-serving staff member upon her retirement, another big change.

These changes all reflect what Lorcan Dempsey writes in New Roles for the Road Ahead, that “academic libraries have to make choices about priorities, investment, and reinvestment in a complex, continually emerging environment.” At Penrose, whether we’re providing new ways to access information or creating platforms to capture new forms of scholarship, we make changes because we take our responsibility seriously to support all of our users, to be good stewards of our resources, and to anticipate demands for future library services.

Ultimately, we believe that our role is “to serve as a bridge between the Whitman College community – students, faculty, administration, and staff – and the information resources that promote teaching, research and learning in the spirit and mission of the College.” It is an exciting time to be in this position and we look forward to even more change in the years ahead.

~ Dalia Corkrum

THANK YOU, GRADUATES!

The Library could not accomplish its mission without the dedicated work of our many student assistants who work in circulation, cataloging and acquisitions, archives, and library administration. So each year, we thank our graduating seniors!

In 2012, the Orbis Cascade Alliance, a consortium of 37 college and university libraries in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, announced plans to implement a shared integrated library system created by Ex Libris Group, replacing the separate electronic library catalogs that had been in use at each school. Because a considerable amount of planning and preparation was necessary on the consortial level and for each individual library in order to move all library data to the new shared system, schools switched over in four cohorts. The first schools started preparing for the shared system in January 2013, and implemented it in June 2013. Whitman was in the final cohort. We began preparing for the switch in the spring of 2014, and on January 8, 2015, Penrose was the final library in the Alliance to switch over. Our successful implementation of the new system was due to an incredible amount of hard work by library staff members, with great assistance from WCTS and support from the Alliance and Ex Libris staff.

Our new catalog, known as Sherlock, allows users to search for resources held in Penrose Library and many of our electronic subscriptions, and to find and request books from all consortial libraries. The ability to place consortial borrowing requests (aka Summit requests) from within Sherlock is a popular new feature of the shared system. Instructional and Access Services librarian Julie Carter devoted many hours of work to the Alliance committee that made this feature possible. For our patrons, many aspects of Sherlock are similar to our previous discovery system (Watson) and catalog, but from the library staff perspective almost everything -- such as ordering materials, cataloging books and serials, entering course reserves materials, and customizing the appearance of the interface that patrons use -- is different. We have been collaborating with staff at the other Alliance libraries to share our experiences and benefit from the successful strategies that others have found, and we expect that such collaborations will be an increasingly important part of our use of the system.

As we continue to work to optimize Sherlock, we welcome your feedback on the system. While using Sherlock, you can send us an email with a screenshot to illustrate your question. If you have more general comments about Sherlock and library resources, please send an email to sherlock@whitman.edu or contact Amy Blau (blauar@whitman.edu) or Dalia Corkrum (corkrum@whitman.edu).

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**WHITMAN ALUMNA RETURNS TO THE PENROSE ARCHIVES**

**by Brianna Gormly, Whitman class of 2013**

In the summer of 2014 I had the chance to complete an internship at the Whitman College and Northwest Archives. As a dual Master of Archival Studies/ Master of Library and Information Studies student at the University of British Columbia, I have the option to complete a 12-week internship as an elective course. My internship encompassed four main projects along with ongoing reference work, assisting patrons in the reading room.

My first project surveyed the Archives’ audiovisual material for signs of deterioration and potential unstable records. I also processed the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) Records, creating a finding aid accessible online through the Northwest Digital Archives. Throughout the summer, I assisted with the Walla Walla Valley Wine Archive project, which included appraisal of records at local wineries as well as conducting oral history interviews. My final project surveyed the current state of access restrictions on Whitman College records.

Fulfilling the requirements of these areas of work drew from nearly every class I have taken in my program of study and, thereby, pushed me to strengthen my knowledge of the course material through applying it in my internship. Overall, my work has helped the Archives to pinpoint priorities for continuing development as well as promoting the care of and access to records for current and future patrons.
NEW INITIATIVES: WINE ARCHIVES

The explosive growth of the wine industry in the Walla Walla Valley in the later part of the 20th century is evidence of our region’s strong pioneer agricultural tradition. In 2013 the Whitman College and Northwest Archives embarked on a program to reinvigorate our efforts to document this important local history. Initial efforts to preserve this story had begun in the late 1980s under archivist Larry Dodd. In the summer of 2014 we collaborated with Rachael Woody of Linfield College’s Oregon Wine History Archive to complete an oral history and digitization project with local area winemakers. Our efforts resulted in 8 oral histories and hundreds of scans that were deposited in both archives. Since those events, five area wineries (L’Ecole No 41, Woodward Canyon, Leonetti Cellar, Walla Walla Vintners, and College Cellars) have deposited materials in the Whitman College and Northwest Archives. We are excited to see our holdings grow and are delighted to do our part to help preserve this rich legacy of innovation and achievement. ~ Melissa Salrin

NEW SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS

Below: selections from the Howard E. Pratt Collection, donated to the Archives by Professor Emeritus G. Thomas Edwards. Pratt directed several vocal ensembles at Whitman and headed the Whitman Conservatory from 1919-1935. The collection includes a scrapbook, musical programs, broadsides reviews, and other items documenting Pratt’s career in music, including performances in Walla Walla and materials from his time at Whitman.

Above: The Most Notable Antiquity of Great Britain, Vulgarly Called Stone-Heng, on Salisbury Plain, a gift of Walla Walla resident Elsie German. The original was published in 1655; this copy is a second edition, published in London in 1725, and belonged to German’s brother, Clifford Tillotson. Considered one of the first comprehensive studies of Stonehenge, the work erroneously concluded that the site was a Roman structure dedicated to the god Coleus.

To inquire about donating materials to the library, contact Archivist Melissa Salrin (salrinmm@whitman.edu) or Library Director Dalia Corkrum (corkrum@whitman.edu).
Penrose staff members are constantly thinking about how library services and library space are integrated. This year, in partnership with the Center for Writing and Speaking (CoWS), the Academic Resource Center (ARC) and the Student Engagement Center (SEC), the library launched the Learning Commons @ Penrose. The Learning Commons occupies the small alcove in the northwest corner of the main floor of Penrose, which is equipped with a wall-mounted monitor for collaborative work. The Learning Commons is staffed entirely by peer tutors, who are trained to provide specific kinds of assistance to students. A student research assistant is available to answer library-related reference questions and provide research help to students, and our partner organizations provide writing tutoring, subject-specific tutoring in math and the sciences, as well as resume help and career advice. According to library assistant Phil Stefani, ‘17, “Working at the Learning Commons is a great way to help and work with other students on their research projects and get the most out of the library’s many services.” Math tutor Nick Wechter, ‘16, agrees, describing the work as “really rewarding.”

The Learning Commons is open from 9-11 pm on Sunday through Wednesday evenings, hours when there is not as much staff assistance in the library, or elsewhere on campus. This model is attractive to students who tend to be active in the evenings, and it also creates a positive, productive atmosphere to get work done. According to Phil Stefani, “The social aspect of the Learning Commons is also great as a way to share different academic resources and collaborate on projects.” Penrose will assess the progress of the Learning Commons this summer, and continue to think of innovative ways to offer services to Whitman students.

NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

In 2007, Penrose Library provided access to slightly more than 20,000 unique e-resources. Since then, that number has grown to over 68,000. These additional e-resources have been purchased in 2014-15:

Access World News: ideal for exploring issues and events at the local, regional, national and international level, including print and online-only newspapers, blogs, newswires, journals, broadcast transcripts and videos.

Social Science Citation Index: provides students and faculty with access to the bibliographic and citation information to find research data and analyze trends. The index includes citations to articles going back to 1900, and is especially notable for supporting research with cited references.

 Encyclopedia of the Qur’an: an encyclopaedic dictionary of Qur’anic terms, concepts, personalities, place names, cultural history and exegesis extended with essays on the most important themes and subjects within Qur’anic studies. The Encyclopedia of the Qur’an Online is the first comprehensive, multivolume reference work on the Qur’an to appear in a Western language.

Nineteenth Century Collections Online: access to this diverse collection is expanded to include Archive 9: Mapping the World: Maps and Travel Literature; Archive 10: Women: Transnational Networks; Archive 11: Religion, Society, Spirituality, and Reform; Archive 12: Science, Technology, and Medicine: 1780-1925, Part II.

New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics: draws together eminent contributors from across the spectrum of methodological and ideological schools to produce a foundational work of reference with many individual classic essays of enduring importance.
STAFF CHANGES @ PENROSE

We asked staff members who are new to Penrose Library or have moved to a new role in the last year a few questions:

What were you doing before you joined the Penrose Library staff?

What are your main responsibilities in your role at Penrose?

What do you like best about Walla Walla?

Here are their answers!

Sarah Owen
Before coming to the Whitman Penrose Library, I was a stay-at-home mom to three kiddos and a small (VERY small) business owner – S.T.O. Bags. I designed, made my own patterns, and sewed bags (purses, diaper bags, wallets, clutches, etc.).

My role as a Circulation Supervisor is to be the representative of library management during the wee hours of the night. I supervise the student employees, answer questions, aid patrons in locating materials, whether online or in the physical catalog, make sure things are running smoothly, and help plan and set up the short stack book displays.

I think the one thing that Walla Walla offers that can’t be found in a large city is the strong community bond among friends. The Walla Walla traditions – Peach Classic, Hot Air Balloon Stampede, County Fair, Rodeo, Tour of Walla Walla, etc. – are also favorites in our house.

Andrea Hergert
I was working as a Library Assistant at the Whitman County Library in Colfax, WA. Since it was such a small library I had many roles in that position, but my main roles were working at the reference desk, cataloging, and teaching e-reader classes.

At Penrose, I catalog theses, books, movies, and digital items. I also help to supervise our student workers who are working on cataloging our government documents collection.

I like the variety of local restaurants that are in this area. Also, in the summer, I enjoy the farmers market.

Sharon Lederer
Until I joined the staff as the Administrative Assistant, I was a weekend circulation supervisor here at Penrose. I am also the choir director and organist at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Before moving to Walla Walla five years ago, I was a research scientist investigating infectious diseases at the Center for Functional Genomics at the University of Washington.

My new role at Penrose is exciting because it lets me be involved in so many aspects of campus life. I am responsible for administrative duties in the library, such as communication, inventory, budgeting, scheduling, event coordination, and general upkeep of the building. I am also the point person for student activities or displays in the library, processing honors theses, and other ways Penrose interacts with the rest of Whitman.

I find Walla Walla to be a great small town for families. I like that the connections one makes in just about any community role link to connections in another role. They are often surprising, but make the community feel closer and more approachable.

Eva Della Lana
I was telecommuting for a small data center in Columbus, OH where I processed film and television information for a contract with Verizon Communications.

I work as a Weekend Circulation Supervisor. I supervise reader services and ensure library security as well as direct and train student employees.

I love that we have such a vibrant food and wine scene in a town this size!

Amy Blau
Following several years as a Visiting Assistant Professor of German at Whitman, I went back to graduate school for a Master of Science in Information (library science and related fields) at the University of Michigan. I am very happy to be back at Whitman in a new role at Penrose Library!

As Instructional and Data Services Librarian, I provide reference consultations for students and faculty, and work with faculty to create information literacy and library skills sessions and incorporate these into their courses. I am developing a Data Services program for Penrose, which will include consultations related to data in teaching and research.

I really like the Palouse in the spring when everything is green and colorful.

Kun Lin
Before I joined Penrose Library, I was working as the web support librarian at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. The responsibilities were more focused on maintaining and designing the library’s website.

My responsibilities at Penrose will continue to include designing and maintaining the library website. I will also take on enhancing user experiences and maintaining other library applications to facilitate a better flow of information to students and faculties.

I like the coziness and convenience of Walla Walla!

Dona LaFran
After 16 years as Administrative Assistant at Penrose Library, Dona LaFran retired in March to spend more time with her family and in her garden. Everyone at Penrose wishes her the very best!
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dalia Corkrum continued her involvement in an array of organizations related to libraries and scholarly publishing. She serves as an elected member of the Oberlin Group Steering Committee (2012-2015), the OCLC Global Council (2013-2016), the Board of Trustees of the Orbis Cascade Alliance (2014-2016), and chairs the America’s Regional Council Nominating Committee and the Global Council & Board of Trustees Nominating committees for OCLC. She attended numerous related meetings and conferences.

Roger Stelk was appointed to a two year term on the Operations and Collections Committee associated with the Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST). WEST is a collaborative and sustainable journal archiving program that aims to transform the manner in which legacy print journal collections are housed and managed. WEST’s Operations and Collections Council oversees issues related to collections, holdings disclosure and access/delivery.

Lee Keene attended the Northwest 5 Consortium (NW5C) Conference at Skamania Lodge in September 2014, where he met and collaborated with faculty from other regional colleges as they discussed issues related to teaching and learning.

Julie Carter held several appointments related to the Orbis Cascade Alliance Shared ILS migration initiative, including a joint appointment to the Circulation and Resource Sharing Working Group and Training Working Group. In this role, she helped plan and recruit for training workshops for Alliance members. She also chaired the Summit Planning and Operations Team, which is charged with advising and improving Summit borrowing and lending.

Amy Blau served as institutional lead for Penrose Library’s implementation of the Shared ILS migration project. She is also on the organizing committee of the NW5C Data Curation Workshop, planned for June 2015.

Ben Murphy attended the ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas in June 2014 where he delivered a lightning talk on primary source instruction and threshold concepts as part of ACRL’s Instruction Section annual award ceremony.

Melissa Salrin and Ben Murphy were awarded an Innovation in Teaching & Learning grant with Professor Lydia McDermott and Kaitlin Justin of Whitman College Technology Services (WCTS). The grant supported the development of an upper-level composition course (General Studies 320) that introduced archival research to students. The class also focused on the creation of digital exhibits using primary sources in Omeka.

Melissa, Ben and Kaitlin co-presented a panel that discussed General Studies 320 and other courses at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Conference in March 2015. The presentation was titled "Teeming with Technology, Teaming with Technologists: Using Digital Tools to Enhance Primary Source Literacy."

Melissa Salrin is part of a collaborative Cross-Disciplinary Learning & Teaching Initiative (CDLTI) grant with 8 Whitman faculty and staff members for a workshop entitled “Beyond A Cabinet of Curiosities: A Pedagogical Investigation of College Collections.” This workshop engages the unique challenges and opportunities of teaching with college collections. Melissa also presented papers and chaired sessions at the NW5C Visual Culture Colloquium in Salem, OR and the Northwest Archivist’s Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA, and has published a case study in Rights in the Digital Era (Chicago: SAA, 2015).

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As a part of the Orbis Cascade Alliance Shared ILS migration, many Penrose Library staff members attended meetings and training sessions to prepare for the introduction of Sherlock on campus.

Orbis Cascade Alliance Summer Meeting: Dalia Corkrum, Amy Blau, Julie Carter, Emiley Jensen, Lee Keene, Ben Murphy, Mike Osterman (WCTS), Jen Pope, Roger Stelk

Ex Libris Alma certification training: Amy Blau, Julie Carter, Roger Stelk

Orbis Cascade Alliance Alma functional training: Julie Carter, Jen Pope, Roger Stelk, Rich Pengra, Emiley Jensen, Andrea Hergert

Orbis Cascade Alliance Primo Hackfest: Amy Blau, Kun Lin

Ex Libris Primo certification training: Amy Blau, Lee Keene, Kun Lin, Ben Murphy
EXHIBITS: WHITMANPEDIA, CURATED BY ERIK ANDERSON, ‘15

Inspired by the online Kansaspedia developed by the Kansas Historical Society to share interesting objects from their state’s rich past, the student staff members of the Whitman College and Northwest Archives have decided to do the same for Whitman. This inaugural Whitmanpedia offers a brief introduction to some important themes, people, and events connected to the establishment and evolution of Whitman College. Just as the British Museum’s recently well-received “History of the World in 100 Objects” is necessarily incomplete, so too will be our Whitmanpedia. Still, we are excited to share our personal take on some of the legacies of our institution’s history. We hope that this exhibit becomes an occasional series and, more importantly, that it leads to cross-campus conversations that encourage us to think more deeply about what communities and peoples we are referencing—and excluding—when we talk about “Whitman.”

SUMMER READ EXHIBIT CURATED BY ADRIENNE BEBEE, ‘15

Every year, Whitman College selects a summer reading book for the incoming first-year class. First-years are expected to read the book before the fall semester begins, and, during the first few months of school, faculty members present on the book and the author visits campus to speak.

Reservation Blues by Sherman Alexie was selected as 2014’s summer reading book. It was Alexie’s first novel, published in 1995. It is a winner of the American Book Award and the Murray Morgan Prize.

View a digital version of the exhibit here:
http://www.whitmanarchives.org/omeka/exhibits/show/alexie
LEFT: Melissa Salrin teamed with staff from the Maxey Museum and Sheehan Gallery to set up a "Pop-Up Museum" during the Whitman Undergraduate Conference. They asked visitors to respond to the question, "Whitman Collections are ________ ?"

RIGHT: Some of the students who took Library 300: Primary Source Seminar in Spring 2014 continued their work on physical exhibits during the 2014-15 academic year. Maikor Pereira Azuaje, ‘[20]’15, curated this exhibit, titled "A Whitman Student’s March to World War I France." It described the life of William (Bill) E. Berney ‘[19]’15.

Comments?
The Spring 2015 newsletter was edited by Amy Blau (blauar@whitman.edu) and Ben Murphy (murphybp@whitman.edu).